

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 31st March, 1976

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (13): ON NOTICE

1. IRON ORE *Price Negotiations*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has the Government received official notification from Japanese buyers of Western Australian iron ore that—
 - (a) negotiations with the producers for new pricing have been suspended; and
 - (b) pricing terms will be for two years?
- (2) If so, on what date was notification received?
- (3) Has the Government been represented at these negotiations?
- (4) Will he advise what are the guidelines laid down by the State Government that are to be observed by the producers in these negotiations?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) (a) No.
 (b) We are aware from discussions with both senior representatives of the Japanese steel mills and the producers that negotiations are proceeding on the basis of a two-year pricing formula.
- (2) See (1) (a).
- (3) No.
- (4) The producers as well as the purchasing steel mills in Japan are well aware of the objectives of the State, which are to make the best use of our resources, to maintain viable producing industries capable of expansion and of adherence to their contractual obligations.
 Other than these objectives, it was never Government policy to directly interfere in price negotiations or lay down guidelines.

2. HOUSING *Aborigines: Funds and Units*

The Hon. D. W. Cooley for the Hon. LYLIA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What funds were allocated for all forms of Aboriginal housing in this State for the year 1975-1976?

- (2) (a) How much of this has been spent; and
 (b) by which departments or authorities?
- (3) How many units of accommodation have been erected and the type?
- (4) How many of these were erected in—
 - (a) the country regions of Western Australia; and
 - (b) the Perth metropolitan area?
- (5) (a) Will all funds be spent or allocated before the 30th June, 1976;
 (b) if not, why not?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) \$3 792 000.
- (2) \$1 640 293 by State Housing Commission and \$324 638 by Community Welfare Department.
- (3) Urban Housing—
 Nil completed.
 9 under construction.
 15 contract awarded.
 Village Housing—
 35 completed.
 12 under construction.
 Hostel upgrading on 4 hostels.
- (4) Urban Housing—
 Country: 24 in progress.
 Metropolitan: 2 in progress.
 Village Housing:
 Country 35 completed, 12 in progress.
- (5) Yes.

3. WATER SUPPLIES *Carnarvon*

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

For each of the financial years ended the 30th June, 1971, to 1975, what expenditure was incurred on extensions to the Gascoyne Groundwater Supply Scheme?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

1970-71—\$93 133.
 1971-72—\$212 429.
 1972-73—\$416 926.
 1973-74—\$586 983.
 1974-75—\$642 823.

4. TRANSPORT COMMISSION FEES *Allocation to Local Authorities*

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that the allocation of Transport Commission Fees to various local authorities is not being implemented this year?

- (2) If not, what is the reason?
- (3) What amount of money from this source has been distributed to local authorities in each of the past three years?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) In accordance with the provisions of section 62 of the Transport Commission Act, it is anticipated that there will be some funds available for distribution at the conclusion of the present financial year on the 30th June, 1976.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) 1972-73—\$80 555.
1973-74—\$93 746.
1974-75—\$4 497.
Total—\$178 798.

5. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Narrows Bridge Duplication

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Would the Minister give a categorical undertaking that the southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway, and introduction of the Judd Street interchange, will not make it necessary to duplicate the Narrows Bridge?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "No" would the Minister advise whether the Main Roads Department has made any preliminary plans for a duplication of the bridge?
- (3) Have any investigations or studies been made to determine whether or not it will be possible to connect up a duplicate Narrows Bridge with the existing interchange?
- (4) If the answer to (2) or (3) is "Yes" would the Minister lay on the Table of the House copies of any preliminary plans and findings of any investigation or studies made?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) The construction of the southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway and introduction of the Judd Street Interchange will not necessarily require the duplication of the Narrows Bridge.
- (2) No preliminary plans have been prepared.
- (3) Normal design procedure considers such options but no specific studies have been undertaken.
- (4) Answered by (2) and (3).

6.

