

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 21 October 1982

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 10.45 a.m., and read prayers.

## APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

### *Second Reading: Budget Debate*

Debate resumed from 20 October.

MR HODGE (Melville) [10.47 a.m.]: That part of the Treasurer's Budget speech dealing with health matters is remarkable for two reasons, the first being its vagueness.

Mr O'Connor: The vagueness might be that you cannot understand it.

Mr HODGE: I do not think so. Many areas of his speech are very vague indeed when referring to health matters; those matters that did rate a mention were referred to in a vague and uninformative way.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr HODGE: The Treasurer's speech is remarkable also for the important matters it entirely overlooks and ignores.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat. I asked that the level of conversation should be reduced, but, if anything, it increased. I ask members to have some regard for the decorum of the House. The member for Melville.

Mr HODGE: In the first paragraph of the Treasurer's speech he indicated that the Budget had been framed against the background of the recommendations of the Grants Commission being effectively phased in over three years. Shortly after, he said that the WA Government does not accept the Grants Commission assessment as a valid indication of the true comparative position and that he is not prepared to lower the standard of health care available to citizens of WA. He went on in a fairly vague manner to speak about improving efficiency, eliminating unnecessary duplication of services, and excessive expenditure in the public sector. He said that the Grants Commission claims that WA is spending \$100 million too much on health. Anyone who read the Treasurer's speech would not be much wiser about just where the WA Government stands in relation to the Grants Commission recommendations. On the one hand, the Treasurer said the Budget had to be framed against a back-

ground of the Grants Commission recommendations being phased in over three years; on the other hand, he then said that the WA Government does not accept the Grants Commission recommendations.

Mr O'Connor: Would you disregard the fact that they are saying they will take \$137 million off us in three years?

Mr HODGE: No, but I would like to know precisely what the Government's stance is. Firstly, the Treasurer said that the Budget was framed on the understanding that the Government had to make cuts of \$100 million over three years.

Mr O'Connor: A responsible action.

Mr HODGE: Later he said that his Government does not accept the Grants Commission recommendations.

Mr O'Connor: Correct.

Mr HODGE: Does the Treasurer accept them or not?

Mr O'Connor: No, I don't accept them. We have been fighting against them and we will continue to do so. On top of that we must take into account that we may be penalised, so we have to make sure that we don't get into the position in which New South Wales and Victoria find themselves, where they are in a disastrous financial situation because of two Labor Governments.

Mr HODGE: To what extent does the Treasurer accept the Grants Commission recommendations? Is it his aim to lop off \$100 million or is he intending just to half accept the recommendations of the Grants Commission and lop off \$50 million? To what degree does he accept the recommendations?

Mr O'Connor: We don't accept the fact that, because we have managed better and provided better facilities in this State, we should be penalised by the Grants Commission.

Mr HODGE: I agree with that, but the Treasurer does appear to be taking steps to cut large amounts off the expenditure on hospitals. I would like to know to what degree he intends to pursue that line.

Mr Young: Quite clearly, the hospitals didn't have to carry a \$34 million cut.

Mr HODGE: But to what extent will this Government continue to implement the Grants Commission recommendations? The Parliament has a right to know.

Mr Young: It is very simple. The answer is that we are committed to work within what we get and that we are trying to get the most we can. As we had a cut of \$34 million in real terms in this year,

the Budget was framed to have regard for that; but the hospitals didn't carry that proportion as the Grants Commission said they should.

Mr HODGE: The Treasurer spoke about improving efficiency and eliminating unnecessary duplication of services and excessive expenditure, but he gave no details. Precisely where does the Treasurer and the Government intend to implement these laudable ideals? In what areas does he intend to try to eliminate the duplication of services and to cut expenditure? He gave no detail in his Budget speech, and I can understand that because the area in which he has chosen mainly to cut expenditure is the public teaching hospitals, and I will have more to say about them in a while.

Mr O'Connor: Is that an area where we would be penalised by the Grants Commission if we continued at the present level?

Mr HODGE: I do not accept the Grants Commission dictate that we are spending \$100 million too much; I do not think that is correct. We should oppose its recommendations and we should not go in for wholesale cuts in the funding of teaching hospitals.

Mr Young: You acknowledge the fact that we have fought against it and that the hospitals have not had to bear the brunt of it, so what are you saying?

Mr HODGE: The Budget contains fairly substantial cuts in expenditure on hospitals.

Mr Young: Obviously that is not so. We have been truncated \$34 million by the Commonwealth and the hospital expenditure for teaching hospitals has been increased by six per cent plus guaranteed increments in wages and salaries.

Mr HODGE: But six per cent is nowhere near enough, because inflation is running around 11 per cent. A figure of six per cent represents a very real decrease. Most of the public teaching hospitals did not get anywhere near a six per cent increase in fact.

Mr O'Connor: We will be interested to hear what you would have done.

Mr HODGE: The Treasurer has tried to create the impression that he has provided a 14 per cent increase across the board. It is true that the total sum of money allocated to the health portfolio has been increased by about 14 per cent, but I make it perfectly clear that by no means have teaching hospitals received a 14 per cent increase.

Mr O'Connor: Therefore other sections have had more than a 14 per cent increase.

Mr HODGE: I welcome the increase received by other sectors such as Mental Health Services, the Alcohol and Drug Authority, and the Public

Health Department. I particularly welcome the good increase to the Mental Health Services; I am very pleased to see this.

Mr Young: And all the non-teaching hospitals.

Mr HODGE: I found it difficult to get any accurate information on the budgets available for them. I think they have all had no-growth budgets. Whilst I do not envisage any drastic cutbacks in non-teaching hospitals, I do not expect to see any growth in that area. I think cuts will be made in areas such as hospital maintenance.

I am most concerned about the allocations for teaching hospitals. The Treasurer did not make any reference at all in his Budget speech to the significant reductions in the funds to be available to teaching hospitals. In the 1981-82 financial year, the expenditure for each of the five teaching hospitals was as follows: Fremantle Hospital, \$31 587 035; King Edward Memorial Hospital, \$19 522 873; Princess Margaret Hospital, \$26 165 075; Royal Perth Hospital, \$89 098 020; and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, \$55 451 044. The total was \$221 824 047. The expenditure provided in this year's Budget for those hospitals is as follows: Fremantle Hospital, \$33 445 000; King Edward Memorial Hospital, \$20 154 000; Princess Margaret Hospital, \$26 273 000; Royal Perth Hospital, \$92 404 000; and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, \$67 796 000. The total for this year is \$240 072 000. The percentage increases for this year over last are as follows: Fremantle Hospital, 5.8 per cent; King Edward Memorial Hospital, 3.2 per cent; Princess Margaret Hospital, 0.4 per cent; Royal Perth Hospital, 3.7 per cent; and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, 22.2 per cent. The overall increase for teaching hospitals this year is 8.2 per cent, but to some extent that increase is distorted by the fairly substantial increase allocated to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Mr O'Connor: Would you have kept the teaching hospitals up to what they were before?

Mr HODGE: I would have liked to see an effort made to keep up the teaching hospitals allocation at least with inflation; at least they should have received an increase in line with inflation, if not an increase to cater for growth.

Mr O'Connor: I have one question: Where would you have taken the money from to put into teaching hospitals?

Mr HODGE: I am not sure. I cannot tell the Treasurer what to do: I do not have access to the appropriate information. However, my view is that the teaching hospitals should have been allocated sufficient funds to keep up with inflation. The Treasurer made no reference in his Budget

speech to the substantial cuts in allocations to teaching hospitals.

Mr Young: I must jump in and say that there were no substantial cuts for teaching hospitals overall in real terms. The allocations for some teaching hospitals may have been reduced in real terms, but compared with the amount they wanted to get, they received only about \$6 million less, and in view of the decrease in funds from the Commonwealth, I believe the teaching hospitals in this State did fairly well. In addition to the percentages you are quoting, so that there is no misunderstanding, I must say again that all increases in wages and salaries have been guaranteed.

Mr Wilson: Make your own speech.

Mr HODGE: What the Minister has said may represent the position.

Mr Young: It is the position.

Mr HODGE: However, where has the Government buried that additional money for increases in salaries and wages? My figures are based on the Budget figures provided by the Treasurer to the Parliament. I have not read of any extra allocation.

Mr O'Connor: It is about \$86 million in connection with wages. It is provided every year.

Mr HODGE: Does that allocation come under the hospitals vote?

Mr O'Connor: No, it is a general fund.

Mr HODGE: The increase for teaching hospitals is grossly insufficient to enable those hospitals to keep up with inflation.

Mr Young: It is not grossly insufficient.

Mr HODGE: How can the Minister justify an 0.4 per cent increase for Princess Margaret Hospital?

Mr Young: I can do that quite simply, because the bed stays at Princess Margaret Hospital have decreased. The number of beds are actually decreasing. Do you want to spend it where it ought to be spent or do you want to spend the money so that everything looks good? That's what you want.

Mr HODGE: That is not true.

Mr Young: It is true.

Mr HODGE: I will make remarks later to contradict what the Minister has said.

Mr Young: The number of beds at that hospitals has been reduced by about 40 in the last two or three years.

Mr HODGE: The pressure is on at Princess Margaret Hospital, and I will give the evidence for that statement. The information I will give

might be news to the Minister, and I will give him news as well about the waste of taxpayers' money in some of the other hospitals. I will give him the details in a moment.

Mr Young: Good!

Mr O'Connor: The amazing part is that you say we ought to increase allocations in some areas, but you don't say where it should come from, and doing that is a very important part of budgeting, as you should know.

Mr HODGE: It is the Government's responsibility to carve up the money it spends on health, education, etc. If the Government chooses not to spend as much money as is necessary, that is the decision of the Cabinet.

Mr O'Connor: There has been a 14 per cent increase in health, and that's good.

Mr HODGE: That figure is misleading.

Mr Young: You won't say where you would take it from because you are frightened to do that.

Mr HODGE: I do not concede at all that cuts should be made in any area of health. I will be pleased to see the Minister get to his feet to make a speech instead of his interrupting me all the time.

Mr O'Connor: I accept the allocations are the responsibility of the Government, but what you are saying is irresponsible.

Mr HODGE: Fremantle Hospital received an increase of 5.8 per cent and inflation can be estimated conservatively at 11 per cent, so it is obvious to anyone that the Budget provides a substantial cut in the allocation to that hospital.

Mr Young: That's rubbish!

Mr HODGE: Obviously the cuts will be effected by a reduction in staff numbers. By 30 June next year a number of jobs will disappear in order to make the necessary economies. King Edward Memorial Hospital was hard hit with an increase of only 3.2 per cent—about one-quarter of what was needed to keep up with inflation.

Mr Young: Once again—

Mr HODGE: I ask the Minister to stop interrupting. He is wasting a lot of my time.

Mr Young: —you are misquoting figures. In addition to those percentage—

Mr HODGE: Mr Speaker, I want to ignore the Minister for Health.

Mr Young: —increases, there are other factors.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Young: You are misleading the House.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Health will desist from interjecting. The member on his feet has indicated he wants to address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr HODGE: I have many matters to which I wish to refer this morning, but the Minister is wasting much of my time. I want to ignore his interjections in order to continue with my speech.

Mr O'Connor: But you are giving fictitious figures.

Mr HODGE: My figures indicate that at least 40 jobs will disappear in this financial year at King Edward Memorial Hospital. I am told that at least 20 of those jobs will be from the nursing staff. These people will not be sacked, as the Premier has tried to say the Opposition believes. We know they will not be sacked; we know the decreases will come about as a result of attrition—as people leave they will not be replaced. As jobs become vacant they may be advertised, but they will not be filled.

Princess Margaret Hospital has received the worst deal with an increase of only 0.4 per cent. That is a far cry from the impression the Treasurer created when he said there was an increase of 14 per cent.

Mr O'Connor: What you have said is not true of the total picture, and you know it.

Mr HODGE: Princess Margaret Hospital already runs with tight staff numbers, and this further decrease in real terms will result in a real reduction in the services provided by that hospital. I had discussions yesterday with a doctor from PMH and he told me that many doctors at that hospital are concerned about its dangerously low staff levels. He told me he was speaking on behalf of several doctors, and that a number of senior doctors at Princess Margaret Hospital had written to the patient care committee of the hospital to express their alarm about the dangerous situation caused by the hospital's shortage of staff. That is before this Budget started even to bite at PMH. At least four senior doctors at the hospital wrote to the patient care committee, which comprises professional people and board members from the hospital, and they in turn report to a medical advisory committee which reports to the board.

Mr Young: Has the committee considered those letters yet?

Mr HODGE: The letters have gone before the committee, but I do not know whether they have been considered.

Mr Young: But you spoke to the doctor yesterday.

Mr HODGE: Yes, I did.

Mr Young: You did not bother to inquire if they had gone to the committee?

Mr HODGE: Letters had gone to the patient care committee. The doctor to whom I spoke had received a reply from the committee, I think, to the effect that it would look into the matter.

Mr Young: You think it intended to look into the matter?

Mr HODGE: The doctor with whom I spoke yesterday is a pediatric renal physician and he told me recently that a donor kidney became available on a Sunday and he was not game to do the operation at Princess Margaret Hospital on the weekend because of the shortage of staff. He did not believe the patient would receive the required post operative care if he performed that operation at the hospital on a Sunday and that doctor was forced to transfer the child to Royal Perth Hospital to have the operation carried out there because of the worry he had over staff numbers at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Mr Young: If he registers that case and circumstances with me, I will have it thoroughly investigated. Will you see that he does that? You will give that undertaking?

Mr HODGE: Yes, I will give him that message. In fact, he has probably spoken to some journalists about this matter.

Mr Young: It seems to be a strange way to go about it if he is dinkum, doesn't it? He goes to the journalists and to you, but not to me.

Mr HODGE: He was very frustrated. He has written to the proper authority for that hospital.

Mr Young: But then he goes to you and to journalists before he receives a reply.

Mr HODGE: He did not come to me; I went to him.

Mr Young: You are going to see that he refers the matter to me, aren't you?

Mr HODGE: I will pass the message on to him; be assured of that. Things have reached a sorry stage when senior doctors at the State's leading children's hospital cannot perform operations when necessary because they are too worried about the staff levels and the effect on their patients.

The Minister interjected earlier and said that staff levels are okay, everything is okay, and that services will not be reduced. Services already have been reduced at most of the teaching hospitals—in particular, at Princess Margaret Hospital—to levels where the doctors are starting to express alarm and concern and to speak out pub-

licly, probably placing their own careers in some jeopardy. They are doing this because they are so worried about the situation.

As we have already discussed, by way of interjection with the Minister and the Premier, part of the reason for the cutback in hospital funding has been caused by the new system of funding that was brought in between the Commonwealth and the States, and which was enthusiastically welcomed and promoted by our Minister for Health. This year it looks as if we will be short changed by the Commonwealth to the tune of about \$15 million below our entitlement for health. According to the figures tabled in Federal Parliament in the Budget papers, WA's gross allocation for this financial year will be \$190 million. While that sounds pretty good, then the discounting starts. The Commonwealth estimates that the State could raise about \$50 million in revenue from public hospitals, so that amount comes off the \$190 million and we end up with a figure of about \$140 million. That is about \$15 million less than we had last year and it is less than this State really requires. That is one of the reasons these economies are being made and why teaching hospitals are not getting the sorts of funds they obviously need merely to keep pace with inflation.

Earlier in the debate the Premier was pushing me to tell him where I thought the extra funds should come from to make up these deficits to the teaching hospitals. I am not in a position to go into details as I do not have access to the Treasury experts as the Premier does, but I will give him a hint of the area in which he can start in order to make some substantial savings for the taxpayer and perhaps make more money available to teaching hospitals, and I am referring to radiology services in non-teaching Government hospitals. I have done some research, though it has been limited because of the facilities available to the Opposition, in regard to the situation of radiology services in non-teaching Government hospitals. I got quite a shock when I realised what was happening in that area. The income being paid to private radiologists for the provision of radiological services in Government non-teaching hospitals is alarming and probably a scandal.

I will give the Premier some statistics and I would be grateful if he would be prepared to follow this up in an effort to stop the radiology rip-off which is occurring in this State. The radiological services at most of the metropolitan non-teaching hospitals are provided by private radiologists who attend those hospitals and who are paid a fee by the State Government to provide services in those non-teaching Government hospi-

tals. They are being paid disgraceful fees. If the Premier wants to make some economies, I suggest he start here.

I will give him some information. The radiology services at Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital are provided by a partnership of two radiologists. As well as providing radiological services for Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital they also provide these services at Rockingham Hospital. I am referring to the financial year 1981-82, during which period these radiologists provided services at Armadale-Kelmscott, Rockingham, and Pinjarra Hospitals. In addition, they provide services on a sessional basis at Fremantle Hospital and they also run a private practice at Calista. For their work at Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital they were paid the sum of \$125 238; for their services at Rockingham Hospital they were paid \$108 801; and for their services at Pinjarra Hospital they were paid \$26 433—a total of \$260 472.

Mr O'Connor: What was the cost of running and maintaining equipment in that?

Mr HODGE: All that is paid for by the taxpayers. Everything else is met by the Government. These are purely fees which are paid for professional services rendered by the doctors at these Government hospitals.

Mr O'Connor: There were no expenses at all?

Mr HODGE: No, the Government picked up all the expenses and provided the equipment, and paid for the radiographers and the films. These represent professional services supplied by the doctors. In case members are thinking the doctors' hours spent in providing professional services were excessive, I inform them that at Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital only half of each week day was provided; that is, Monday to Friday.