RAILWAYS

West Kalgoorlie Yard: Inquiries

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Do the Safe Working Regulations pertaining to railway employees require that a signalman is not allowed to use a radio in the cabin, has to exclude people from the cabin, and is not allowed to speak to anyone except a railway employee on lawful railway business?
- (2) If this is so, why are the signalmen at the West Kalgoorlie yard required to answer all train inquiries from the general public on number 21 2288 between the hours of 11 a.m. on Saturdays until 3.30 p.m. on Sundays?
- (3) Would not the procedure referred to in (2) be considered a hazard whilst attending to shunting operations and train movements?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Railway signalmen are not allowed to use a radio in a signal cabin and are required to exclude people not on railway business from the cabin. They are not specifically excluded by regulation from speaking to anyone except a railway employee on lawful railway business, but under the rules relating to the conduct and privacy of signal cabins they normally do not have the opportunity of speaking to other than employees.
- (2) Because during that period staff who normally provide such information are rostered off duty and it would not be economical to roster them on duty over the week-end specially to answer a limited number of train running queries.
- (3) No. It is the normal practice for signalmen to provide train running information departmentally per telephone. The regulations state that the first and most important duty of a signalman is the working of trains and safety is not jeopardised by allowing train running information to take precedence over this requirement.

7.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Garden Party

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Justice representing the Premier:

- (1) How many people attended the afternoon garden party held at Government House on the 4th December, 1975?

- (2) Approximately how many people did the Governor actually meet at this function?
- (3) What was the actual cost of this event to the State?
- (4) How many members of the police force were on duty at the garden party?
- (5) How many members of the Armed Services were on duty at the garden party?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) 2 402.
- (2) 800-1 000. (Lady Kyle would have met a similar number).
- (3) \$4 754.35.
- (4) 11 (excluding Police Band).
- (5) 39 (5th Military District Band).

8. METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN PLANNING SCHEME

Improvement Plans

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Town Planning:

Would the Minister explain at what time would the improvement plans recommended to the Governor under Section 37A(2) of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act become effective?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

From the time the Governor accepts the recommendation of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

9. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Head-on Collisions

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Traffic:

With reference to the numerous road accidents due to head-on collisions in the last two years in Western Australia—

- (a) is there any pattern emerging of the various types and models of vehicles involved; and
- (b) is there any pattern emerging of the age and sex of people involved?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (a) not really, mostly passenger cars of popular makes.
- (b) no meaningful pattern, but predominantly males.

10. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Salaries: Commonwealth Budget Charges

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Justice representing the Premier:

Did the Government make any submissions to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to have the Australian Government's budget charges deducted from the Consumer Price Index figure when the latest salaries for State Members of Parliament were determined?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The Tribunal was aware of the Government's attitude in this matter as it also was of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission's decision on the occasion of the February 1976 National Wage case when this State argued the case for a smaller increase than was indicated by the Consumer Price Index movement for the December 1975 quarter.

11. ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT

South-west Forests Defence Foundation

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN, to the Attorney-General:

Would the Attorney-General advise—

- (a) which section of the Associations Incorporation Act prevents him from exercising the powers conferred on him by that Act to incorporate the South-West Forests Defence Foundation other than under a specified category;
- (b) why the period of consideration of the application for incorporation of this Foundation was so much longer than usual;
- (c) whether any advice and assistance was offered to this Foundation in order that its constitution could meet departmental requirements without emasculating its purpose of enunciating members' opinions and carrying out actions to protect the environment;
- (d) (i) whether he stated to the Press that the construction of the South-West Forests Defence Foundation prevented him from granting incorporation; and if so
- (ii) what specific phraseology in the constitution prevented him from granting incorporation?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (a) Section 2.
- (b) In view of the consideration which had to be given to this application there was no inordinate delay.
- (c) No. The Department is not required to give advice but sometimes does so where it may be of assistance. Nor would the Department purport to emasculate the purpose of a group in the manner implied by the question.
- (d) (i) The statement was that a careful study of the Foundation's Constitution led to the inevitable conclusion that it did not come within the terms of the Act. Further, that after considering all the factors including the purposes for which the Foundation was formed it was not considered in the public interest to grant the application.
- (ii) The constitution of any proposed association has to be considered in its entirety along with other relevant factors. Some parts of the Constitution of the Foundation were more objectionable than others, particularly clause 3 (d) which would have authorised the group to oppose the construction and operation of any pulp mill contemplated by the Wood Chipping Industry Agreement Act 1969-1973 of the Western Australian Parliament.

- (b) The four schools are:—
Craigie High School,
Gosnells High School,
Allenswood Primary School,
South Thornlie Primary School.

Existing contracts were renewed for Hedland Senior High School and four pre-primary centres taken over by the Education Department, viz.

- Booragoon Pre-Primary Centre,
- Attadale Pre-Primary Centre,
- Mt. Pleasant Pre-Primary Centre,
- North Innaloo Pre-Primary Centre.

(2) No.

13.

KINLOCK SCHOOL

Accommodation

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Education:

Further to the reply to my question 2 on Tuesday, the 30th March, 1976, regarding the provision of a new school in the Ferndale area, which stated that a new school will not be provided for the commencement of the 1977 school year, will the Minister have the reply reconsidered as my question indicated that the boundaries were implemented because of existing accommodation problems at the Kinlock school, and that residential development is continuing at a high rate?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

The need of the Ferndale area for a new primary school was closely considered when the initial 1976-77 School Building Programme was being structured.

A new primary school for Ferndale could not be assigned a high enough priority, even taking the rate of housing development in the area into account, for the project to be funded from the anticipated 1976-77 General Loan Fund allocation.

It is also to be noted that at present there is only one temporary classroom at the Kinlock Primary School which serves the Ferndale area.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by the Hon. V. J. Ferry, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings of the House granted to the Hon. C. R. Abbey (West) on the ground of ill-health.

12.

EDUCATION

School Cleaning Contracts

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) (a) Has the Government opened the cleaning of Government schools to private tender; and
- (b) if so, what schools are being cleaned under private contract?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of any substantial differences in the awards governing the rates of pay and conditions for Government employed cleaners and those employed by private contractors?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) (a) Contracts were let for four new schools in the metropolitan area in 1976 on a twelve months trial basis.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), resolved—

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 34, the following members be elected to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees for the present Session—the Hons. C. E. Griffiths, R. J. L. Williams and L. D. Elliott.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Election

On motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), resolved—

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 37, the following members be elected for the present Session:

- (a) Standing Orders Committee—The Hons. C. E. Griffiths, R. J. L. Williams and L. D. Elliott;
- (b) Library Committee—The Hons. V. J. Ferry and L. D. Elliott;
- (c) House Committee—The Hons. J. Heitman, C. E. Griffiths, D. K. Dans and R. T. Leeson;
- (d) Printing Committee—The Hons. S. J. Dellar and H. W. Gayfer.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Companies (Co-operative) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

2. Occupational Therapists Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

3. Supreme Court Act Amendment Bill.

4. The Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Incorporated) Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 30th March, on the following motion by the Hon. M. McAleer—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious

Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [5.00 p.m.]: Might I first of all take the opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Margaret McAleer on the wonderful job she did in moving the motion the other night.

Over a great number of years many speeches have been made in this House by goldfields members, and I have not been here to hear many of them. I intend to add to that list tonight and make a speech in relation to the goldmining industry, as I suppose most members would expect me to do; and I would feel it remiss of me if I did not do so. Over the years members representing the goldfields province have stood in the place I now occupy and have supported or criticised Governments in one way or another for assisting or not assisting particular areas of Kalgoorlie and Boulder. This is a golden opportunity for me to say what I think about the happenings in that area over the last few months.

Going back to the 1960s, and probably long before that, the goldfields have had a record of ups and downs and many things have happened in that time. They have had their booms and their recessions, but this is the first occasion a member has spoken in this House of Parliament at a time when not one goldmine on the Finiston leases of the goldfields was in operation. Unfortunately, at the present time all the mines are closed down and only one shaft is in operation at Kalgoorlie. It is the Mt. Charlotte shaft at the top of Hannan Street, which was opened some 15 or 20 years ago. We have been accustomed to seeing shafts close, new shafts open, and old shafts reopen; but from what we have been told we will be lucky ever to see that again.