Mr O'Connor: By one person only?

Mr HODGE: There are two partners who alternate. A doctor was provided for half a day on Monday to Friday.

Mr O'Connor: But there were no other staff involved?

Mr HODGE: No; all the other staff were paid for by the Government. At Rockingham Hospital they worked for three hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and in the afternoons of Tuesday and Thursday; and their visits to Rockingham Hospital were of about three hours' duration.

As members will now realise, these radiologists are being very handsomely remunerated. The situation gets worse. At Bentley District Hospital and, at Pinjarra, the services are provided by the Perth Radiological Clinic. That organisation has

agreed to provide a doctor for 40 hours a week to attend at that hospital. The doctor is usually in attendance from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and occasionally for one hour on a Saturday morning. During those 40 hours the doctor also attends to work that is sent down to him from the Government hospital at Kalamunda. During the same period the doctor attended to the work from the Bentley and Kalamunda areas. During the 1981-82 financial year, for 40 hours' work, the partnership was paid \$239 639 for its services at Bentley Hospital. The partnership was paid \$14 282 for its work at Kalamunda District Community Hospital. The partnership also provided services at Narrogin Regional Hospital and was paid the sum of \$65 666; so the total amount paid for services to Government hospitals was \$319 480.

Two doctors provide the service at Osborne Park Hospital. One works 4½ days a week and the other one-half a day a week, and the service costs the Government \$74 926. One doctor does the bulk of the work and the other doctor who is in private practice does one session on Wednesday afternoons.

At Swan District Hospital the service is provided by two radiologists who have private practices. One doctor calls on the hospital four times a week, providing about five hours' service, and the other doctor works for about one hour a week, and the total payment for those services is \$33 570.

The Wanneroo Hospital service is provided by a doctor who had retired, but when he was approached he agreed to work when the hospital was opened. He works about 40 hours a week for the sum of \$37 840.

At Bunbury Regional Hospital the service is provided by a radiologist who resides in the area. He also provides the service at the Collic and Busselton Hospitals and does work at the private hospital in Bunbury—St. John of God Hospital. His service to Bunbury Regional Hospital is about 10 hours a week and for the financial year 1981-82 he was paid \$105 088. For his service to Collic Hospital he was paid \$51 263 and for his service at Busselton Hospital he was paid \$56 858. The total for that work at three Government hospitals is \$213 203 which is a rather excessive amount for 30 hours' work a week.

A radiologist provides the service at Geraldton Regional Hospital and the Carnarvon Regional Hospital, and also for St. John of God Hospital in Geraldton. I am told the number of hours he works at the Government hospitals is less than 40 hours a week, but he receives the massive sum of \$136 500 for Geraldton alone. For the service ren-

dered to Carnarvon Regional Hospital he is paid an additional sum of \$31 080—a total of \$167 580 which again is an astounding amount.

The service at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital is provided by a full-time doctor who works for 40 hours a week, and his payment is \$155 229. Not bad money!

The position in the north-west is worse. A radiologist at Port Hedland handles the work in the Pilbara and the north-west. At Government expense, the films are flown to the doctor at Port Hedland and after examination the results are telexed, at Government expense, to the hospitals concerned. For this service he is very handsomely remunerated. His payment for the services to Port Hedland Regional Hospital for the financial year 1981-82 was \$76 915; for his services to the Broome Hospital, \$23 669; for his services to Derby Regional Hospital, \$42 614; for his services to Tom Price District Hospital, \$15 463; for Newman District, \$19 857; for Dampier District, \$31 420; for Wickham District, \$13 334; and for Wyndham District, \$11 613—a total of \$234 885.

Should that doctor be required actually to visit the hospitals, his air fare, accommodation, meals, and any other costs incurred are paid by the State Government.

A new arrangement was entered into as from 1 July 1982 between the AMA and the State Government to regulate the position of radiologists in Government hospitals, but the new arrangement specifically excluded the north-west. The situation to which I have referred will continue in the north-west.

I do not know how the new arrangement is operating in the metropolitan area. Perhaps it is too early to ascertain. However, I suggest that rather than tinker with the old arrangement, an overhaul must be made. This scandal should not be allowed to continue. Instead of seeking to make its economies at the bottom end of the scale, which causes jobs to disappear for nurses, cleaners, domestics, orderlies, and porters, the Government should be tackling the high-fliers—those people earning these shamefully high incomes.

The Government cannot afford to allow that sort of situation to continue. We have heard the Premier and the Minister for Health tell us how the Commonwealth has short-changed us, but those figures were supplied to me by the Minister for Health. He is aware of the situation and the hours of work and the amounts being paid by Government hospitals. However, the situation has continued. Economies have been made at the wrong end of the scale.

If this Government is not prepared to tackle the problem, the Labor Party will do something about it next year.

Mr Young: Can you tell us what?

Mr HODGE: Yes, we would have a complete re-examination of the profession of radiology and its services in Government hospitals. We would renegotiate the terms of agreement for doctors and if doctors are not prepared—

Mr Young: You were just about to give the answer.

Mr HODGE: Do not interrupt. We cannot go on allowing such massive charges to be paid by the Government. If the doctors will not agree to work for more moderate sums, we can recruit radiologists from overseas who would be prepared to work here, if they were guaranteed a job for three years in a Government hospital. The Government recently made the provisions of the Medical Act more narrow and will allow radiologists from the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Zealand only to practise here.

Many countries in the world have radiologists who are trained to a very high standard and if this Government finds that local doctors here are not prepared to moderate these greedy demands, it could recruit others from overseas or interstate to work on a salary or sessional payment. Of course, the Government could guarantee assistance for their entry into this country and a reasonable income from employment in Government hospitals. I cannot see why that should not work and I sincerely hope that the Minister for Health will consider this matter. I would not tolerate the rip-off system that this Government is prepared to accept.

In June I wrote to the Minister for Health about the level of fees charged for private psychiatric hostels. It was brought to my attention that a number of hostels licensed by the Mental Health Services were charging fees in excess of the amount authorised by the administration regulations 1965. The Minister conducted an investigation and the end result was that he was not prepared to remedy what I thought was an unsatisfactory situation.

The regulations state that patients in licensed private psychiatric hostels are entitled to be refunded a minimum of 12½ per cent of their basic pension. I understand that many people are in this situation and they are not receiving that 12½ per cent; the proprietors of the hostels are taking more than the 87½ per cent to which they are entitled. Their justification is that they are allowed also to take 100 per cent of the supplementary assistance paid to these people and if for some

reason the resident does not receive 100 per cent of the supplementary assistance, the proprietors feel they are justified in increasing the proportion of pension they retain to make up for the deficiency.

I hoped that the Minister would take some action to stop that. However, he did the opposite and indicated in his reply to me that while he knew this sort of practice was occurring, he would change the regulations to make what I believe is an unlawful practice a lawful practice. I wanted him to use his position to ensure that the proprietors of private psychiatric hostels did not continue to take in excess of the amount specified under the regulations. I think it is poor that the Minister will change the regulations instead of remedying the situation and I was disappointed with his reply. I would have expected better from him because I had pointed out in detail the circumstances and I thought he would have been prepared to put a stop to the practice which I consider is undesirable.

I mention this in the House because it is a situation which deserves further attention from the Government and hopefully, the Minister will investigate the matter further and reconsider his decision. I believe that the allocations in the Budget for Mental Health Services, the Alcohol and Drug Authority, and the Public Health Department are satisfactory, but the allocations for teaching hospitals are certainly far from satisfactory and leave a lot to be desired. I hope the Premier takes seriously the information I have provided in this speech concerning radiology costs. With the money saved in that direction, some jobs could be saved in the teaching hospitals and staff numbers would not have to be reduced so savagely.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [11.30 a.m.]: I would like to deal with matters associated indirectly with the Budget. During the time I have been in this House, I have paid great attention to the matter of the generation of power in this State. During my time as the Collie representative of the mine workers' union I also paid close attention to the Government's policies in this area.

I am glad that the Minister for Fuel and Energy has returned to the Chamber because I will raise several matters on which I believe action should be taken by this Government. It would be true to say that we are again at the crossroads as far as power generation policies are concerned in this State.

We must remember the mess that has been made of the State's power policies by successive Liberal Governments. I go back to the 1960s

when the Government embarked on a programme to use oil in preference to coal for power generation at the Kwinana power house. At that time there was sufficient coal at Collie to continue with a coal-fired system.

When the Tonkin Government came into power, it initiated a programme which would utilise greatly increased coal production, but when the Liberal Government came into power it commenced a programme to revert the oil-fired units at Kwinana to coal-fired units. This was done at great expense to the taxpayers of this State.

Yesterday, in a question on notice, I asked the Minister for Fuel and Energy the final cost of the conversion of all units at the Kwinana power station from oil to coal. His answer was that the conversion of stage "C" at the Kwinana power station cost \$32 million, and the conversion of the stage "I" plant was estimated at \$40 million. So the Government has spent \$80 million on converting units at Kwinana from oil fired back to coal fired. This is a costly mistake, and one for which the taxpayers have paid dearly through the high cost of electricity.

Mr Sibson: What about the saving on the price of oil?

Mr T. H. JONES: The savings were minimal and would be nothing compared with the \$80 million that the Government has expended on the conversion. On several occasions I have asked why dual-fired units were not installed at Kwinana. We know the answer. It was because the Liberal Government was hell-bent on using oil. In addition to this, another burden has been placed on the taxpayers as a result of the Court Government's deferring the Tonkin Government's expansion programme at Collie.

This deferment cost another \$80 million, so if we add these figures together we find that is \$160 million of the taxpayers' money that the Liberal Government has wasted due to its shortsighted policies in regard to power generation. No-one can deny that.

Mr P. V. Jones: How did that second one cost \$80 million?

Mr T. H. JONES: Before the present Minister took up that portfolio, the Tonkin Government programme for the installation of two 200-megawatt units at Muja was deferred for 12 months. I am not blaming the Minister for that. I am on record as saying that the deferment for 12 months of the Tonkin Government programme increased the capital cost by approximately 38 per cent. I said that in the House on Wednesday, 11 March 1979, and the figures were obtained from replies to questions I asked.

Mr P. V. Jones: Thank you.

Mr T. H. JONES: That amounted to a waste of some \$80 million of the taxpayers' money, and that is not peanuts. Together, the conversion and the deferment cost \$160 million. In my opinion that money was wasted because of the incompetence of the Government and of the State Energy Commission.

Mr O'Connor: While we are talking about money, may I ask: Did Collie receive that cheque?

Mr T. H. JONES: I was coming to that in a moment. Until yesterday the cheque had not been received, but the amount is still insufficient.

Mr Old: Fair go, Tom!

Mr T. H. JONES: Before I resume my seat I would like to remind the Treasurer of his miserly attitude to the coalmining town of Collie.

Mr P. V. Jones: You have just been talking about taxpayers' money being wasted.

Mr T. H. JONES: I was just replying to the Treasurer.

Mr O'Connor: It was forwarded a week ago.

Mr T. H. JONES: I know the \$10 000 will be an initial payment only!

Mr O'Connor: It is really two payments—the initial one and the final one.

Mr T. H. JONES: I look forward to other sums coming to Collie from time to time.

Coming back to the question of power generation: The Public Accounts Committee presently is conducting an investigation into some of the policies of the SEC. It is no wonder that the SEC is in a mess because of the policies of successive Liberal Governments.

As the member for Collie, and speaking for the coalmining industry generally, I am concerned about the impact of the use of natural gas on the coalfields of this State. The Minister dodged answering the questions I put forward about the use of gas for our power generation system in WA. I asked—

Is it intended to use natural gas for power production at the Kwinana power station?

The Minister replied—

It is the commission's current intention to temporarily use some gas in Kwinana power station.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is right.

Mr T. H. JONES: The second part of the question was as follows—

If "Yes", what will the reduction of coal burn at the power station be?

The Minister replied—

It is too early at this stage to give accurate figures of consumption.

I then asked—

What are the relative production costs of power using—

(a) coal; and

(b) natural gas?

In replying to this part the Minister was most evasive. He said—

(a) and (b) Since the production costs are dependent upon fuel costs and consumption, it is not possible at this stage to give costs.

Of course we were not happy with that reply, and I discussed the matter with the coalmining unions of this State. The reply did not get down to the crux of the relativities of the cost of power generation using coal and using natural gas.

Mr P. V. Jones: Can I just clearly reply now, and you will appreciate why, in relation to some other information which you had in questions. The answer I gave is perfectly correct. As you will appreciate, it relates not only to other factors of cost involved, but also to the raw price of gas and the raw price of coal. That is not disputed, but what you were asking really is whether the price of gas alone used in Kwinana to generate electricity would raise the SEC tariff, to which question the answer is "No". We have given that answer.

The point is that the price of gas for power consumption will equate with the cost of coal so that it will not affect the end price of electricity. We have made that statement publicly.

Mr T. H. JONES: That is the first time I have heard the Minister say it. I have not seen a public announcement, but I may have missed it.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is all right; I am making certain there is no misunderstanding.

Mr T. H. JONES: The figures I have obtained through the experts whose advice is available to me are not the same as those which the Minister has given publicly today.

Mr P. V. Jones: I can understand why because the assumption would be that the gas price would be higher. Figures have flown round, and the question has been asked: How can it be at the same price if the gas price is so-and-so? The gas price for power generation will not be of such a level that it will increase the "end" price of the electricity for the short period it is used in Kwinana, in the same way it did not when the Tonkin Government used it at Kwinana when the

first gas came from Dongara. It did not increase the price then, and it will not do so on this occasion.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Tonkin Government had no alternative but to use gas because of the commitment entered into by the former Liberal Government. That cannot be denied.

Mr P. V. Jones: But it is for the same reason, it is the same thing—you put it in and back it off as market development.

Mr T. H. JONES: Let me develop my argument and I will be pleased to hear the Minister's comments. The figures given to me by the Minister are different from those I obtained from another specialist source. I have been given to understand that the price of power generation using gas will be double that of using coal. The Minister denies that, but these figures were obtained from world sources.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am aware of that.

Mr T. H. JONES: Of course we smell a nigger in the wood pile! When oil was used at Kwinana, the Liberal Government would not tell the taxpayers of WA the price paid for that oil. For some unknown reason the price was a secret. On successive occasions I asked questions in this House, but the answers were not given. It was not until the Labor Government came into power that the price paid for the oil was released. We believed the taxpayers had a right to know the price being paid for fuel oil.

Mr Tonkin: An open Government!

Mr T. H. JONES: Again the Minister can say that the information I have obtained is incorrect.

Mr P. V. Jones: Repeatedly, and I can take it even further. I am aware that Professor Barker and others have made the point that their estimate is that the cost can be twice as high. Of course that is so if the price of gas is higher and there are other factors which you and I know about, but in this case, because the price of gas for power consumption will be at the level now being negotiated, the end result he forecast will not be realised.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am very pleased to hear that, but my assessment and the assessment of other people is that if gas is used, it will increase the cost of electricity to consumers, or alternatively, to prevent that result, the Government will have to subsidise the use of gas. Time will tell.

Mr P. V. Jones: It is not going to do either of those things; it does not have to.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am pleased to have that information.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Time will tell.

Mr T. H. JONES: I will be looking forward with interest to the outcome.

The Minister would know the situation in which the Government is placed. It has natural gas that it cannot sell and it is in a mess—a bigger mess than the taxpayers of Western Australia know. The Government has contracted to buy a certain amount of gas from the North-West Shelf, and it has not received orders for the gas. Its only alternative is to use some of the gas on a short-term basis at the Kwinana power house, at a cost to the coalmining industry.

Once again, Collie is at the crossroads. We do not know where we are going. The Minister knows that the deferment of the signing of the coal contracts with Western Collieries Ltd. is causing great concern to one coal company on the coalfields.

Collie experienced the challenge of oil; then Sir Charles Court, the former Premier, was hell-bent on introducing nuclear power to this State. I moved several motions in this House condemning the Government's nuclear policy; and later Sir Charles Court went cold on the idea and said that Western Australia would not have a nuclear policy. However, Sir Charles is on record as saying that by 1990 Western Australia would be embarking on a nuclear policy; and no-one can deny that.

The Opposition repeatedly argued about and condemned that policy; and in our opinion that forced the Government to reconsider its attitude. The Minister will not deny that. In fact, I have asked questions about the nuclear policy; and he has answered, I understand, that the policy is currently not under consideration. That would be due to the reserves of coal on the Collie coalfield, which will last this State for a long period to come.

So far as power generation is concerned, Collie always has faced a challenge. It faced the challenge of oil, the challenge of nuclear power, and now the challenge of natural gas. I hope that the Minister will give assurances about how long the natural gas will be used. Will he interject and tell the Parliament today for how long the natural gas will be used at the Kwinana power station?

Mr P. V. Jones: Again, this has been said publicly. The proposal is in relation to the aluminium smelter that is currently being negotiated. I have provided all the Collie unions with the information. The proposal is that the gas used at Kwinana in the first instance will be used for that period of time between the establishment of the smelter and the increased industrial load that will bring, and the completion of the next stage of the

new coal-fired Bunbury station. It is for that period and for that purpose. That is a matter of public record.

Mr T. H. JONES: In other words, there are a lot of "ifs" and "buts". It is conditional on something which could be a long way off.

Mr P. V. Jones: It might surprise you.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Government overestimated the electricity which would be required now. The Minister will not deny that. The figures he gave to me in the Parliament on the 18th of this month show that to be the situation. The industrial growth that the Government anticipated did not proceed at the level the Government thought it would proceed; and as a factual situation, we have a surplus of energy in our grid system now.