I well remember back in the 1960s when we fought up there for support of the industry by way of a subsidy in relation to the price of gold—a few dollars an ounce to help the mines in their days of trouble. After many years of fighting, particularly by the Federal member of Parliament for that area, we were able to obtain assistance for the goldmining industry.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do you mean the present member or the previous one?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: The previous one; definitely not the present member.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The one who was defeated recently?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: That is correct. Mr Fred Collard, with other members and other people, fought strongly and obtained some assistance for the goldmining industry back in the 1960s. However, that assistance was never increased,

and it was fortunate that in the early 1970s there was a rise in the price of gold on the free market; it rose from \$35 an ounce up to a maximum of about \$130 an ounce. This was the saviour of the industry at that time. But members know what inflation has done in other parts of the State and in other industries, and they can imagine what happened in the goldmining industry. It was not long before costs rose to such an extent that the goldmines became unprofitable.

Submissions were made to the Federal Labor Government of the day for assistance, as they had been made over many years to other Governments; and, as other Governments had done, the Federal Labor Government was looking into the situation. I will admit it looked for a very long time. It had committees at work making investigations, and Government departments sent people over from Canberra on many occasions to talk to Government officials and go into the situation thoroughly. A mining committee of the Federal Parliament, comprising six members, came over, made an on-the-spot examination, and went back with recommendations to the Government.

We all know what happened at that time in November of last year when the Government was considering all the recommendations from various people. Of course, because of what had developed, our opponents immediately seized on the opportunity to buy the city of Kalgoorlie. We all know they did that: they bought the city of Kalgoorlie with a crook cheque.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Will you be a little more explicit about that, please?

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: If you listen, he will explain in detail.

The Hon. N. McNeill: I would like to be sure of it.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I will explain it. I attended most of the meetings of all parties in Kalgoorlie during the election campaign, and I listened to many statements made by many people, including members of the State and Federal Parliaments. I have a fairly good idea what was said.

Mr Lynch seized on the opportunity to come to Kalgoorlie; I do not remember his ever being in Kalgoorlie previously. He held street meetings and various other meetings in Kalgoorlie and proceeded to make a lot of promises. At that time the people of Kalgoorlie were grasping at straws and they would listen to anyone who wanted to talk to them.

There are pages and pages of newspaper cuttings reporting what Mr Lynch said in Kalgoorlie. I will briefly quote from some of them. He was going to inject new life into the mining and energy industries and restore incentive to prospectors. He said he acknowledged the difficulties being experienced in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder

region, and he acknowledged that it was the Government's responsibility to assist these areas where possible. He went on to say it had been the policy of previous Governments to pour millions of dollars into regional centres in an attempt to decentralise, but that in his opinion it was better to make investments in areas like Kalgoorlie, which already existed with their infrastructure, and build them up. We listened to all this in the streets, community halls, and so on over many days.

Following Mr Lynch's visit we had a visit from another Federal member of Parliament by the name of Anthony, who had never been to Kalgoorlie before. I do not think he ever really knew where Kalgoorlie was but he was travelling in a VIP jet—

The Hon. N. McNeill: You know perfectly well the Deputy Prime Minister would have known exactly where Kalgoorlie was and exactly what the position was.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It did not take him as long to find it as it took Mr Connor.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Nothing saved him from the wrath of God.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: He dropped in for an hour or two and while he was there he held a street meeting.

The Hon. T. Knight: Couldn't he find a hall?

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: All the Labor Party meetings were in progress.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Not being up on the Liberal-Country Party's organisation, I would not know what it could find. Mr Anthony held a street meeting and said most of the things Mr Lynch had said about what should be done, how it should be done, and what they would do after they won the seat to help the people up there. It is all very well for metropolitan members to laugh about this kind of thing.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Who is laughing?

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Not the people of Kalgoorlie.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: That is for sure.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: That was a metropolitan hillbilly.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: We all know—because it is history—what happened; or I should say what did not happen. Early in February an announcement was made that there would be no assistance whatsoever for the people of Kalgoorlie so far as the goldmining industry was concerned.

In the meantime, the Federal seat of Kalgoorlie had changed hands from a Labor member to a Liberal member.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Temporarily.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: This has happened in Kalgoorlie previously, but fortunately the Liberal member retained.

his seat for only three years; and this particular member will be there for only three years, too.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That was only brought about by the bad and disgraceful way the Labor Party treated Johnson, was it not?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: My memory does not go back that far.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Only the old-timers remember that.

The Hon. N. McNeill: It is not so long ago.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Collard was there for about 10 years, was he?

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: You are talking of something you know nothing about. I know about the Johnson case and he was not treated badly by the Labor Party.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: It is very interesting to note that our present Federal member for Kalgoorlie (Mr Mick Cotter) made a speech in the Federal Parliament on the 2nd March this year—his maiden speech, incidentally—and he spoke for a total of 13 minutes. Even in my book, 13 minutes is not a very long time. I have here a copy of the speech, if any member wants to read it. It is interesting to note there is not one word in it about the goldmining industry.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: There is no industry left.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Mick Cotter made no mention of the goldmining industry in his maiden speech as the member for Kalgoorlie.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Read us what he said.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Surely members do not want to hear Mick Cotter's speech.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: If you add his speech to yours, you might go for over 20 minutes.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will the honourable member please address his remarks to the Chair, and disregard these unruly interjections.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I will try, Mr President. It is disheartening to people who live in the area to see these sorts of things happening. We all know that everybody plays politics, and we all know what politics are. However, the majority of people outside the Parliament know nothing whatever about politics.

The Hon. N. McNeill: I am still waiting to hear how your opponents bought the seat.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: That is right; they bought the seat.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is a terrible scurrilous thing to say.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Is it not?

The Hon. N. McNeill: I am still waiting to see whether you will acknowledge the assistance provided by the State Government.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Members opposite seem to become upset when I mention some of these things; but we all know very well what took place, because we are not fools.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You are a nice fellow, and we like you; we do not like to hear you saying these terrible things.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: You seem to have become quite bitter.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Of course we have become bitter; it is only natural. The Federal Government is playing with people's lives and livelihood. Many people have as big a financial interest in the Kalgoorlie area as people have in Mr Masters' electorate, and they do not know where they stand from one day to the next, particularly at the moment.

It is a sad thing that after 80 years of productive goldmines, we have been forced to put the lid on them. I listened to Mr Withers make a speech last night about Kununurra.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: You were the only one on that side who was listening.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: That has nothing to do with the matter.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: It just shows how much interest your colleagues have in the north.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I take a great interest in the north, particularly in the mining areas, because I was born and bred in a mining town. It was unfortunate that Mr Withers confined his remarks to the problems of wholesalers and retailers; I would have liked to hear him say something of the iron ore industries, and the problems facing some of the mining towns in the north.

We read in the newspapers recently of cut-backs in iron ore contracts, and perhaps further cut-backs will occur. Some time ago, we read of increased contracts. The industry seems to experience peaks and troughs, but certainly not nearly to the extent as the goldmining industry. I have sympathy for the people in Mr Withers' electorate.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Did you ever make representations to the Federal Labor Government for assistance to the goldmining industry?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Yes, I did.

The Hon. N. McNeill: What was the result?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I certainly did not receive a categorical "No" like we received from the present Federal Government. The Labor Government was

looking at the situation when the election was held.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: When did it start looking?

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: The Federal Labor Government sent Ministers and advisers to Kalgoorlie to examine the situation in the goldmining industry.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: If we wanted to go back into history, through the 1950s the Liberal Government considered for years subsidising by \$8 an ounce the operations of the goldmining industry. It took many years and a lot of hard work and fighting to obtain that concession.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: But we are talking about the situation today. When did the Labor Government start looking?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: It was looking at the situation some months before the election.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: So you approached the Federal member for Kalgoorlie and requested assistance only a few months before the election.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Do not talk rubbish!

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: So you did not approach him some months before the election?

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: No, quite some time before the election.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: It is a sorry day to see what has happened in Kalgoorlie. I am sorry to see that the fine words of Mick Cotter before the election amounted to nothing; his maiden speech contained not one word about the plight of the goldmining industry.

The Hon. R. Thompson: He was also sold out by Fraser.

The Hon. N. McNeill: I am sure that before you sit down you will acknowledge the assistance the State Government provided to the goldmining industry.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I am glad the Hon. N. McNeill mentioned that, because I believe the State Government is to be thanked by the people of the goldfields for the small amount of assistance it provided. We knew it was small, but we did not expect anything else because we realised the State Government had limited resources. However, I would hazard a guess that before the decision was made, some people in the State Government might have had an inkling of what the new Federal Government's answer would be, once it was elected, and they thought, "We had better opt out of this and clear our name by offering some assistance to the industry to make it look good, because when the new Federal Government offers nothing, the people will turn around and accuse the State Government also of doing nothing".