When the two 200-megawatt units at Muja are completed, we will have a further excess energy capacity; so we need a sudden growth in industrial expansion in this State to commit the Government to building the Bunbury power house—the Minister will not deny that. The Bunbury power house will be built only if the growth rate of power requirements in this State is lifted; so there is no certainty about the Bunbury power house.

Mr P. V. Jones: We have signed an agreement.

Mr T. H. JONES: It depends on a smelter and an increase in power generation requirements in Western Australia. Unfortunately, in recent years, the power requirements have dropped. They were as high as 11 per cent at one stage; then they fell to seven per cent; and last year they were down to approximately 6.1 per cent. It will be seen that many "ifs" and "buts" are attached to the Bunbury power house. No firm arrangement has been announced.

If the Liberal Party gets on the hustings at the next election and says that Bunbury will have a new power house built, its construction will be dependent on a number of factors—including the smelter being constructed, and the demand for power in Western Australia increasing generally. As I have said previously, at present we have a surplus of energy capacity in our grid system; and the Minister would not deny that point. I look forward with great interest—

Mr P. V. Jones: Could I just refer to one other matter you raised—the Western Collieries agreement?

Mr T. H. JONES: I will move to that now.

Mr P. V. Jones: You might not have seen the answer given in the upper House.

Mr T. H. JONES: I did see it. It looked like a very good Dorothy Dixier.

Mr P. V. Jones: The point was, it gave an opportunity to provide the current situation, because there had been criticism of the Government in that regard which was not fair and reasonable, having regard to the role that the company was supposed to play and was not playing.

Mr T. H. JONES: I will refer to that in a moment. I am glad that the Minister has raised it.

People on the coalfields are concerned about the delay in the contractual arrangement between Western Collieries Ltd. and the State Energy Commission. The Parliament will be aware that in 1957 the Hawke Government negotiated the first contracts for the supply of coal for Government instrumentalities from the Collie coalfield. Initially, the contracts were for a three-year period. Later the contracts were advanced to five years; and then this Government, in order to bring about greater stability and long-term planning for the coalfields, introduced the agreements between the two operating companies in the fields. The Collie coal (Western Collieries) agreement provided for the company to enter into some deep mining operations in addition to the open-cut operation; and the Collie coal (Griffin) agreement provided for open-cut mining only. When the Government introduced those two agreements, it referred to the long-term stability they would bring to the Collie coalfields.

There is grave concern on the coalfields because the Western Collieries agreement has not been finalised. Great play has been made in this House about the fact that the Government has not negotiated formally the agreement with Western Collieries Ltd.; and the reason is quite clear. The Government is overcommitted so far as coal orders are concerned.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is not so.

Mr T. H. JONES: We will see what Western Collieries finishes with. We will see whether its contract remains at the existing level or if there is a reduction. We know that the Government has committed itself to taking 2.1 million tonnes of coal a year from the Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd.—

Mr P. V. Jones: The point I am trying to make is that it takes two to negotiate an agreement; and the Opposition has been very clear in blaming only the Government. The Government certainly has been trying to finalise the tonnages, of which you and the unions are well aware. I am not disputing that. What I am saying is that the colliery, as you would be well aware, was to start a deep mine and made a commitment to it from February of this year; and it has failed to do so, even though the State Energy Commission and I

have indicated to the company and to the unions that we would be prepared to make some financial arrangement to allow that deep mining to start; because we understand what it means to the unions and what it means to Collie; and we want to get it started. Western Collieries has been less than forthcoming—less than co-operative—in its part of the deal.

Mr T. H. JONES: That might be the situation as far as Western Collieries Ltd. is concerned; but the union and the employees in the industry have been caught up in the whole thing. That is the part that is worrying me.

Mr P. V. Jones: I understand that.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Minister would know that some 450 men in Collie depend for their work on the Western No. 2 deep mine, which has a limited life. Anyone with experience in coalmining operations would know that one cannot put down another deep mine today and produce coal tomorrow.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is right.

Mr T. H. JONES: It does not operate in that way. The establishment of a deep mine is a long-term operation. It takes some time to put down the developmental heading and install the other drives off the main tunnel. The men on the Collie coalfield and particularly The Coal Miners' Industrial Union of Workers of WA, which I represent in this Chamber, are worried about the future of these 450 men if another mine is not started immediately. Discussions have taken place between Western Collieries Ltd., the Government, and the SEC, but the impact is being felt by the town of Collie and concern is being expressed by the union also.

I keep my ear to the ground and I understand the Government has been attempting to ask Western Collieries Ltd. to accept a reduction in orders. Perhaps by way of interjection the Minister can say whether I am right or wrong.

Mr P. V. Jones: A reduction from what to what?

Mr T. H. JONES: A reduction in the overall existing orders of Western Collieries Ltd.

Mr P. V. Jones: It is news to me. What is your information?

Mr T. H. JONES: It is my information that this matter is delaying the company and the Government arriving at an agreement.

Mr P. V. Jones: Do you mean lower than 1.5 million tonnes?

Mr T. H. JONES: I mean a reduction in existing orders. It appears the Minister cannot

agree with or deny that proposition. Obviously he does not know.

Mr P. V. Jones: It is news to me.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Minister agrees with me?

Mr P. V. Jones: No; I said, "It is news to me." I did not know that Western Collieries Ltd. was allegedly being asked to reduce its present level of deliveries, which is what the member is saying, but I shall make a note of that point and ascertain the answer.

Mr T. H. JONES: I think my information would be correct. What would members opposite do if they were in the situation of Western Collieries Ltd. which is faced with the proposition of developing a new deep mine which will require millions of dollars of capital expenditure? That company is not prepared to put down another deep mine unless it is sure of its long-term future and we cannot blame it for that. This situation is analogous to that in the goldmining industry in relation to problems of instability. I am sure the Minister would agree that operators in the goldmining industry do not have a great deal of certainty about the long-term future of that industry. As a result, they cannot obtain the necessary capital investment from their shareholders which would enable them to install a new mine. The reason for that is lack of long-term security of the industry.

This is the situation in which Western Collieries Ltd. finds itself. In the interests of the State and the orderly development of the coalfields, we always have argued that a balance must be achieved between the production from open cut and deep mines. I do not think any member opposite would disagree with that policy. It would be foolish to remove all the open-cut coal which is easy to mine and then have to revert to deep mining operations.

I plead with the Minister. He is not aware of the concern which is rife in the coalfields. I have been approached by the local authority and other prominent organisations, including the Chamber of Commerce. People are not spending money in the town, because they do not know what their long-term future holds.

Great play was made of these two agreements when the Minister introduced them in the House and it was said they would provide stability for the next 20 years. It was indicated much progress would be made by 1984, but nothing has happened.

I call on the Government through you, Sir, to make some firm announcement on the matter in order that the people of Collie will know where

they are going and so that Western Collieries Ltd. can develop another deep mine which will be ready to take over from the Western No. 2 deep mine when it reaches the end of its production.

I am sure the former Minister knows the position. Negotiations have been in progress for 18 months to try to reach firm financial commitments. However, nothing has eventuated. What is wrong with the system? It has taken 18 months to try to negotiate an agreement and, while this has been proceeding, the jobs of the workers on the coalfields have been placed in jeopardy. If members opposite worked on the coalfields, they would be worried about their future. The workers there have housing and other commitments to meet; therefore, they need to know what the future holds.

The Government should get off its backside and take positive steps in this matter. Eighteen months is too long a period during which to negotiate and finalise an agreement.

I call on the Minister to realise the concern I am expressing on behalf of the people I represent. He has had numerous talks with people in the mining industry and he knows their concern. He has had talks with the shire and he knows its concern. We are asking only that some action be taken to alleviate the problem to which I have referred at some length.

Mr Sibson: You should remember that industries in and around my electorate have no guarantees, either. They operate on a day-to-day basis, so you are not on your own. The general overall economic situation has a bearing on the position. The black sands mining industry, the forestry industry, and many others do not have any guarantee at this time.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Tubby): Order!

Mr T. H. JONES: I have been very patient with the member for Bunbury and I have answered his interjections a number of times. However, I would appreciate it if he would allow me to continue my remarks. If the member for Bunbury cannot bring about firm agreements in his electorate, that is his fault; he is not doing his job.

Mr Sibson: That is not the point.

Mr T. H. JONES: In 1967 I was the secretary of the coal miners' union in the area and under the Hawke Government I was responsible for initiating the original contract.

Mr Harman: When you were secretary of the coal miners' union the member for Bunbury was selling used cars.

Mr T. H. JONES: I remember when the member for Bunbury was in Collie, he used to get up on the stump and say, "The Government should do this". However, when he got to Bunbury he changed his colour and put on another coat. He was no longer a spokesman for the trade unions. He put on another coat and aligned himself with the conservative party of this State. However, when the member for Bunbury was in Collie, as a trade union official, he would get up on the stump and say that the Government should be brought down and it should be looking after the workers.

The member for Bunbury is wearing a different coat now, and he has forgotten all about that. He has bought a new coat in the pocket of which he found new policies in relation to the coalmining industry.

Mr Sibson: What are you talking about?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Tubby): Order!

Mr T. H. JONES: I hope that satisfies the member for Bunbury. I am capable of making my own speech and I do not require the assistance of the member for Bunbury.

Mr Sibson: Just answer one question—

#### *Point of Order*

Mr TONKIN: The member for Collie has made it clear he wants to proceed with his speech and that person continues to try to shout him down. I ask you, Sir, to take some action.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Tubby): I have just called the member for Bunbury to order.

#### *Debate Resumed*

Mr T. H. JONES: After that rude interjection by the member for Bunbury I shall move on to the next point I wish to make. The Minister for Housing is absent from the Chamber, but perhaps someone will give him my message.

Mr MacKinnon: He is in Darwin.

Several members interjected.

Mr Young: He will still be able to hear you, Tom!

Mr T. H. JONES: I am concerned about the dismal housing position of the SHC in this State. It appears that, at the present time, all the SHC is doing is maintaining houses; it is not constructing any new residences. Little housing development is occurring in Western Australia and the dismal picture can be seen in Collie. The attitude of the SHC is reflected in the number of houses which have been constructed in my electorate since 1970.

Let us consider the number of homes built in Collie going back to 1970-71. In 1970-71, none; 1971-72, none; 1972-73, none; 1973-74, none; 1974-75, none; 1975-76, three; 1976-77, six SHC homes and six Aboriginal homes, making a total of 12; 1977-78, eight Aboriginal homes; 1978-79, five SHC flats; 1979-80, four SHC homes; 1980-81, two Aboriginal homes; and 1981-82, 14 SHC homes.

Mr Rushton: How many empty houses were there?

Mr T. H. JONES: None.

Mr Laurance: What about the operation at Silver City?

Mr T. H. JONES: The reason for the vacant homes to which the Deputy Premier referred is known to him.

Mr Laurance: What about the upgrading?

Mr T. H. JONES: I do not deny that some upgrading work and some maintenance work has been done, but that is all that has been done.

Mr Laurance: You have made out a good case to explain why the other towns should get as good a deal as Collie.

Mr T. H. JONES: If Collie has done well, it is only through my own persistence and perhaps because the Minister for Lands nearly broke his leg on the front verandah of an SHC home in the town—it was not booby trapped. What happened was that he accompanied me to see the poor conditions of many homes in the town and when he stood on one front verandah he went down to his knees. He blamed me for setting it up. When I took him to inspect other homes he did not fall into any more booby traps—we only organised the one as it took too much to set up!

After that the Minister decided to commence an upgrading programme, and I have given him credit for that. Nonetheless, the number of houses actually built in Collie is abysmal. Back in January 1961 we had 350 homes empty. What the Government did was to bring in widows and women whose husbands were in prison. In the early 1970s the Arabs did us a very good turn. I have the highest respect for Arabs, and their decision to place embargoes on oil, although bad for some parts of the State, had a good effect on Collie coalfields. The problem of empty houses disappeared overnight.

Mr Laurance interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am running out of time. I have had a lot of interjections to cope with and I have answered many of them, but I have a lot more to say with only eight minutes remaining. I

know members opposite do not like what I am saying, but I have a lot more to say yet.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Tubby): Order! I ask the member to resume his seat. The House will come to order! I know the member for Collie revels in this sort of debate and is quite an attraction to members and makes an amusing contribution; nevertheless, I ask members to refrain from interjecting to allow the member to continue to entertain us.

Mr T. H. JONES: What I have said illustrates that for the years from 1970-71 to 1981-82 only 32 homes were built in Collie. If we couple the 16 Aboriginal homes with the others we have a total of 48 homes built over an 11-year period. Remembering that Collie is a town on the move—which the Minister cannot deny—let us consider next year's programme. We are on the move when we consider the expansion at Muja and the construction of the Worsley alumina refinery.

Mr Sibson interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: I wish the member for Bunbury would shut up for a while; I have had enough of him.

Only seven homes are to be built this financial year. Our concern relates to the fact that the Worsley refinery is to come into operation next year and it is expected it will employ 500 permanent workers. The problem is that we have nowhere to house them.

The Hon. Sandy Lewis, the Hon. Win Piesse, and I have been negotiating with the Government to release land for a housing development in the area. Unless this is done quickly there will be nowhere for these future employees to live.

Mr Sibson: Australind.

Mr T. H. JONES: We do not expect all of them to live at Collie, but many of them will want to do so. The history of shift work generally and the history of the refinery I visited in Los Angeles reveals that shift workers prefer to live close to their place of work. Unless some State Housing Commission homes are built in Collie, these workers will have nowhere to live. There is an urgent need for the Government to take some action now.

I am having people come to my Collie office each day because they are getting jobs in the town, but cannot find anywhere suitable to live. The caravan parks are full and many of these people are having to live in other people's backyards. I trust the Deputy Premier is taking cogni-

sance of my remarks and is prepared to look into this problem.

We have had our days on the coalfields. We were a ghost town in 1960 when we lost 600 workers from the industry. The town was dead. We had 36 empty shops and 350 empty homes.

Mr Rushton: We helped to fill the shops.

Mr T. H. JONES: I appeal to the Government to take some action on this very serious problem.

My next topic is directed towards the Minister for Water Resources and it is a topic I have been raising constantly with him; namely, the need for an alternative water supply for Balingup. I understand money has been set aside for the town to be connected to the Greenbushes system. However, it has been mentioned that the water supply involved is of very poor quality. I believe it would be wrong to expend the capital to connect the town of Balingup to the Greenbushes system if the water quality is poor. It would be far preferable to use the money for an alternative project so that the people of the area could receive a decent water supply. I ask the Minister to have the matter investigated.

I am very disappointed with the amount of money allocated for sewerage works in Collie. Bunbury will get a nice handout of \$528 000; Albany, \$920 000; Busselton, \$350 000; while Collie is to get \$313 000. However, the need for sewerage works is much greater in Collie because the town is situated in a catchment area and is faced with many restrictions on land usage. Hobby farms are affected and we have to put up with forestry restrictions and mining restrictions. Only four years ago 85 per cent of land in the area was unrateable and the shire has been faced with a difficult task to provide funds for capital works programmes.

Mr Rushton: Be fair; that looks to be a very creditable commitment when you relate it to population.

Mr T. H. JONES: But because Collie is a catchment area, its need is much greater. If a priority for sewerage works can be found to be necessary in this State it is at Collie because of the restrictions placed on the town as a result of the catchment area. Money for sewerage works is being poured into Liberal seats.

Mr Sibson: But \$100 million will be going to Collie.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Budget indicates that money for sewerage works is being poured into Liberal-held seats.

Several members interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have the figures here.

Mr Watt interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: Now the member for Albany is wanting to have a go. I notice he got \$920 000.

Mr Rushton: You did very well.

Mr Sibson: Collie has so many troubles it should be made into a national park and locked up with the kangaroos.

Mr T. H. JONES: If kangaroos are to be locked up, I would support that action so long as the member for Bunbury was locked up with them. I will leave my remarks at that point and resume my seat.

**MR BERTRAM** (Mt. Hawthorn) [12.15 p.m.]: At present the Parliament of Western Australia has 87 members, 32 in the Legislative Council, which sits just a few yards toward the other end of this building—

Mr MacKinnon: That's very perceptive.

Mr BERTRAM: —and 55 in the Legislative Assembly. Fairly recently this Government became fearful that it would lose the next election. It has been conceded generally that it is in danger of losing that election, and as a result it altered the Constitution of this State to increase the membership of the Legislative Assembly to 57, and the Upper House to 34. This will occur at an extraordinary cost in perpetuity; all members of the public will have to contribute to that cost, not merely for this year, but for years to come. The expenditure is unnecessary, especially when one realises it is to be incurred for one purpose alone; that is, the attempted maintenance of this Government in office.

I will suggest a long overdue amendment to the Constitution to stop any Government and, in particular, this Government, from following the practice of from time to time increasing the number of members of the Parliament without the permission of the people of this State being obtained. The Liberal Party follows this practice and demands that the public pay for it.

Each citizen of Western Australia is represented by 14 members of Parliament. If this Government has its say, that number in due course will be 50. Each citizen is represented by 10 senators, one member of the House of Representatives, two members of the Western Australian Upper House, and one member of this House. That number does not include local authority representatives comprising the lower echelon of government, which supposedly looks after the interests of our citizens.