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Obviously the Labor Party was in worse shape than we realised, because it had already admitted defeat.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The Liberal Party obviously has no conscience at all.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Of course, some of the assistance provided by the State Government was in the form of loans which must be repaid. I am puzzled as to how they will be repaid because we all realise that once we put the lid on a mine, it costs a great deal of money to reopen it. It will take a huge increase in the price of gold before these mines will be reopened. Perhaps some of these loans will never be repaid; I hope they will be, but that was the gamble the Government took.

Some promises were made by the former Federal Minister for Minerals and Energy (Senator Ken Wriedt) when he visited Kalgoorlie before the election. He offered North Kalgurl Gold Mine immediate grants totalling \$250 000 and undertook to consider long-term assistance for that company and for the Kalgoorlie Lake View and Star Company. But not even that much was forthcoming from the new Federal Government.

The Hon. J. Heitman: How much did the State Government put in?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: The State Government provided assistance of about \$1.5 million.

The Hon. J. Heitman: That is a fair bit more than the \$250 000 the Federal Labor Government promised. It shows that the State Government has pride in Kalgoorlie.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Most of that money was in the form of loans.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: It was also a darn sight more than the present Federal Government offered to the industry. Promises were made by the Labor Government, and they would have been fulfilled.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Promises, promises!

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: On this issue, I wonder just how low some members of Parliament will descend when it comes to making promises.

The Hon. J. Heitman: You had better ask Gough that.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Yes, and we have a long way to go yet. Sometimes I feel ashamed to call myself a member of Parliament, when I see these sorts of deceitful things taking place.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: They have given only half the super bounty back; they could have kept Kalgoorlie going with the other half.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Mr Cotter's maiden speech made no mention of the superphosphate bounty, which was strange.

Probably he did not want to mention it, as he did not mention the goldmining industry.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Mr Cotter will have a very short term as member for Kalgoorlie.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: There has been a lot of publicity over the months on this issue and I wished to voice my opposition to what has taken place, and the way it has taken place. I am sorry it happened, but I know that in the not too distant future things will be rectified by a different Federal Government.

Before I conclude I should like to refer to the subject of tourism. When the Premier opened the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community fair in Kalgoorlie last weekend he made a statement which he thought was funny but which I can assure him nobody else found amusing; he said that Kalgoorlie was sitting on a potential goldmine.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: What particular street was he referring to?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I am not aware of that, Mr Dans. However, I believe that now we have had a rebuff from the present Federal Government in regard to assistance for the goldmining industry, we must look to ways and means of attracting other industry to the area, and I believe tourism may be one such industry.

Kalgoorlie has a long and colourful history, longer than many other places in Western Australia; it has a great deal to offer tourists, especially those people who have never visited Kalgoorlie before. I am sure that once the Eyre Highway is completely sealed from South Australia to Perth, with the accompanying increase in tourists, we will see many more people wishing to travel through to Kalgoorlie.

Unfortunately, of course, the road from Norseman to Perth does not travel through Kalgoorlie, but passes to the west of the town, through Coolgardie, and tourists wishing to see Kalgoorlie would need to leave the highway and travel through Kambalda to Kalgoorlie, and then on to Perth. This would entail additional travelling of only about 40 miles but I believe these people would find it well worth the extra mileage involved. Kalgoorlie people will need to publicise the attractions of the area, particularly in the Eastern States, and will need to erect large signs in appropriate places.

People who have never travelled the area before would be lost without signs indicating where they should leave the highway to get to Kalgoorlie. It is not enough for Government supporters or people connected with the tourist industry to go to Kalgoorlie, study the situation for five minutes, make suggestions, and then catch the first plane out of the town.

I would like to see Governments sending to these areas people who are prepared to put some time into studying the areas

and getting to know them so that they can advise the people how best to go about attracting tourists; this applies not only to Kalgoorlie but also to other parts of Western Australia.

I think it is a big failing. Everything seems to be done from Perth, and nothing from the country areas. When we look at the policy speech of the present Government we find that one plank of its platform was decentralisation, and this could be implemented by directing Government departments to operate more extensively in country areas. However, to this date we have not seen that implemented.