As I have said, what is long overdue is our putting a stop to the continuing technique of Lib-

eral-Country Party Governments to increase the number of members in this Parliament. The best way to do that, as I have said, is to amend our Constitution so that no further increases can be made without the permission of the public being obtained. That permission should be obtained by way of a referendum. A condition could be inserted to the effect that the population of Western Australia must be more than, say, 1.75 million before any increase occurred. Quite clearly the present state of affairs is ridiculous, and certainly it is extraordinarily unfair.

The self-appointed Minister for Health, the member for Subiaco, is to introduce a Bill, possibly this afternoon, to deal with a most serious health question confronting this State. Apparently the member for Subiaco has lost confidence in the Minister for Health. In fact, it can be said that for all practical purposes the Minister for Health has done nothing to stop 1 300 Western Australians being killed each year. This situation has occurred as a result of the neglect of that Minister and his Government—they have done nothing about the situation. The member for Subiaco is to play the role of the Minister for Health so that the job the Minister ought to have done years ago will be done now.

In regard to the portfolio of the Minister for Health, I raise again the question of the Penn-Rose Nursing Home inquiry. A few weeks ago the Minister tabled the glossy and, so called wonderful report of his Penn-Rose inquiry. Members should look at it; it is bound well, is glossy, has a plastic surface, and rambles on for 57 pages. Already it has been under attack, and motions are before both Houses of Parliament in regard to it—motions moved by the Shadow Minister for Health and his counterpart in the Upper House.

On 21 September this year, I asked the Minister for Health to make available to this Parliament the transcript, the papers and documents associated with that inquiry, and all other evidence tendered to him during the course of this inquiry he conducted—in a fashion. As this House is painfully aware, he said he would refer the request to the Attorney General for some guidance as to whether the papers and other documents should continue to be concealed.

The Minister has been angered by my use of the word "conceal"; I do not know what other word would be correct. The non-production of material is concealment, and that is what he has done in regard to these papers. I would like to know how any member of this Parliament or, for that matter, anyone else, could make a judgment on whether the report is correct without having before him the material on which the report was

based. I have never heard in my life the proposition that one could determine the accuracy of a report without sighting the material on which the report was based.

As one goes through the report one finds many contradictions and all sorts of unsatisfactory statements. The shadow Minister for Health dealt with those contradictions and statements quite adequately. If we are to appear to be responsible, we should follow the practice adopted by various tribunals through the centuries—there is nothing new in that practice.

It is unfair and stupid to act, in effect, as an appeal tribunal in a situation where one is operating in a vacuum. We are still in that position. I suppose we cannot complain that the Minister does not have the competence or the confidence to make up his own mind as to whether these papers should be produced and if he is not prepared to make that decision in respect of the papers, one can hardly complain if he goes to the Attorney General.

For how long are we supposed to wait? Cannot the Attorney General give an answer to that question almost immediately? It is now a month after the event and the Minister is still concealing the papers. Quite clearly, it is his intention to stall; an old technique employed in this place and in other forums, in the hope that the hue and cry for the requests for the documents eventually will subside while the public are denied a proper attack on and assessment of this report.

I object again to the inordinate, unfair, and unnecessary delay incurred by the Minister and I object to the concealment by the Government of these papers. As we have waited for a month for them, I am entitled to say the Government is guilty of concealment and this concealment has now become suppression—a wilful intention to keep these papers away from the eyes of the public. It is desirable that where an obvious cover-up is occurring, members of Parliament should bring it to the attention of the House.

Mr Young: I will get you a good psychiatrist!

Mr BERTRAM: I now refer to the Tuart Hill Senior High School which has received unsatisfactory treatment at the hands of Liberal-Country Party Governments over the years. Members may remember that as long ago as 1959 the Tuart Hill Senior High School was seeking to have a hall and gymnasium built for its students. They waited from 1959 until 1972, 13 years, for that hall and gymnasium. Other schools, no doubt in electorates represented by Government members, got in and grabbed the funds out of turn while the Tuart Hill Senior High School waited. The students

came and went through the school without having the benefit of those facilities. That was a tragedy; and it was grossly unfair and unnecessary. This represents another exercise in the Government's maladministration and favouritism.

The Government decided to close the Tuart Hill Senior High School. If there had been a documented study to prove this move was necessary, one would not have grounds for complaint; unfortunately, no notice was given and there was no liaison before the decision was announced.

Mr Grayden: That is not so.

Mr BERTRAM: The closure of the Tuart Hill Senior High School has enabled the Government to establish a senior college there. The Premier explained the financial affairs of the State to us and indicated that we are in a better position now than we ever have been. That is wonderful stuff, is it not? While attempting to get more money from the Federal Treasury, the Government has the hide to make that statement and indicate to the public that all is well and that things are better here than they have ever been.

Mr Rushton: That is not quite precise.

Mr BERTRAM: The Treasurer goes off and tells the Prime Minister that things are crook over here and complains that the Prime Minister is not giving the State a fair deal. The Prime Minister probably says, "Why come here and say this to me? You are getting more like me." I am referring to Malcolm Fraser, a man of "high integrity", who when he says one thing, we have learned to expect him to do the opposite. The Tuart Hill Senior High School and other schools appealed, protested, and demonstrated outside Parliament House in the hope that the decision to exterminate the Tuart Hill Senior High School and the Bentley High School would be reversed; but their efforts were unsuccessful.

The Minister for Education gave certain undertakings and made public utterances through the media telling the parents and the children that some relief would be forthcoming. One of those items of relief was that the students and their parents would not be put to extra expense caused by their having to travel to a new school. These students were being uprooted and ejected from the Tuart Hill Senior High School, and forced to attend other high schools. They had no right of choice available to them. The Minister clearly said he would do something about this matter.

Some of the students who have left the Tuart Hill Senior High School and have had to attend another high school are being forced to pay additional travelling expenses in spite of the Government's undertaking in this regard. The total pay-

able in any year by the combined students who have had to attend other schools would probably be less than \$1 000.

Mr Grayden: If they want to go to the school of their choice, they have to pay those fares.

Mr BERTRAM: In a \$2 000 million Budget, students from Tuart Hill, Yokine, Mt. Hawthorn, and Osborne Park—not Nedlands—and some of them are not all that wealthy, have now been required to pay additional bus fares.

Mr Grayden: Only if they go to a school nominated by them.

Mr BERTRAM: The Treasurer has told us that our State's finances are in better shape than they have ever been, in the context of a \$2 000 million Budget, and of the Minister having given an express undertaking to the public that this situation would not occur.

Mr Grayden: You are talking through the back of your head. If you can give an example of a school—

Mr BERTRAM: I do not come in here and make allegations without good evidence to support them.

Mr Grayden: You are talking absolute rot!

Mr BERTRAM: I will quote an article, then maybe the member for South Perth can tell us whether he ever took steps to correct it. If he can do that, there is no problem, and I will withdraw my complaint.

Mr Grayden: Most of the senior colleges have been a boon to education.

Mr BERTRAM: I will quote what the member for South Perth said when he was the Minister for Education. In *The West Australian* issue of 30 April 1981, under the heading "Grayden in three school initiatives" it was reported—

The Minister for Education, Mr Grayden, has announced three initiatives to make the transition of Bentley and Tuart Hill high schools to senior colleges as smooth as possible.

They are:

- To ease the cost burden to parents of children who will be required to travel to other schools.

Mr Young: Is there a Caucus meeting? I was wondering where all your mates were. You have driven them all out.

Mr Tonkin: That is not relevant to the point he is making.

Mr Young: It is relevant to the speech he is making.

Mr BERTRAM: If the Minister for Health had been in the Chamber he would have known that when I commenced my speech there were fewer members in this Chamber than there are now.

Mr Young: I am not a masochist.

Mr BERTRAM: The Minister was not present to hear my comments about Penn-Rose.

Mr Young: I heard them. I even offered to get you a psychiatrist.

Mr BERTRAM: The Minister has had the Penn-Rose papers for one month now—

Mr Young: I thought I would get you back on the track.

Mr BERTRAM: —but he does not have the confidence or competence to make a decision on this matter. He has concealed the Penn-Rose papers for one month now. He has pushed them onto another plate—the lawyers. If the Minister does not like the word "concealed"—it seems to be the practice in this place with some of our stupid rules that we do not have the right to use certain words even though they are the correct ones; it is an example of the kindergarten sort of setup we have—I will use the word "suppressed".

The papers are being suppressed and wilfully kept from the people of this State. The Minister knows that, if he were to produce that report, the situation would be worse. The report was glossy, but, to quote the former Liberal Attorney General (Norbert Keanan QC), it was full of nothing. I suggest this report is full of nothing.

I will resume the quote of the former Minister for Education (Mr Grayden) as follows—

Mr Grayden said that the Government had taken action to ease the financial burden on parents because it regarded this as the main source of objection to the transition proposal.

"The Government has accepted the argument put to me by parents that extra bus costs were a burden," Mr Grayden said.

"Students affected will be able to travel to and from school in 1982 and 1983 at no added cost to parents."

That is the point of my argument: There is an added cost to the parents.

Mr Grayden: What is the position at the moment?

Mr BERTRAM: If the member, as a Minister, makes a pronouncement, thinking he has said one thing and the people concerned believe he said another, that is his misfortune. To continue—

Mr Grayden said he had received encouraging reports on progress by a combined working party of the department and union.

The Government, with a Budget of \$2 000 million from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, has reached a stage where it has reneged on its undertaking, and the people are upset.

It is all very well to say fine words, as were said in April 1981—and they were in clear terms; unlike what the former Minister said—but the parents are paying the added costs. They have had to find additional money despite what the Minister said in the Press report.

Mr Davies: Another broken promise!

Mr Grayden: I understood that that is exactly what is taking place.

Mr BERTRAM: No, it is not, because they are required to pay more than they paid previously. There is no complexity about the matter. There is no need to bury the issue in words. In simple dollars and cents terms, the figure they are paying now is greater than they paid previously.

The Premier has told us that we are in a situation where the State's finances are better than they have been before. However, the parents of these students have to pay—

Mr Grayden: What are you talking about? What students?

Mr BERTRAM: Those students who have been uprooted from their school and have had their choice of school denied, without consultation. They are the students from the Tuart Hill High School who are now attending the Mt. Lawley Senior High School.

Mr Grayden: Are their fares being paid?

Mr BERTRAM: Too right they are paying! The parents are paying. The Government said they would not have to pay, but has done nothing about the matter.

Mr Grayden: There was a clear undertaking and I think it is being implemented.

Mr Young: You must admit you are relating to the House the position of children in the area who have chosen to go to another school.

Mr BERTRAM: I think there may be some going to the school of their choice, as distinct from the regional high school.

Mr Young: The way you are relating the matter does not indicate the fact that some children are not going to the nearest high school.

Mr BERTRAM: The quote of the Minister did not say that it would provide students who live in regions around the school, a high school which

would be located within that region. The Government did not say that.

Mr Grayden: Quite obviously the parents would not send their children to a school at Mandurah and expect us to pay.

Mr BERTRAM: I do not think the member should conclude that the parents of those children would behave in that manner.

*Sitting suspended from 12.45 to 2.15 p.m.*

Mr BERTRAM: Before the luncheon suspension I touched on a number of matters, one of which related to the increase in the number of members of Parliament. The Government has altered the Constitution to increase the number of members to make it easier for it to win elections.

I was reminded, during the luncheon suspension, how Government members a year or two ago waived portion of their parliamentary salary increase for a few months. It was really an extraordinary thing to do. The saving to the taxpayer was not very great when one considers the huge expenditure involved in increasing the number of members of Parliament. The cost involved includes parliamentary salaries, offices, secretaries, and the general services one receives in this position.

I also mentioned that the member for Subiaco, apparently having lost his confidence in the Minister for Health, has now taken over his portfolio by introducing a Smoking and Tobacco Products Advertisements Bill. The Minister has said that the present cigarette smoking epidemic kills approximately 1 300 Western Australians each year. Those are his figures and one would imagine he would do something about it himself. I believe those figures would be a conservative estimate. It is significant that the member for Subiaco should make this move because in 1969 I drew the Parliament's attention to this problem and since then between 16 000 and 17 000 Western Australian have died as a direct consequence of their having smoked cigarettes. It is hardly surprising that the member for Subiaco, who is a medical practitioner, should bring this Bill before the House. It is an unmistakable censure of the Government and of the Minister. Surely the Minister's task is to direct attention to the great challenges rather than give priority to things of lesser or no significance at all, or be a judge of the Penn-Rose case or something of that nature.

The Penn-Rose case was serious enough, although the Minister did not realise it, but it is not as serious as the cigarette smoking epidemic which is sweeping this State. The important aspect to remember is that this Government and the

Minister had knowledge of this fact, but they did nothing about it then as the statistics show.

I now refer more specifically to the Budget and to the techniques being used to balance it. It may, or may not be a good thing to balance a Budget each year, but it is important to study the means by which this is achieved. Virtually no one in Western Australia could not balance the State's Budget by using the same procedure as the Treasurer and his predecessor. Anyone who earmarks millions of dollars, watches the expenditure and receipts of Consolidated Revenue, plugs it in on 30 June each year, and uses it to balance the Budget has nothing to brag about.

We always are told different things by this Government and by the Fraser Government and I think the people in this State have accepted the proposition put to them by the Treasurer and his predecessor that the State is in a bad position financially. In his second reading speech the Treasurer said something that is quite clearly to the contrary. A person would find it quite extraordinary that money available to this State each year was not being spent. Money left over in one financial year is being carried forward to the next financial year. Who else works on that basis? Is it not customary for Governments to use the money earned in one year to meet the expenditure incurred in that year? Of course, that is the usual rule, but it does not apply to this Government.

The State apparently is so poor that it is not able to spend \$30 million to \$40 million each year and, when it does get around to spending it, a large proportion which is revenue is spent on capital items. Therefore, the public are being hit hard with various charges and taxes in order that the Government might bolster its loan expenditure funds to renovate His Majesty's Theatre or to construct new law courts, etc. The costs for projects of this kind are met largely from revenue and one cannot expect to reduce taxes if revenue funds are used to carry out these works which traditionally have been and should be funded from loan moneys.

I am not aware of any law that requires a limited company to publish its financial accounts in the Press, but very often this is done because the company recognises it is a fair and proper thing to let the public see the state of its accounts. My belief is that this State should follow that precedent. We should not be satisfied only with a bundle of complex figures closeted away in *Hansard* or in the *Government Gazette*, which very few people read.

The figures are complex and I read the *Australian Accountant* recently which agreed that the

accounts are too complex. That is not good enough for the people of the State who supply the money and deliver the wherewithal. They are entitled to know what is being done with the money. If the State handles its finances well, as the Government is continually telling us, it is surprising that it does not take the opportunity of following this suggestion and publishing the accounts so that people might see how much money is coming in each year, where it is coming from, and how it is spent. That could be done quite easily.

I would like the Treasurer or the Deputy Premier to tell me—and I have had only a quick look at the accounts so far—whether they disclose that any money is owing by the State Energy Commission, the Metropolitan Water Authority, the R & I Bank, and other instrumentalities to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. I remember a few Budgets ago we ultimately discovered that millions of dollars were owed by these instrumentalities to the CRF. That fact was not readily disclosed. I do not think it was disclosed at all in the accounts presented to Parliament. I hope that information may be given during the course of the debate. It is very wrong that millions of dollars should be owing to the State at 30 June, and that this is not made known clearly to people who read the final accounts.

The Treasurer announced proudly that the Budget contained no new taxes; as the Leader of the Opposition observed, there could hardly be any more. It is worth remembering that quite a few charges exist which the public often know little or nothing about. For as long as I can remember, a person could enter a defence in the Local Court without having to pay a fee. Recently I discovered that one must pay a fee of not less than \$10. Literally hundreds of thousands of summonses are issued in Perth alone each year. Even if a defence is entered in a quarter of these, one can tally up the sort of money that is being ripped off the unsuspecting taxpayers. It costs \$10 to lodge a notice of defence—a piece of paper with a couple of words on it. I do not remember any announcement about that; I doubt that there was one. The money that is derived from that little lurk alone is very significant. Previously, the person who issued the summons paid the fee. That person still issues the summons and pays a fee, but there is also a \$10 fee on top of that. I would be interested to know when that fee was introduced.

I wanted to discuss a number of other matters, but the time is not available to me.

**MR TRETHOWAN** (East Melville) [2.29 p.m.]: I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on bringing down his first Budget.

Mr I. F. Taylor: And last.

Mr TRETHOWAN: It is a highly effective and responsible economic document.

Mr Laurance: Mr Taylor sounds like the previous member for Mundaring whose words are ringing in my ears. He used to say, "You'll be gone before I."

Mr TRETHOWAN: The judgment I have made on the Budget is shared by my colleagues on this side of the House, and support for it exists around Australia. This was covered adequately earlier in this debate by the member for Mundaring who pointed out that the editorial comments of papers around Australia were uniformly in praise of this Budget because it follows in the tradition of responsible economic documents brought down by Liberal-Country Party Governments for a significant period. The record we have in good housekeeping—and I am not ashamed to use that term—is appreciated by the people of Western Australia. They know it is not the time to indulge in flights of fancy and extravagant promises which would put this State into hock with no assurance of a positive return. They realise we are caught up in a world downturn, and that we have to take a responsible attitude to the way in which the financial management of the State is carried out. I believe that the Treasurer has demonstrated again in this Budget that this Government is both responsible and far-sighted in its economic planning.

Mr Laurance: Hear, hear!

Mr TRETHOWAN: I was a little disturbed at the comments of the Leader of the Opposition when he accused the Budget of being pedestrian and boring. As was mentioned earlier, one would suggest that might be because he could find no criticism of it. He also suggested it was a result of a bookkeeping mentality. If balancing the Budget, being responsible, and accounting in detail for what one has spent on behalf of the taxpayers is the result of a bookkeeping mentality, I am proud to wear that as an adjective and description of this Government's economic policies.

It rings truer to any reasonable person than the kind of budgeting and economic policies carried out by the Labor States in Australia, particularly New South Wales where extravagant promises were made at the last election which were beyond the obvious ability of the State to meet, and where the use of reserves to carry out those promises has resulted in that State being put in a major deficit position. That has been covered up at least in part by what one would call "sleight of hand" through lease-back arrangements on many of the State's assets. I would not want that sort of policy

in this State, and I am sure that view would be taken by the rest of the people. It would result in their being put into debt. Whenever a State runs into deficit, it must be paid for. It has to find the funds from the people and that eventually means increased taxes and charges. Deficits must be paid for; that is what the people of New South Wales are finding out at present with the dramatic increases in charges which they are now facing. This was illustrated adequately earlier by the member for Mundaring.

This does not appear to be the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition, because in his Budget speech he appeared to be attempting to attack the Budget as unimaginative, unadventurous, pedestrian, and boring. I believe the Leader of the Opposition attempted to do a very difficult thing; that is, to attack what was essentially a responsible economic document born out of true Liberal economic philosophy, and at the same time try to portray himself and the other members of his party as pseudo-Liberals.

This appears to be a campaign that has been carried out for a significant period of time now to try to illustrate that the Labor Party has the philosophy, the background, and the experience to manage the economy of this State better than, for instance, this Liberal-Country Party Government.

The people in Tasmania recently saw the light and re-elected a Liberal Government to put right the very significant deficit created by previous Labor Governments. The people of New South Wales know what a Labor Government is all about, and the people of Victoria are about to find out what a very heavy burden this is. The experience of these Governments will put the lie to whether or not the Labor Party can be considered the equal of the Liberal Party in terms of economic management.

Mr Watt: We always can flog off the railways to get a cash flow!

Mr TRETHOWAN: That is precisely the point, and NSW has been forced into this very serious situation.

I found the first part of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition very interesting. It seemed to me to be obvious that he had relied very heavily on his research officers to provide him with material. I suggest that, in order to come up with this pseudo-Liberal image, they have undertaken considerable research. Obviously they have taken note of speeches made by the Premier, the Minister for Resources Development, the Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development, the Minister for Health, and many other Ministers. I was pleased

to note that even suggestions made in this House by some of the newer Government members, such as the member for Nedlands and I, were not ignored.

Mr Bryce: You will do well in politics!

Mr TRETOWAN: Ideas which represent the true Liberal philosophy were taken from their speeches. I am sure that the speeches of many other members of this side of the House were looked at also to provide, as I said, a speech for the Leader of the Opposition which seemed to follow in the Liberal tradition.

I would like to comment on and remind members of some of the topics touched on by the Leader of the Opposition in that speech. He referred to an absolute commitment to economic growth, and most members would realise that this side of the House has had that concept as one of its principal aims for many years. It is connected directly with Liberal economic philosophy.

The next point mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition was the importance of resource infrastructure development and its impact on the growth of the State. He then went on to refer to the promotion of new technologies, the promotion of management and marketing techniques in Australian industry, the need for short-term sacrifices to achieve economic growth, the concentration of expansion on the internationally efficient sectors of the economy, long-term tariff reduction, promotion of the need for greater productivity in industry, support for technological education, and improvement in the managerial efficiency of the provision of Government services.

I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition was hoping that people would draw the wrong conclusions; that is, that they would believe he was promoting these things about which nothing had been done by the Liberal-Country Party Government. The fact is that in each of these areas we have a strong record of action and result, a record of which we can be proud.

There were some matters to which the Leader of the Opposition referred which I do not think would have been mentioned by anyone on this side of the House. One such matter was the suggestion that we should debate publicly and espouse publicly a major devaluation of the Australian currency—I think the figure of 10 per cent was mentioned. It certainly is true that on an economy base, a devaluation is frequently of advantage to the exporting sector of the economy, and as we are major exporters, it would certainly be of advantage to some of our industries. It would also raise the price of many consumer commodities be-

cause a very large proportion of these commodities is imported. Consequently, it would have a significant effect in reducing consumer spending—something some sections of the community would not be very happy about at the present time.

However, that is not the reason that responsible members of Parliament, and particularly responsible leaders of parties in Parliament, refrain from discussing major devaluations of the national currency. The reason is that it can lead to very significant speculation, and any assistance to the State through the export industries if such a devaluation were achieved, would be more than offset by reducing confidence in investment in the country. After all, if a person in another country is looking to participate in a major development project, he would not be paying for that investment in the currency of Australian dollars. He would be paying in the currency of another country; for instance, it might be United States dollars.

Any prudent investor would wait for the correct time to go ahead with such an investment. In the face of the possibility of a major devaluation, people are unlikely to commit funds until after that has occurred. Investors are more likely to wait to see what happens.

Consequently, if any major political leader were to promote devaluation, it could have a very serious effect on the inflow of foreign capital. I believe such points are recognised by the people of Western Australia when someone is not fully informed about the implications of the economic philosophy of policies he is trying to promote.

This irresponsible lack of comprehension of the outcome of statements made would not have occurred from someone who had experienced the full commitment of that Liberal philosophy as well as having a practical experience in economic planning and business. I believe this gives the lie to the depth of the pseudo-Liberal image that the Leader of the Opposition and the Labor Party are trying to promote. It gives the lie to the depth of the pro-business attitude that they are trying to promote in this State.

This brings me to one further section of the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition, and it refers to something he has harped on continually; that is, the question of the efficiency and effectiveness of economic management within the Government service. The Leader of the Opposition reeled off a list of relatively new accounting or information system technologies that have been developed, and which are available and have been in experimental use in private industry—and in

some cases in the Government sector—for a number of years. Most of these technologies have as yet not achieved full or unqualified acceptance.

Mr I. F. Taylor: What about programme budgeting? What do you think of that?

Mr TRETHOWAN: He mentioned performance auditing, programme budgeting, and zero base budgeting.

Mr Rushton: Did the member for Kalgoorlie write that bit for him?

Mr TRETHOWAN: He reeled off this list of new technologies in the same way that he reeled off the list of topics I mentioned earlier. The Leader of the Opposition referred to these techniques and policies. He said they were not being used in the Government service at the present time, and he said they were not being considered by the Government. That is just not true.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Prove it!

Mr Pearce: Your party has raised "ad hockery" to the status of a political policy!

Mr TRETHOWAN: I will certainly prove it, and the member for Kalgoorlie should be aware of this as he has some background in economic matters.

Mr Pearce: More than yours.

Mr Nanovich: Prove it!

Mr TRETHOWAN: All these are merely techniques—they are the names and methods of programmes of evaluation. These programmes are to evaluate the achievement and efficiency of objectives. They have not been proved uniformly successful by the private sector with the inception of these programmes on a total basis. Above all, the criticism I would make is that only half the story has been heard.

The Opposition has concentrated on information technologies, because that is what they are. They are an extension of the financial and accounting systems and information processes of an organisation. The Leader of the Opposition did not mention the equal, if not more important, sides that relate to management style and technology. Information systems will be totally ineffective unless there is an understanding and commitment, and a level of training in the management services or management operations within any organisation.

I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition did not talk about such techniques as management by objectives or the introduction of the theory "Z" management style, because these are fundamentally important to the successful use of new budgeting and financial techniques. The fact is that at present many of these techniques are

being tried in pilot programmes throughout sections of the Government service.

Mr I. F. Taylor: What is theory "Z" management?

Mr TRETHOWAN: I do not know whether the member knows about management theories "X" and "Y" related to organisational theory; but theory "Z" was developed from that original concept, and it relates to all the differences in style between the Japanese managerial style and the American managerial style, and why the Japanese managerial style appears to be more effective in an American office than the American managerial style is in a Japanese office. This is one of the latest topics of discussion is organisational theory and management style. It has application within public services. It is appropriate because it deals, at least in part, with relatively large organisations.

The introduction of new financial theories should go hand in hand with the development of management within an organisation; and that takes time. One cannot expect results merely from introducing a new systems technology and information system without equally taking on an increasing burden of managerial training in the technologies of management throughout the whole organisation. This is recognised by the Government.

It takes time to introduce new methods of operation effectively and positively into what is the largest series of organisations in any economy at present. Unfortunately—I do not agree that it should necessarily be so—the public sector has, by far and wide, the greatest number of people employed within its organisational structures.

As I have said, sections of the Public Service and associated instrumentalities in which a number of these techniques have been tried are in the process of doing so. I highlight the State Energy Commission—a body which the member for Yilgarn-Dundas has been doing his best to denigrate and attack in the last few weeks. It is my understanding, from information gained not only in this State, but also throughout Australia, that the SEC is considered to be probably the most efficient governmental instrumentality, certainly on a financial basis, in Australia. It is ranked, in the finance market, as being the equal of many of the larger private corporations.

Mr I. F. Taylor: You might ask the State Treasury officers about that.

Mr TRETHOWAN: Members of the Opposition in their attempts to appear as pseudo-Liberals, do not truly understand what they are talking about. For instance, the member for

Yilgarn-Dundas recently attacked the SEC on the basis that it was capitalising on interest. What he did not say, and what he probably failed to understand, is that that was done in the context of the major project for the development of the North-West Shelf Dampier-Waroona pipeline.

Mr Herzfeld: It is the practice throughout the world on major construction projects for them to capitalise interest until the project is in operation.

Mr TRETHOWAN: For a very good reason. It is done in many cases in private industry. It is done on major developments that may take a period of time to build and to complete, mainly in the two to three years before they start generating a cash flow.

Mr Bryce: The problem with this one is that the capitalisation of the interest will probably continue long after the cash flow starts.

Mr TRETHOWAN: As it does in many projects. I will explain again. Obviously the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not understand why this is a fact. The reason is that in the development period of a project the subcontractors and contractors have to be paid, normally on a monthly basis; so as the project is built, there is an accumulation of debts requiring an outflow of cash funds. That occurs sometimes for up to five years. At the end of the five years, the income buildup phase begins. With the development of a mine, it is unusual for the company to start at the full production level when someone turns the key. It starts operating, but normally it takes at least 12 months to achieve its initial production targets. All sorts of developmental problems must be overcome.

Mr MacKinnon: That is as long as the market is there.

Mr TRETHOWAN: With a city building, the owner experiences a cash outflow while the building is being constructed. After the building is completed and opened, it takes 12 to 18 months, or longer, to let it fully, and before there is a buildup of cash flow.

Estimates are made of the rate at which cash would flow out during the construction phase, and the rate at which the cash will build up during the initial stage of operation. It is on that basis that the calculation is made to capitalise the interest covering that period. Every major project is conducted on that basis. It is done on the basis of discounting the cash flow by estimating what the returns will be over, say, a 10-year period, as most of the projects last for at least 10 years—sometimes the lifetime is 50 years.

The calculations are done on the basis of finding out whether the project would be still

profitable once the financial analyses have been done. The financial analyses have been done by the State Energy Commission, which is recognised by the private sector as one of the most financially astute Government instrumentalities in Australia.

Mr Bryce: Ask the coalmining companies. See whether they agree with you.

Mr TRETHOWAN: As the member for Collie indicated earlier, I suspect that Western Collieries Ltd. would go through exactly the same process in developing its No. 3 shaft.

Mr Bryce: I am not talking about the process. That is not the point.

Mr TRETHOWAN: They have to put in the money before they can start selling the coal on a developmental basis.

Mr Bryce: You said that the private sector was impressed with the SEC. If you checked with Griffin mining and Western Collieries, you might find they have a different opinion.

Mr TRETHOWAN: That opinion is held by the merchant banks throughout Australia. They would have a better background to assess the financial ability of an instrumentality such as the SEC of Western Australia, compared with the other State energy commissions and many of the other instrumentalities, than would a single company which, at present, is attempting to negotiate a contract.

Mr Bryce: Griffin has got a contract; but it shares the view.

Mr TRETHOWAN: I would disagree with Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd.

Mr Bryce: I am just pointing out to you that there are major private companies which do not share your view.

Mr MacKinnon: It also is strange that they never mentioned that to me when I met them—very strange.

Mr TRETHOWAN: The fact is that by understanding the normal nature of the financing of a major project—something which the Ministers and most of the back-benchers on this side of the House would understand—one does not fall into the trap of making accusations which do not in any way represent a responsible and true picture.

Mr Herzfeld: Had we followed the member for Ascot's philosophy we would not have an iron ore industry in this State.

Mr TRETHOWAN: That is exactly right.

Mr Bryce: What is that philosophy? You would not be capable of understanding what it was.

**Mr TRETHOWAN:** I shall illustrate further the reason that the SEC has managed to reach its stage of efficiency and respect within the financial community of Australia. It is because, for a very long period, it has had personnel and management development programmes throughout the whole of the organisation with an open attitude to the introduction of new management technologies and new methods of analysis.

It is not surprising that, even though it has reached a very high level of efficiency, the SEC in this State has commissioned W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd. and Price Waterhouse Associates Pty. to undertake a further analysis of its programme evaluation techniques, because the world around any organisation changes and it has to adapt to those changes. Members should bear in mind that W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd. is one of the major consultancy firms in Australia and Price Waterhouse is an international auditing firm.

In order to maintain efficiency, it is essential that companies continually discuss and analyse the methods by which they work. The example of the SEC illustrates clearly the way in which the policies of this Government have been put into effect in terms of assuring the people of Australia of the efficiency with which Government services are delivered.

Finally, I again commend the Premier on the Budget he has brought down. It will provide a very solid base for growth within the Western Australian community, and for the provision of services in this State. Unlike members opposite, I believe this Budget represents a practical development from Liberal philosophy which is not something which has just been taken up as a passing fad, but something we on this side of the House have professed and put into practice over a long period and we have proved we have done so successfully.

**MR BRYCE** (Ascot—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.57 p.m.]: In the Budget debate I shall refer to a number of macro problems, a couple of which do not concern the State Budget directly, but which indirectly have a significant bearing on our community.

**Mr Rushton:** That is the same sort of approach as that taken by your leader. He hardly touched on the Budget in his speech.

**Mr BRYCE:** I shall touch on the Budget in detail when we deal with the parts and divisions in Committee.

Much has been said by members on both sides of the House about the strategy involved in the Budget and I do not intend to be repetitive. However, I shall take the opportunity, in this general,

second reading debate, to raise a number of issues which are of concern in sections of the community with which I have frequent and familiar contact.

The first matter relates to the Australian Broadcasting Commission. I take the opportunity this general debate affords to congratulate the ABC on the outstanding job it did in its coverage of the Commonwealth Games. The ABC proved to the community that it is indeed a very valuable asset. In fact it demonstrated to the community at large across the country that it is time the shackles were removed from the ABC and it is more than time that certain members of the Liberal and National Country Parties desisted from their campaigns to denigrate the ABC and accepted the tremendously valuable role it is playing, has played for many decades, and clearly will play for many more decades in our community.

**Mr Coyne:** It took a Liberal Government to remove those shackles.

**Mr BRYCE:** In fact the Fraser Government has been responsible for almost paralysing the ABC.

**Mr Coyne:** Not at all.

**Mr BRYCE:** Since 1975, in Budget after Budget the Fraser Government's cut-back mentality has called upon the ABC, which represents approximately three per cent of national Government expenditure, to carry between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of the cutbacks which have been made in expenditure. I hope the member for Murchison-Eyre appreciates that point.

I find it hard to imagine how members opposite, who represent so many remote communities and know the true value of the ABC to the remote parts of this State and the rest of the country, can countenance their friends and colleagues in this place and other places—I concede, not so much here, but certainly their Federal counterparts—engaging in a consistent campaign to denigrate and attack that great institution.

**Mr Coyne:** The ABC is certainly better now than it was during the era of the Whitlam Government.

**Mr BRYCE:** The ABC is a significantly weakened and pathetic relative of what it was in the early 1970s and it should be a great deal stronger than it is today.

**Mr Watt:** In those days it was the "department of propaganda".

**Mr BRYCE:** The member for Albany is quite wrong.

**Mr Watt:** No, I am not.

Mr BRYCE: Does the member for Albany have one iota of evidence to prove the point he is trying to make or is he reflecting the bilge his former leader used to issue in the form of Press releases simply because an honest organisation in this community did not allow an unlimited and unfettered opportunity for him to express his point of view, but insisted he abide by a few of the basic rules of interview?

Mr Coyne: The ABC was dominated by socialists.

Mr BRYCE: Says the "brains from the desert".

Mr I. F. Taylor: He does not come out of the desert very often.

Mr BRYCE: I ask the member for Murchison-Eyre to give me the name of one socialist in the ABC.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRYCE: I am talking to the monkey, not the music maker. I am directing my request to the member who made the interjection and I ask him to give me the name of one socialist in the ABC.

Mr Coyne: It was dominated throughout by socialists.

Mr BRYCE: What a cowardly, inane interjection which used a broad brush to denigrate the credibility of the entire institution.

Mr Coyne: Just look what has happened to it since the Whitlam Government.

Mr BRYCE: The member for Murchison-Eyre cannot name one socialist.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Typical!

Mr Clarko: Are you spending a few minutes on—

Mr Pearce: Give us a rundown on what Government members of Parliament have been told about legislation in relation to student guilds if you want to talk.