I realise it is not easy to induce an officer to accept transfer to the bush. That is the term used in the metropolitan area for describing the country districts. In this modern day and age we have to consider stationing Government officers in country areas for more than 24 hours at a stretch. These officers should work with the people in the country areas, and should assist those people in their endeavours. In Kalgoorlie, in particular, which is looking for the establishment of industries their services would be greatly appreciated.

I shall not keep the House any longer. I conclude by saying that I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. J. C. Tozer.

BUSINESS NAMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [5.32 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Business Names Act, 1962, was enacted in each of the States and the Australian Capital Territory after agreement by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, and is substantially the same throughout.

Basically, only New South Wales and Victoria have since amended their Acts to deal with matters agreed to at subsequent meetings of the standing committee, and the need for Western Australia to do likewise has been highlighted by a successful appeal against conviction for an offence under section 26 of the Act.

The main purpose of the Bill before the House is to correct two defects in section 26. Basically the purpose of section 26 is to prevent the public solicitation of loans or deposits of money by persons trading under a business name, and the section seeks to achieve this by prohibiting the use of a business name in connection with an invitation to the public to lend or deposit money. The prohibition extends to business names in fact registered, or business names required to be registered.

Difficulties have arisen in practice with prosecutions under the existing section, both here and elsewhere. For example, the name used in the invitation to the public may differ from the name registered and, as the person concerned is carrying on business under the name registered, the prosecution has failed because the complainant was unable to show that the name registered was used, or that the name which was in fact used was required to be registered.

One prosecution in this State failed for that reason, even though the name used in the public advertisements was sufficiently similar to the registered name to identify the parties concerned.

Clause 9 (a), therefore, seeks to amend section 26 (1) of the principal Act by adding a new paragraph (c) referring to a name that would, if business were being carried on under it, be required to be registered under the Act to overcome the deficiency to which I have referred.

Clause 9 (b) relaxes the prohibition contained in section 26 (c) in respect to invitations made to persons whose ordinary business it is to lend money. Such persons should, after all, be better capable of protecting their own interests than the less well-informed members of the general public.

In addition, it is proposed to add a new section which would prohibit certain persons from carrying on business under a business name other than their own names, or a name consisting of their own names and the names of the persons in association with whom they carry on business, without the leave of the District Court within five years after their conviction for an offence mentioned in the new section. This refers to convictions on indictment for offences related to the promotion, formation or management of a corporation; convictions for offences involving fraud or dishonesty, punishable with imprisonment for three months or more; and convictions for certain offences specified in the Companies Act.

The Companies Act contains analogous provisions preventing such persons from acting as company directors, after being convicted of similar offences, for five years after conviction, without the leave of the court.

The Bill also seeks to enable the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs to extend the period within which the registration of a business name may be extended; to extend the period in which various statements of change of particulars of registration of a business name are required to be lodged, basically from 14 days to one month; to add a reference to a judge of the District Court sitting in chambers to the list in section 14 (2) of judicial officers who may exercise the power to stay proceedings as the District Court did not exist when the principal Act was originally passed; to empower the Commissioner

for Corporate Affairs to dispose of documents lodged under the principal Act or any corresponding previous enactment where they have been lodged for more than 21 years, even if, by virtue of documents lodged since, registration of the name is still current; to extend the time limit for taking proceedings under the Act to three years, or, with the consent of the Minister to any later time. Similar time limits are contained in other legislation administered by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, such as the Companies Act and the new Securities Industry Act; to enable regulations to be made covering the method of applying for the Minister's consent to the registration of certain restricted names, or names containing restricted words, and the fees payable on such applications or consent; and to amend all references in the Act to the registrar by substituting a reference to the commissioner, and to take into account the change in the title of the office from "Registrar of Companies" to "Commissioner for Corporate Affairs".

There are also a number of consequential amendments.

I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 5.38 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 31st March, 1976

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

TRAIL BIKES

Noise Nuisance: Petition

MR A. R. TONKIN (Morley) [4.31 p.m.]: I present the following petition from 44 residents of Morley—

To the Honourable Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do hereby pray that Her Majesty's Government will take immediate action to stop the excessive noise and nuisance caused by the riding of trail bikes in the Overseas Telecommunications Commission reserve in Morley, on unmade roads and in nearby bush.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.