Mr BRYCE: The member for Murchison-Eyre suggested the ABC is a better institution today than it was when the Whitlam Government went out of office. Let me demonstrate some of the things which have happened since that time and which are causing concern to an increasing number of people in the community because in Budget after Budget the ABC has been forced to accept severe cutbacks in funding.

Mr Herzfeld: You are talking about the Federal Budget now, not the State Budget.

Mr BRYCE: Is the member for Mundaring very hard of hearing?

Mr Herzfeld: I was just wondering—

Mr BRYCE: I just wonder whether the member for Mundaring is hard of hearing.

Mr Herzfeld: I just wondered why you were talking about the Federal Budget and not State issues.

Mr BRYCE: If the member bides his time, I shall sheet home the responsibility for this situation to the organisation of which he is currently a member. I do not know where the member for Mundaring will finish up eventually, having gone from the Labor Party to the Liberal Party, but I shall illustrate the way in which the Government is responsible for a great deal of vandalism in this field.

Mr Coyne: He is a free enterprise man right through to the soles of his boots.

Mr BRYCE: For the benefit of other members, as well as for the benefit of the member for Murchison-Eyre, I shall demonstrate some of the things which have happened to the ABC as a result of the Budget cutbacks in funding.

It was part of a deliberate campaign to shackle the ABC and to suffocate a great deal of creative talent within it. A lot of high quality drama and documentary programmes have disappeared from Australia. If there was one place in Australia where the skills and abilities to produce high quality drama and documentary programmes were being marshalled, it was in the ABC.

Today it cannot afford to do that; the money is not available to it because Fraser's mob have reduced its funding. The ABC today cannot afford to buy many of the top quality programmes on the market. Today it features a great number of repeat programmes because its funding has been slashed; its spending programmes have been cut to ribbons.

These budgetary restrictions were part of the Fraser Government's determination to wreak havoc inside the ABC, basically because the ABC was a source of information in this country that was very close to being the most impartial. It is all a matter of opinion.

Mr Herzfeld: Would you support the reintroduction of TV and radio licences?

Mr BRYCE: No, as a matter of fact I would not.

Mr Herzfeld: So you don't really mean what you are saying. You are not prepared to reveal the source of funding for these expanded programmes.

Mr BRYCE: How does it deny the imagination of the poor old member for Mundaring that he should assume that a once traditional source of income must be preserved as the only source of in-

come for these purposes? I already have indicated to him that the ABC constitutes about three per cent of the Federal Budget. I would have no objection if that three per cent reached four per cent as a matter of national priority given what is happening to the ABC today.

Its current affairs programmes seem to stick in the craw of members opposite because they cannot stand over editors with the same effectiveness and browbeat them into changing their stories to suit Liberal Parties across the country.

Mr Herzfeld: That is nonsense.

Mr BRYCE: The ABC's current affairs programmes have been slashed. The "Four Corners" programme has been reduced to a half-hour slot. Its quality has been very much reduced because of a whole list of production problems.

Fraser came into office with the determination to remove politics from the front pages of newspapers; that was his alleged intention. In fact, he set himself about the task of pressurising the ABC and we now see that its main daily current affairs programme has been switched from prime viewing time at 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Mr Herzfeld: That is because of consumer preference; the consumer lost interest in those programmes.

Mr BRYCE: We know it is primarily because of stooges like the Horgans and others who have been placed on the boards of the ABC. They have been put there to manipulate policy decisions.

The staff ceilings imposed on all four divisions of the ABC—the programming, engineering, news, and office and general services divisions—have had a very depressing effect on the morale of the organisation, and this has been deliberate. This policy has also worked to the detriment of many young people in this community, because if there is one institution in our society that offers very basic and important opportunities for training in the media and the arts, it is the ABC. Members should go down to the ABC office and see how many young trainees have not been recruited or given the opportunity to develop their talents as a result of the decisions of the Fraser Government.

Mr Williams: Are you aware of the number of staff employed by the ABC in this State?

Mr BRYCE: I could not give the member the exact number, but in any case it is not germane to what I am saying. Does the member know the exact number?

Mr Williams: It is roughly 580. Do you know how many people are on the staff of Channel 9 or Channel 7, which includes radio stations?

Mr BRYCE: They are two exclusive television stations in a small capital city. The role played by the ABC is vastly different from that of any small-time commercial television station in a given capital city.

Mr Williams: The staff of those stations is around 100 compared with 580 at the ABC.

Mr BRYCE: There is sufficient understanding in this Chamber of the role played by the ABC for me not to waste time pointing out the absurdity of that line of argument from the member for Clontarf. God help us if the ABC is ever assumed to have the role and purpose in life of a Channel 7. We need both and they need to be different. It is very important that they remain different.

The point about which I am concerned, as are many other people, is that too many members opposite and their friends and colleagues in the Liberal and National Parties across this country would like to see the ABC snuffed out of existence. If that were to happen we would suffer a severe reduction in the quality of life in Australia.

Mr Herzfeld: That is an assumption without factual basis.

Mr BRYCE: I have used this opportunity in debate to express not only my opinion, but also my assessment of the opinion of many people with whom I mix and communicate on a daily basis.

I will refer now to one other broad issue which I think will be of concern to members on both sides of the House; that is, the basic question of the increasing age of the population. It occurs to me that the time is long overdue for our Parliament—since the Government has decided not to—to appoint its own task force to tackle the problems associated with an aging population. We must face some serious problems involving challenges of great magnitude that will face Governments, both State and Federal, in the remainder of this century.

The provision of community services is a very serious problem which must be faced by all Governments. To the best of my knowledge, at no stage in our community previously has an omnibus study of the aging problem ever been conducted. We have never been really dinkum about investigating the problems to the community perhaps because the very aged element in the community always has constituted such a small minority. There has tended to be an assumption that after the age of 65 years a very small number of people will exist, in a very unobtrusive fashion, demanding practically nothing, expecting even less, and causing no problems for Governments.

The attitudes to the needs of our aging population are changing very much indeed and very

obviously. It is no longer true to say that the aged in this community constitute a very small handful of ineffective people over the age of 65 years who can be expected to exercise very little influence.

People are living a great deal longer and retiring very much earlier than previously. If we take a cross-section of retired people and look at their activities, their needs, and their aspirations, we find a great diversity. People ranging in age from 55 to 85 years fit into many different categories. Yet Governments of both ilks across the country are tending to put their heads in the sand, assume that the whole problem will go away or that we will just slowly catch up with solving it. By virtue of the aging of the population Governments across the country will be caught with their pants down in one heck of a sudden rush when they realise the magnitude of the problems of catering for the numbers of aged people.

I will indicate now what the number of people over the age of 65 will be by the turn of the century. At the time of the 1976 census there were across the country 1.2 million people over the age of 65. It is estimated that by the year 2021 there will be 2.7 million to possibly three million people in this country over the age of 65. That increase constitutes a significant shift.

Mr Cowan: What year was that?

Mr BRYCE: It was the year 2021. I do not know why that year was focused upon, but it has something to do with census periods.

One of the erroneous beliefs in the community that one comes across all too often is that old age is synonymous with being disabled. Simply that is not true. Even today only 10 per cent of people over the age of 65 are institutionalised. A growing number and proportion of those above the age of 55 are fit and active, and expect different things out of life. Many of them no longer live from hand to mouth on pensions; many of them have investments in superannuation schemes, and many are very much more middle-class people than pensioners once were. As a result, the needs of this group are changing significantly. The responsibility that will fall on the shoulders of those people under the age of 55 will increase accordingly.

For the interest of the Deputy Premier, who just gave me a gaze of wonderment—no doubt he wondered how these remarks are related to the State Budget—I indicate to him that I for one was disappointed to see that an insufficient amount of money was allocated in this Budget for the programmes beginning to emerge in our community described fallaciously as TAPS and ECHO. Only four such programmes have been

established to date. To be established they require co-operation and co-ordination between the three levels of government—most of the funding from the Federal level, and the minor share from the local and State Government levels. The basis of the concept is to encourage and assist old people to remain in their homes for longer periods than presently occurs.

The acronym "ECHO" stands for "elderly citizens' help organisations". The first in our community was established at Fremantle, and the second at Nedlands. The third was a joint effort, as I understand, of the local authorities near Peppermint Grove, Claremont, and, I think, Cottesloe. The fourth was established only a week ago in Bayswater.

The Public Health Department is keen to see more of these organisation structures established in other parts of our community, but that will require co-operation and support from the State Government—it has to do its bit financially. Basically these groups bring together volunteer elements of the community which provide services and back-up facilities for old people living in and maintaining their domestic homes instead of their having to shift into institutionalised dwellings.

If we in Australia think for a minute that we will be able to afford between now and the turn of the century to build a sufficient number of old-persons' home units to accommodate three million old people, we have another think coming. It is time the Australian community took a long, hard, and detailed look at the needs created by this growing problem.

I suggest that State and local Governments cannot shrug their shoulders any longer and insist that the solving of this problem is the responsibility of the Federal Government. If the Federal Government is determined to cut back on community services and to do that in so many ways, and officiously as it has, those of us at State and local levels will have to accept the responsibility.

Mr Young: You are only restating this Government's policy. You said the Public Health Department is keen on this, but that department is part of this Government. We are keen and we are doing everything we can.

Mr BRYCE: The Government is not providing sufficient money to solve this problem.

Mr Young: We can't supply sufficient money to do everything we would like to do—that is an economic reality. Certainly in the years to come we will make a much heavier contribution to that sort of thing than we have in the past.

Mr Clarko: If you were in Government do you think you would be able to do everything you wanted to do?

Mr BRYCE: No, but I am referring to priorities. These priorities should have been set either in the party room, the Cabinet room, or here.

Mr Young: Your spokesman on health said we should be supplying more money for teaching hospitals. He thinks the only people who need help are those in teaching hospitals. He said we made a healthy contribution to other areas, but went on for three-quarters of an hour to say that we didn't spend enough on teaching hospitals.

Mr BRYCE: I was not present when the member for Melville made that speech. I cannot respond to a paraphrased version of what he said. If he were here, I would be happy to engage in a three-way conversation.

The SPEAKER: He is not here.

Mr BRYCE: Mr Speaker, I know such a conversation would cause you no end of concern.

The last issue to which I will refer affects the community of Western Australia in a way similar to that in which it affects individual communities across the country. To a degree it is related to the disturbing sense of apathy in our community—the deep sense of moral bewilderment—as a result of a lack of leadership in our community. A great many Australians have effectively no idea of where we are going as a country. This is so in so many respects. One aspect that is more disturbing to me than others relates to the question of industrial research and development work—an aspect that affects the fortunes of industry. In many ways Western Australia, like Australia's more industrialised communities on the other side of the nation, is in grave danger of becoming an industrial museum. When we compare Australia with countries like Japan, Singapore, and a number of other prosperous south-east Asian nations, we realise that Australia is not only marking time, but also losing ground in a number of important areas.

The area of research and development has a long-term effect on industry, and that is one of the most disturbing effects. The contrast between the attitudes of our leaders of industry and Government, and those attitudes in Singapore, is very disturbing indeed. Singapore has grasped the nettle. It is determined to be at the forefront of the information revolution and the research and development revolution that is occurring around the world so far as technology in industry is concerned. Why we have not done this, I will never know.

Mr Rushton: Do you want us to develop their lifestyle?

Mr BRYCE: The fact that lifestyles are different does not mean achievements have to be markedly different.

Mr Rushton: It does.

Mr BRYCE: It does not. The United States of America has a lifestyle remarkably different from that of the Soviet Union, and yet the USA manages to outstrip that country in most technological respects. We do not need to have an authoritarian Lee Kuan Yew and his ground rules to dictate the sort of society we should have simply to achieve the same industrial heights that that tiny island kingdom has achieved in such a short space of time. Singapore has a population equivalent to that of Perth and Adelaide combined. Singapore embarrasses us seriously in terms of the quantity and quality of technological trained engineering staff who are being produced by that country's training institutions each year.

Mr MacKinnon: They are developing a pretty similar thing with tourism, too.

Mr BRYCE: That is another reason that we are embarrassed, but I have not got time to deal with all my worries. I will deal with this one as it worries me the most. This matter is something for which members on both sides of the House, in Government or Opposition, should show concern.

Mr MacKinnon: We do.

Mr BRYCE: I will quote from figures briefly to demonstrate how determined Singapore is to be at the forefront of the world in these areas.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr BRYCE: Singapore has set up remarkable industrial training programmes. In respect of the electronics industry alone, Singapore is annually producing 1 000 practice-oriented engineers from the Nanyang Technical Institute, 200 research and development-oriented engineers from the National University of Singapore, 2 000 electronic technicians from the Singapore Polytechnic, 500 specialist technicians from the French-Singapore Institute trained in high grid circuit technology and digital electronics, 400 professional technicians from the German-Singapore Institute, and 600 computer software professionals from the Japan-Singapore Institute of Software Technology.

Conversely, we as a community are seeing brilliant ideas which are being put by Australians but which are going overseas to be developed further in other countries for the benefit of other countries simply because we lack the leadership, enthusiasm, and determination to promote those

areas ourselves. That involves leadership from the national Government, State Governments, and industry.

I want to draw the House's attention to a few examples of remarkable things that, in the first instance, have been developed by exceptional Australians and the further developments of which have benefited and profited other countries. Take, for example, developments in the field of Xeroxography, which deals with Xerox machines. Few Australians would today appreciate that the technology involved in the development of Xerox copiers was developed in this country in the early 1950s; all the breakthroughs were made in Australia.

Mr Gordon Hill: Hear, hear!

Mr BRYCE: Yet the irony of it is there is not one photocopy machine manufacturing company in this country today. We import the lot.

I come to the question of computers. The fourth computer ever constructed in the world was built in Australia by Mr Percy in the early 1950s at CSIRO. I am not saying errors of judgment have not occurred with regard to Governments on both sides of the House, but when we consider that the Liberal-Country Party Governments were in office for so long, we can reasonably assume that they made most of the blunders in this field. The Menzies Government in the early 1950s insisted that Percy and his group who were developing the first computer in this country, and one of the first in the world, back off and that the resources involved be devoted to cloud seeding. Thirty years later they have just been told to back off from cloud seeding because it does not really work, yet the opportunity was there. It was a tragic error of judgment.

Mr MacKinnon: These things are easy to say in hindsight.

Mr BRYCE: But when we link all these things together, they become part and parcel of a pattern which demonstrates that this country is simply not leading and has not had the necessary leadership when some "nervous" decisions have had to be made. Many examples can be cited. The vacuum tube solar heat collector was developed at the Sydney University by Professor Collins and it looks like being one of the most remarkable breakthroughs in solar technology. It involves the use of a thermos flask design of technology. However, it is not being developed in this country; it is being developed in Japan. This has gone overseas like so many other things.

The technique of analysis to discover the existence of rare minerals and trace elements, which is of particular importance to geologists, was dis-

covered in Australia by a CSIRO scientist, Sir Alan Walsh. That, too, ended up overseas.

A whole range of innovations have been developed by CSIRO in Australia. The case with most of them is that after they were discovered here they were developed overseas.

Nitro propane is used for the same purpose as DDT, but it does not have the same deleterious side effects. It was snapped up by the firm Burrows and Welcome of Britain and today it has a worldwide market. Nobody in Australia had the foresight, the gumption, the enthusiasm, or the confidence, it seems, to proceed with the development of it here.

InterScan, which is a highly sophisticated radar landing system for commercial aircraft, was developed at CSIRO by Paul Wyde and led to its being built and further developed by a British company in the United Kingdom.

Altogether 10 or 15 major technological breakthroughs were developed during the 1960s by very clever and worthy Australians, and yet those forms of technology went overseas. The disturbing thing is that by 1982 the rate of innovation in this country has fallen. I suppose to some extent it must relate to the poor rate of follow-up in development terms for inventions together with the processing of them through the initial stages of development in this country. People who are working in the forefront of knowledge have little confidence that that which they discover will be developed ultimately for the benefit of this country by members of our own society.

I will now make some concluding remarks about our own technology park. I have said before, and I do so again, that it is a great pity that the technology park is not bristling with activity right now. It could have and should have been established several years ago. Technology parks of that type have been established in a host of different places which are as sophisticated as this one.

One of the limitations of our parliamentary system is that if ideas come from the Opposition benches they are not good. It takes a whole range of years—

Mr MacKinnon: Are you claiming that the technology park was your idea?

Mr BRYCE: I am not saying I was the sole person interested in it. However, I remind the Minister that such a park was advocated by members on this side of the House four years ago, but the Minister did nothing.

Mr MacKinnon: I was not the Minister then. Was it in your election policy last year?

Mr BRYCE: I doubt that we used the name "technology park" in our election undertaking of 1980. We certainly stated it in this House in 1978 to the Minister at the time and he scoffed at it. The fact that the idea eventually has been taken on is due in no mean part to some enthusiastic people at WAIT. They have gained the distinct impression that they have a long hard row to hoe to convince certain people in the Minister's department that it is a desirable development.

I understand from what I hear that a battle is going on between the Treasury and the Department of Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development at the moment about how much land should be set aside for the technology park.

Mr MacKinnon: The battle is not between the departments; it is a decision of the Minister.

Mr BRYCE: The Minister would like us to think that. The truth is that some influential people in the Treasury seem to be waging this battle because some force has been used to delay the establishment of the technology park.

Mr MacKinnon: That is not true.

Mr BRYCE: The Minister has indicated he has no intention of offering special incentives for people to establish there. He has said he has not made up his mind.

Mr MacKinnon: I did not.

Mr BRYCE: The Minister did, in answer to a question.

Mr MacKinnon: I said they would be offered the same incentives that we offer all other industry at the moment.

Mr BRYCE: That would be the same as saying there would be no special incentives. The Minister has said he does not know whether the land will be leased or sold.

Mr MacKinnon: This is a total misrepresentation. I said that both would probably apply.

Mr BRYCE: Both might probably apply! People in the electronics industry would like some detail. Members of Parliament and members of the public would appreciate some information about this technology park, if in fact it is a reality—we have our doubts.

Mr MacKinnon: It is a reality and you know it.

Mr BRYCE: We can be forgiven for expressing our concern because it has taken so long—three to four years—and, in this current industrial environment, one year is almost a lifetime when we consider the pace at which technology is changing.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr MacKinnon.

### LAND AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

#### *Second Reading*

MR LAURANCE (Gascoyne—Minister for Lands) [3.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to implement a commitment to broaden the compensation rights available to pastoralists when land is resumed from pastoral leases.

In late 1980, amendments to part VI of the Land Act were enacted which honoured part of the general commitments made to the Pastoralists and Graziers Association following the release of the Jennings report on the pastoral industry.

Those amendments dealt with an increase—to 500 000 hectares—of the limitation on beneficial ownership of leases and with the establishment of the Pastoral Board with additional representation from the industry.

Since that time, further progress has been made in that an executive officer has been appointed to provide pastoralists with a direct and accessible point of contact to the Pastoral Board, and Pastoral Board functions have been co-ordinated within improved premises within the central Government building in Perth.

For some time, pastoralists have been concerned at a possible increasing incidence of resumptions from leases for varied purposes and at the fact that compensation entitlements were restricted to lawful, physical improvements with no recognition of the adverse effect of resumption on the productive capacity of a station.

This situation has been represented as inhibiting pastoralists from investing large amounts of capital in stations because of the uncertainty as to possible future resumptions and the risk factor that compensation would not recognise such expenditure or the effect of the land loss on the viability of a station.

Negotiations between the Government and the pastoral industry have proceeded for some time, resulting in a commitment to broaden compensation rights and procedures so that relevant factors other than just lawful physical improvements could be considered as a basis for compensation.

For the first time in the history of pastoral leases in this State, changes in the value of the productive capacity of a lease will be included as an additional basis for compensation.

Discussions with the Pastoral Board, Crown Law, Valuer General, and Public Works Department officers confirmed that the most appropriate action to meet the situation would be to utilise the existing provisions of the Public Works Act as to compensation basis, procedures, and ancillary entitlements.

The Bill proceeds on this premise in that it provides that any resumptions from pastoral leases shall be effected under and subject to the Public Works Act as if the land were required for a public work.

Provision also is made to delete any requirements of the Public Works Act not considered appropriate to the pastoral lease resumption process—sections 29 to 33B—and to retain Land Act provisions relating to the tenure restrictions inherent in a pastoral lease.

By virtue of this approach, the base for compensation is broadened and peripheral benefits contained in the Public Works Act relating to the provision of a 10 per cent solatium for compulsory taking; interest payment on compensable value; and rights of objection to resumption and referral of disputed claims to a compensation court, become available.

The purposes for which land can be resumed from pastoral leases under the Land Act are broader than those under the Public Works Act which is limited to a "public work" and these broader purposes have been retained in the Land Act as complementary provisions—section 109.

The Bill also provides that resumptions for public roads will continue under existing Land Act compensation provisions which are restricted to the effect on lawful physical improvements. Such resumptions would not involve major land excisions from pastoral leases and could be of overall benefit to pastoralists, particularly in the remoter northern regions.

The existing provision for compensation for the non-renewal of an expired pastoral lease based only on the effect on lawful, physical improvements also has been retained.

The effect of these amended pastoral lease provisions on other Land Act tenures has been examined and it has been necessary to include amendments relating to such tenures as conditional purchase leases and special leases in order to avoid any inconsistencies or anomalies.

These tenures also will be subject to resumption and compensation procedures under the Public Works Act with complementary provisions of the Land Act retained in order that compensation factors have regard to the respective tenures involved.

In actual practice over the years, resumption negotiations in respect of these tenures have embraced Public Works Act principles in the main.

Provision for land exchange as a compensation medium will not be affected by this amendment as the Public Works Act has similar provisions to those in the Land Act in this regard.

Other miscellaneous amendments to part VI of the Land Act also are contained in this Bill reflecting initiatives put forward by the Pastoral Board with the general agreement of the industry.

These amendments range from the desirable provision of deputies for members of the Pastoral Board to provisions which update the requirements for the maintenance of improvements on pastoral leases in accordance with improvement plans approved by the board. Certain outdated requirements relating to stocking viability of leases have been amended to delete rigid stock ratios.

There is one omission from the Bill—and that is provision for a licence system to cover tourist operations on pastoral leases. This matter was discussed with the industry with a view to legislation, but legal difficulties resulted in a decision to defer the matter until next year when it can be considered in association with a close review of the Land Act. However, it is stressed that existing tourist operations will not be prejudiced by this omission and the status quo will be maintained until the amendments can be effected.

In summary, this Bill is the vehicle for further improved conditions which will go a long way towards enhancing the future of the pastoral industry and towards giving it greater stability and security. The Bill is tangible proof of the Government's continuing commitment to improve the overall viability of an industry which is of great importance to the State.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Tonkin.

## **SMOKING AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS ADVERTISEMENTS BILL**

### *Second Reading*

**DR DADOUR (Subiaco)** [3.47 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is only part of a total programme to establish non-smoking as the social norm. Elements of a total programme are variously proposed as—

- (1) Prices increases;
- (2) removal of cigarettes from the Consumer Price Index;
- (3) reduction of outlets; for example, vending machines;

- (4) bans on sales to those under a certain age;
- (5) stronger and more attention-catching warnings on packets;
- (6) anti-smoking advertisements which could have twice the effect of cigarette advertising; and
- (7) a complete ban on all forms of advertising and promotion. This is what this Bill will do. In no way does this programme make it illegal to smoke tobacco.

If a person wishes to smoke, he may do so at his own risk.

Basically, advertising sells the product—if not, why spend such large amounts of money on advertising? As the Minister for Health has rightly stated, the ideal would be for all States to introduce similar legislation but Queensland would never agree to such a proposition, which has led me to introduce this Bill for the benefit of Western Australia. This legislation if passed would put Western Australia in the lead in Australia, similar to the lead it showed in the war against tuberculosis.

Tobacco smoking mostly in the form of cigarettes is recognised to be the largest single cause of preventable premature deaths in the western world. It was established in 1978 that 16 000 premature deaths were caused by cigarette smoking in Australia with more than 1 200 occurring in Western Australia. What more proof is necessary to demote cigarette smoking?

These deaths were from four diseases in which cigarette smoking is known to be a major cause, namely—

- (1) Coronary artery disease;
- (2) lung cancer;
- (3) emphysema, and
- (4) chronic bronchitis.

The first two lead to a relatively rapid death. The latter two cause disablement for a much longer period before the victims die; they become respiratory invalids, so they are less able to work, less able to participate actively in life, and are heavy users of health services.

At this juncture I wish to point out health consequences of smoking. The earlier the age at which smoking begins, the greater the risk of untimely death. When compared with the non-smoker, the smoker has—

- (1) Five years shorter expectation of life;
- (2) twice the risk of heart disease;
- (3) ten times the risk of lung cancer; and
- (4) increased risk of other diseases, namely—

chronic bronchitis and emphysema;  
diseases of arteries;  
cancer of the bladder; and  
cancer of the mouth and throat.

The overall cost of tobacco-induced diseases is approximately equal to the cost of the road trauma.

Alarming the number of children starting to smoke is rising rapidly.

Mr Tonkin: It is called a free enterprise system.

Dr DADOUR: Surveys in three Australian States estimate that the percentage of children who smoke has risen from about 10 per cent in the late 1960s to the order of 25 per cent today. Repeatedly surveys show Australian children to be smokers of the most heavily advertised brands.

An estimated 42 000 people in Western Australia smoke regularly and around 10 000 more will become regular smokers this year. Nearly \$3 million is spent on cigarettes each year by Western Australian children. From these statements it is obvious to us all that tobacco must be demoted and no single measure will bring about a dramatic decline in smoking. Hence the need for a comprehensive smoking control programme.

Some possible components of our programme are—

- (1) a suitable economic and social analysis of the local smoking problem;
- (2) a public information programme;
- (3) public education programmes aimed at adults, exemplar groups, adolescents and children;
- (4) a legislative programme; and
- (5) access to schools, media and help from other agencies to deliver programmes once developed.

Analysis of the local smoking problem from social and economic viewpoints is being undertaken by several groups. Projects abound in universities across Australia and under the auspices of the National Heart Foundation of Australia, and the various cancer councils and amongst other groups and organisations.

Public information programmes have been under way for many years. Although these programmes are limited in resources, this is expected given the restrictive economic climate. Education programmes also are being implemented and the State Education Department is developing a working party to review the smoking education components of school curricula.

The only component of a total programme which is missing is a more active legislative programme. Within Australia at present, a number

of areas have been sadly neglected in such a programme, namely—

- (1) advertising and promotion;
- (2) health warnings on packages; and
- (3) a vigorous taxation policy.

The first two areas are State responsibilities and the third a Federal responsibility. Advertising and promotion must be major factors in either initiation or continuation of the smoking habit.

As I have already stated, no single measure will, on its own, bring about a dramatic decline in smoking. The absence of effective action against tobacco advertising and promotion serves only to compete against health messages given through information and education programmes.

In other countries where total smoking control programmes exist, including a ban on advertising and promotion of cigarettes, consumption is shown to have declined markedly.

The passage of this Bill will also have an indirect action of demoting cigarette smoking by showing that we, as legislators, are so concerned for the health of the people that we would pass such a Bill. We must demonstrate a consistent Government commitment because we believe smoking to be harmful and it causes the death of at least 1 200 Western Australians per year. We are also most concerned that over 10 000 children in Western Australia begin to smoke each year.

If we do not pass this legislation we deserve condemnation.

Now turning to the legislation, the Bill has a very full definition of "advertisement"—it has to cover all aspects of advertising. If we leave any loopholes we defeat our own purpose. I have no doubt some loopholes will crop up from time to time.

The intention of the Bill is to ban all forms of advertising under State control; also, the giving of free samples to any member of the public. Definitions include "newspapers", "publish", "smoking", "tobacco products" and "writing".

Penalties proposed for breaches are: A maximum fine of \$2 000 and/or six months' imprisonment for a first offence, and a maximum fine of \$4 000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment for second and subsequent breaches.

Imprisonment is necessary as a deterrent because the penalties must be realistic—we must remember we are dealing with a very rich and powerful group. Where a continuing breach occurs there is the provision of not exceeding \$200 for each day the offence continues.

The provisions of this Bill shall not apply to—

- (a) advertisements relating to smoking in a newspaper printed or published outside Western Australia and brought into Western Australia;
- (b) any notice in or in the vicinity of premises where tobacco products are sold for the information of the public and only the name or names of the brand or brands that are sold therein provided—
  - (i) there is not more than one notice; and
  - (ii) the notice does not exceed 2 500 square centimetres in area, is self-illuminated, and does not contain any inducement to use tobacco products.

I wish to state a few more points in support of the Bill. The moneys contributed to sporting bodies in the way of sponsorships by the tobacco industry comprise approximately 4 per cent of all moneys contributed to sporting bodies. In the short term this will be lost to sport but will be replaced with money from other commercial areas; for example, MacDonalds replaced Benson & Hedges sponsorship for one-day cricket.

Also in the long term with the subsequent lessening of tobacco usage a reduction in health expenditure will result because fewer tobacco-induced diseases will occur and hence the Government will be in a better position to instil more moneys into sport—remember, sport is another form of preventive medicine.

Any anti-smoking educational programme, which is part of the total campaign against smoking, must be hard-hitting and truthful. This is a very positive manner in which we can show the people exactly what smoking tobacco can cause.

I would envisage showing in such a programme sufferers from coronary artery disease, with all its manifestations; carcinoma of the lung; and chronic bronchitis and emphysema. The programme would show exactly what those diseases do. They would show the wasting of the body; the lack of exercise tolerance; the pitiful sight of the respiratory invalid who is unable to say more than a few words without becoming breathless, constantly needing oxygen to survive, unable to dress without becoming acutely short of breath, able to take only a few steps without stopping to get his breath, the chronic hawking, choking cough with the production of thick purulent sputum. The programme should depict the misery and suffering—life is not worth living for them and is one of abject misery.

I would like to talk about one of my patients who has passed away, and who was a chronic

bronchitis sufferer. He had the most horrible cough; it went on for half a minute with the hawking and then the spitting into a tin. He had a galah that could ape its master perfectly. After we got the old man off cigarettes and he started to improve I still heard this coughing coming from the back of the house, and I wondered what was going on. It was a beautiful cough, but it was the galah coughing. The owner of the galah got a lot better, but the cough didn't go away.

To return to the Bill, I would follow up this programme with diagnoses showing what happens to the affected organs, such as the heart and lungs. Yes, I would frighten the daylight out of the people; this is the most positive approach but is not of much use unless the anti-smoking programme is complete. This Bill before us is a vital part of that programme.

One can recall the campaign against venereal disease when members of the services were shown diagrams and photos of those suffering from syphilis. In particular they were shown pictures of certain parts of the body that were slowly being eaten away. That is the sort of hard-hitting programme one could show to children to try to stop them from beginning to smoke.

I refuse to listen to arguments put forward by the tobacco industry, such as advertising does not sell more cigarettes, but merely gets smokers to change their brand of cigarettes; and the amount it spends on advertising and the number of people it employs is of benefit to the community.

Some jobs will be lost in the tobacco industry, but in the long term a lot more people in the health services will lose their jobs because fewer tobacco-induced diseases will exist.

Nor do I accept that if the product is legal to sell, tobacco companies should be free to advertise it. That is all very well if the product is not dangerous; but this product is.

Mr Grayden: Has the incidence of smoking fallen in those countries where cigarette advertising has been banned?

Dr DADOUR: Yes, substantially.

Those are all fallacious arguments, yet I note that the tobacco industry does not admit that cigarette smoking causes the horrible diseases that I have spoken of. The death toll due to smoking tobacco in Western Australia is 1 200 per year—greater than the road toll. How can we justify our consciences if we do not allow this Bill to pass? What credibility could the Government claim if it did not support this legislation?

Smoking advertisements are banned on television, but it is a farce. If one watches cricket and

football on television, peripheral cigarette advertisements are shown almost continually on the screen during the course of the game. During the finals at Subiaco Oval I sat in the new stand and counted 13 cigarette advertisements from where I was sitting; probably there were another 13 advertisements that I could not see.

This situation has been monitored by the AMA in Sydney and I understand it will publish its findings in the near future.

This Bill has the backing of the AMA which issued the following news release on 18 October 1982—

The W.A. Branch of the Australian Medical Association spoke out strongly today in support of the Bill before the W.A. Parliament calling for a ban on all forms of cigarette advertising.

The Bill, proposed by Dr G. T. Dadour, Member for Subiaco, is due for its second reading tomorrow.

Branch Secretary, Mr R. G. Hayward, said "The statistics of cigarette smoking demanded effective legislative action".

He said "An estimated 42 000 W.A. school children were regular cigarette smokers and 10 000 more were expected to become regular smokers this year".

"It will be from amongst these children that the premature deaths from cigarette smoking, now numbering 16 000 per year across Australia, will arise in the future".

"Percentages of adult male and female smokers are not increasing. The only increases in the percentage of smokers is occurring amongst children" he said.

Mr Hayward said that whilst the tobacco industry claimed that advertising did not affect consumption nor influence children to begin smoking, it also claims that cigarette smoking doesn't cause ill health.

Recent Australian studies have shown children to be able to recall accurately fine details of cigarette commercials and that children smoke the most heavily advertised brands.

If the W.A. Government wishes credibly to support existing education and health promotion programmes it is currently financing, then a ban on cigarette advertising is essential.

This was a major conclusion of the W.A. Government Committee set up to monitor cigarette advertising.

Failure to do this would be to waste public money spent on these programmes.

Bans on cigarette advertising have been recommended by most health authorities around the world and have been effected in at least 16 countries already.

Also in the latest *Medical Journal of Australia*, dated 16 October 1982, "Public Enemy Number One" gets a broadside salvo from a university senate. The Senate of the University of Sydney decided to refuse all financial support associated with tobacco companies.

The journal also states—

The tobacco companies should realise that there is no longer a ripple of discontent, but that people are prepared to take action.

Arguments are put forward that this Bill will not be of any consequence. I agree that this Bill, on its own, would be of little value, but I must request members to view it as a vital part of the total campaign against smoking.

All the other components of the total campaign are under way to a varying degree; and it is planned to accelerate all of them in the near future.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young (Minister for Health).

#### **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE: SEC**

##### *Statement by Member for Albany*

**MR WATT** (Albany) [4.01 p.m.]: I seek leave of the House to make a statement.

Leave granted.

**MR WATT:** At its meeting last Wednesday, the Public Accounts Committee considered a letter from the Opposition requesting the committee to undertake a comprehensive inquiry into the financial efficiency of the State Energy Commission.

In that letter, a number of assertions were made suggesting the financial affairs of the commission were in trouble. It was claimed also that the Government had engaged W. D. Scott & Co. to conduct an inquiry into the commission's financial management. It was suggested the commission had failed because of an apparent loss of some \$50 million on its country operations.

The committee took the view that as the substance of the letter had appeared in a daily newspaper on the day of the meeting, it should invite the commission to respond to the criticisms. Accordingly, senior officers were invited to hold dis-

cussions with the committee at its next meeting, held yesterday.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by the Commissioner (Mr Kirkwood), the Deputy Commissioner (Mr Kingsmill), and an assistant commissioner (Mr Heron), together with a consultant from W. D. Scott & Co. (Mr A. Baker), and a senior partner from Price Waterhouse & Co. (Mr B. Huxtable).

The visitors were acquainted with the assertions made against the commission and given an opportunity to make explanations, following which a considerable period of questions and answers took place.

On the question of the \$50 million loss on country operations, it was explained that as a result of the Government's deliberate policy of decentralisation, power is supplied at a standard tariff for the whole of the State, and that loss is offset from other revenue to make up the deficit.

The Opposition's letter was critical of W. D. Scott & Co. being requested by the commission to inquire into its financial operation. It claimed that Scotts had inquired similarly into the State Energy Commission some 12 months ago, and found in favour of the commission's operations. It claimed any further investigation by Scotts was a waste of time.

The committee was advised that it was the Board of Commissioners, and not the Government, which requested the study.

The first study was undertaken by Scotts into the overall operation of the State Energy Commission, and only looked briefly into finance. The new study is requested into the specific area of financial management and effectiveness; and for this reason the financial consultants, Price Waterhouse & Co., were included in the study team.

The question of borrowing money to meet interest payments was also raised by the Opposition. It was explained to the committee that it is the normal practice for the interest on borrowings for major projects to be capitalised during the construction period. Interest was provided for in the projections, and it was not until the project was completed and working that the project was expected to pay its own interest—in other words, when it began to earn revenue.

This is the policy now used by the New South Wales Energy Commission, is widely used throughout the world, and was the basis for financing most of the major resource development projects in the north-west during the 1960s.

After some two hours of discussion, some members had further questions for which answers were sought. The commission officers agreed that any further information required would be sought through the committee secretary and would be supplied to the committee in writing.

The committee considered all questions had been fully and frankly answered, and any doubt concerning the issues raised in the Opposition letter had been removed.

Mr Gordon Hill: That is nonsense.

Mr WATT: It is not nonsense.

It was resolved at the first meeting when the matter was discussed that no major investigation would be conducted because of time constraints. As the committee ceases to exist after the Parliament is prorogued early in the new year, any inquiry would require considerable time together with specialist research staff, and this would be a physical impossibility, even if it was considered necessary.

The lines of communication will therefore be kept open between the committee and the commission for any further information required. The results of the first W. D. Scott & Co. report were tabled in Parliament, and when the study now under way by W. D. Scott & Co. and Price Waterhouse & Co. is completed, that, too, will be made public.

#### *Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie*

MR I. F. TAYLOR (Kalgoorlie) [4.09 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a statement also.

Leave granted.

Mr I. F. TAYLOR: I wish to present a preliminary report of the minority of the Public Accounts Committee which consists of myself and the member for Swan.

On 13 October 1982, the Public Accounts Committee considered a written request from the Opposition spokesman on fuel and energy matters, (Mr Grill) for an urgent and comprehensive examination of the financial operations and effectiveness of the SEC. Mr Grill's letter expressed concern with what he said appeared to be a lack of efficiency and effectiveness in the operations of the State Energy Commission.

Mr Grill's call for the Public Accounts Committee to undertake the inquiry was, he stated, made on the basis that the principal function of the committee is to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of Government institutions and to ensure that taxpayers obtain full value for their dollars.

The request was considered by the committee at its meeting on 13 October, and the consensus view was that the SEC be asked to meet with the committee to discuss the points raised in the letter from Mr Grill.

On 20 October, senior SEC management, together with consultants to the commission, met with the Public Accounts Committee. Over a period of two hours, discussions took place on a number of matters pertinent to the operation of the commission. Some questions asked during the course of the discussions were, by their technical or detailed nature, unable to be answered immediately; and the commission gave an undertaking to forward the answers to the committee as soon as possible.

The unanswered questions include some vital details on the amount of interest capitalisation taking place in the commission's capital works programme. Additionally, due to the relatively brief time available, a number of questions on the commission's activities were not put to its representatives. These questions are concerned with such crucial matters as depreciation and pricing policies, the demand for energy, and matters associated with the gas pipeline and gas sales. These questions, by agreement between the committee and the commission, have been forwarded to the commission; and answers are expected in the near future.

The member for Swan and I consider it incumbent upon us in terms of our responsibility to this House and the power consumers of Western Australia, and, in fairness to the SEC, to withhold our judgment on this matter until all questions are answered, and we have had a reasonable opportunity to study the transcript of the discussion that took place.

We consider that to make a judgment without the full facts, and based only on general impressions gained during the course of a two-hour discussion, would be an ill-considered judgment made in haste and under pressure. It is therefore my intention to seek leave of the House at a later date to put forward the considered minority decision on the efficiency and effectiveness of the SEC's operations and whether or not it is necessary for the Public Accounts Committee to take this matter further.

Mr MacKinnon: I will lay even money on what you say now.

Mr I. F. TAYLOR: In conclusion I wish, as Deputy Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, to draw to the attention of the House that the chairman of the committee, contrary to the understanding and consensus achieved by the

committee following discussions with the SEC, saw fit to express publicly the view that he was satisfied with the explanation of the SEC. The committee had agreed that the chairman, in reporting to the Press, would state only that he intended to make a statement on the situation in the House today.

Knowing the chairman as a fair and reasonable man, I can only believe that he made that statement to the Press at the instigation of, and under pressure from, senior members of the Government who want to sweep this matter under the carpet at the earliest possible time.

Government members interjected.

Mr Pearce: The alternative construction is that he made a decision to go against the wishes of the committee.

Mr I. F. TAYLOR: A statement such as that contained in today's *The West Australian* coming from the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, who has always striven for a consensus viewpoint on the committee and gained the respect of all members of the committee in the time that he has been chairman, is totally out of character.

I can only believe that his statement, contradicting the committee's consensus view as it did, is only understandable in terms of the pressure to which he was undoubtedly subjected.

Government members interjected.

## COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION: REPORTS

### *Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Thompson): I advise the House that I find the practice of leave being sought to present reports of Committees of the House an unsatisfactory one. It is more appropriate, if committees want to report, that they bring their reports to the Parliament in the way in which they normally do. The present procedure will only lead to undesirable practices, if the practice adopted today is followed.

I submit also that when we have a situation in which there is a report by the chairman of a committee, and the possibility of a minority report coming forward, what will happen is that leave will be denied by someone simply offering a dissentient voice.

I suggest to members that the more appropriate form should be followed by bringing reports from committees to the House.

## LAND AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

### *Message: Appropriations*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

*House adjourned at 4.31 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1708. *This question was postponed.*

## FIRES

### *Laws and Regulations: Committee*

1728. Mr PARKER, to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Will he table or give the terms of reference of his committee to look into the adequacy of fire protection laws and regulations?
- (2) Will he detail the composition of the committee?
- (3) (a) Is the committee to invite submissions; and  
(b) if so, will they be heard publicly?
- (4) When is the committee expected to report?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The fire prevention and public safety review committee has been set up to review fire safety laws and to examine all aspects of fire prevention in this State. Specifically it was asked to identify problems of law, administration and enforcement. The committee is an internal inter-departmental body established to advise the Minister and the Government.
- (2) See answer to question 1536.
- (3) (a) and (b) See answer to (1). As well the committee has been instructed to confer with non-Government areas affected by the issues under consideration.
- (4) The committee has been requested to report by the end of March 1983.

## TRAFFIC: MOTOR CYCLES

### *Trailers*

1731. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Is it permitted to operate a motor cycle trailer in Western Australia?

- (2) If so, under what conditions can a motor cycle trailer be operated?
- (3) If not, is consideration being given to making this legal?
- (4) Is it permitted to operate motor cycle trailers in other States?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) No. The national draft regulations defining vehicle construction, equipment and performance standard, accepted by this State and as amended in 1979, determine that a motor cycle shall not tow a trailer.
- (4) The current situation in other States is not known.

1744, 1747, and 1759. *These questions were again postponed.*

#### PRISON: PRISONER

*Mr Paul Jennis*

1760. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Will he detail the reasons he refused to reimburse Mr Paul Jennis for damage sustained to his personal property while in prison (amounting to some \$350), despite a finding by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations in complaint No. 6920 of 1980, that he should be so reimbursed?
- (2) Will he reconsider his decision?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) This case was tabled in the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations' annual report to Parliament for 1980-81. I am surprised the member has chosen to resurrect an issue which was tabled in the House more than one year ago. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations' recommendation was considered at some length. Following my discussions with the department and advice received from Treasury, it was concluded that—

The department cannot be held liable for damage to private property.

Prisoners electing to be the guardians of their own possessions also

accept the responsibility for safe keeping those items.

All prisoners are made aware of the above requirement when permission is granted for them to retain property.

The prison administration were not negligent in providing adequate safeguards for the prisoner's property.

There is no legal requirement in this regard.

Under these circumstances an *ex gratia* payment was not considered appropriate.

#### PRISON: PRISONER

*Garry Edward Hoar*

1762. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Is prisoner Garry Edward Hoar currently stationed at the West Perth work release centre?
- (2) Is he on work release to the Association for Autistic Children as a telephonist?
- (3) If "No" to (2), what is the nature of his work release?
- (4) What are the normal conditions of work release in relation to hours at work and away from the centre?
- (5) What has been the situation concerning Mr Hoar's release?
- (6) Is he aware that despite the job for which he has been granted work release, and the fact that he is in prison for fraud, Mr Hoar has in fact been in control of street appeal tins and finances for the association?
- (7) Is he aware that Mr Hoar has earned up to \$440 in a fortnight in overtime payments?
- (8) Is Mr Hoar personally known to him, and if so, in what capacity?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) No. Garry Edward Hoar was released on parole on 8 October 1982.
- (2) Strictly in accordance with the department's leave of absence policy and procedures, Hoar commenced work release on 8 July 1982 as a telephonist with the Association for Autistic Children. He transferred to employment as public relations officer with the association on 23 September 1982.
- (3) See (2) above.

- (4) Conditions in relation to hours of work and time away from the centre depend on the type of employment obtained and the requirements of the employer.

- (5) Initially Mr Hoar worked from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday and was allowed 45 minutes travel time to and from work.

From 14 July 1982 he commenced working from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. on a regular basis.

From 23 September 1982 he commenced working from 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 7.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Saturdays.

The extension of hours of work was requested by the employer to facilitate the operation and supervision of the "night shift" telephone appeal calls.

- (6) I have been advised that Mr Hoar was not in control of street appeal tins and finances for the association. The finances of the association are controlled by the board of management.

It is department policy to ensure that the employer is aware that the person seeking employment is a prisoner on the work release programme. The decision to employ a prisoner on work release and how he is employed generally remains with the employer.

- (7) Mr Hoar was paid on an hourly basis when employed as a telephonist. As public relations officer he was in an executive position and paid a salary. No overtime was paid. These were matters determined by the employer, not the department.
- (8) My recollection is that I may have met Mr Hoar once or twice some years ago.

#### PRISONS: OFFICERS

##### 38-hour Week

1765. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

Can he say with respect to each State and Territory, whether—

- (1) prison officers have obtained or been granted a 38-hour week;
- (2) there are applications or negotiations outstanding with respect to a 38-hour week;
- (3) in relation to (2) above, the stage those negotiations or applications have reached?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) I have been advised that no State prison service has the 38-hour week.
- (2) It is understood claims have been lodged in three States.
- (3) It is believed the claims are being examined, as is that lodged in Western Australia. As the cost of meeting the claim would be substantial, and impact adversely on the department and/or the State Budget, it is a claim of very serious concern to the Government.

#### PRISONS: OFFICERS

##### Letter

1766. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- (1) Did he send a personal letter, dated 29 September 1982, to every prison officer in Western Australia?
- (2) Will he table a copy of the letter?
- (3) What was the cost of sending the letter?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, it is tabled herewith.
- (3) Normal administrative and postage costs associated with this aspect of dealing with an issue of significant importance to prison officers and the prison service, and the ultimate cost to the taxpayer of providing that service. The member will observe that the estimated total CRF Budget for the year 1982-83 for the department is \$41 million, an increase of \$8.2 million (25 per cent) over the 1981-82 cost. Most of the cost and the increase is directly related to manpower costs, which remain as the most significant factor in the departmental budget.

*The letter was tabled (see paper No. 509).*

#### RECREATION: FOOTBALL

##### Clubs: Directors

1767. Mr PARKER, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has the Government given any consideration to changing section 69(1) (e) of the Liquor Act 1970-1982 in order to allow WAFL clubs (or other clubs) to appoint outside directors who need not be subject to election by the club membership?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the outcome of that consideration?

- (3) If "No" to (1), will the Government consider the matter and advise me of the outcome?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) No and no request for this change has been received.  
 (2) Answered by (1) above.  
 (3) If a submission is received it will be examined.

## HOUSING

### *Land: Leases*

1777. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the State Housing Commission still sell houses to eligible persons with the land being leased to the home purchaser?  
 (2) If not, how long is it since this practice was abolished, and why?  
 (3) How many houses and land are still being purchased under past schemes?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) No.  
 (2) The leasehold scheme was discontinued mainly because of diminishing appeal by the purchaser. It was found that the purchaser preferred proceeding under contract of sale conditions and the State Housing Commission did not have the same administrative problems in this operation. The last registered lease was in 1971.  
 (3) There are still 439 leasehold purchasers as at 30 September 1982.

## RIVER

### *Blackwood*

1778. Mr EVANS, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is it intended to establish a body to advise on or control the Blackwood River?  
 (2) If "Yes"—  
 (a) what will this body be called;  
 (b) will this body exercise authority over the whole length of the Blackwood River;  
 (c) over what area will this body exercise authority;  
 (d) what will the duties and responsibilities of the body be;  
 (e) what will be its composition, and from what sections of the community will members be drawn?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) I have received no firm proposals on this subject at this stage.  
 (2) (a) to (e) Not applicable.

## STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

### *Wages and Salaries*

1779. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Treasurer:

Referring to his answers to questions on notice relating to the provision in 1981-82 of \$26 million in the miscellaneous services division to be allocated as necessary to wage and salary increases: if, as stated in his written answers, the excess departmental expenditure on wages and salaries was offset by the unspent provision in the miscellaneous services division, why is it that the offset shown is "Nil" rather than \$19 million; that is, the difference between the \$26 million allowed and the expenditure should be \$7 million or the amount said to be saved on wages and salaries in last year's Budget?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

As I said in my answers to earlier questions, total salary and wage costs including the additional cost of award increases granted during the year are recorded against individual departmental expenditure. This procedure gives a proper account of the expenditure in the various votes in the Estimates during the year. However, a global provision of \$26 million was made for salary and wage award increases last year and hence it was possible for the provision in individual salary and wages votes to be exceeded by that amount without affecting the overall Budget situation. As it turned out, the additional expenditure in respect of salary and wages award increases was \$7 million less than the total amount provided for that purpose.

The procedure adopted to ensure that an adequate provision was made for salary and wage increases in circumstances as uncertain as last year was to make a central lump sum provision accepting that particular votes could be exceeded up to the total of that provision. While admittedly this procedure is clumsy it does mean that adequate allowance is made overall in the Budget for salary and wage costs and it records outlays

against correct votes. However, it has the disadvantage of showing the global provision as apparently unspent at the end of the year.

The Treasury advises me that it is not entirely satisfied with the procedures adopted in recent years for handling the Budget provision for award increases and is considering possible alternative approaches.

	\$
Court attendance fees	30
Rental on premises	5 053
Sale of astronomical data booklets	164
	—
	\$5 247
	—

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT: SIGNS

### Approvals

1780. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Local Government:

Referring to question 607 of Wednesday, 13 October 1982 regarding advertising signs, as the company had indicated to her in a letter a week earlier that it too would like to meet with, local government, would she use her good offices to arrange an immediate meeting in view of the fact that jobs are at stake?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

I have arranged already to meet with company representatives.

## ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES

### Receipts

1781. Mr PARKER, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

What is the reason for the fact that, according to the Auditor-General's report, there were absolutely no receipts in respect of astronomical services for the financial year 1981-82, at the same time as the expenditure with respect to those services increased by some 15 per cent?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Revenue received on behalf of the astronomical services includes rent for the three observatory houses, receipts from the sale of astronomical data booklets and court attendance fees.

For budgetary purposes, this revenue was included within that of the Chief Secretary's Department as from 1 July 1981.

For the year ended 30 June 1982, the following astronomical services revenue was received and included within Chief Secretary's departmental revenue—

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### Carpets

1782. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is there a standard, adopted by the Standards Association of Australia, or otherwise, relating to the quality of carpets?
- (2) If not, what is the Government's policy with respect to this matter?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes, there are a number of SAA standards available. These are indexed in the 1982 annual list of SAA publications.
- (2) Answered by (1) above.

1783. *This question was postponed.*

## EDUCATION: PRE-SCHOOL

### Centre: Edale

1784. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can he confirm that the Education Department has decided to close the Edale pre-primary centre in Balga and concentrate pre-primary classes at Westminster primary school in 1983?
- (2) Does this re-arrangement involve the conversion of classrooms at Westminster primary school and the provision of other facilities at the school to provide a new pre-primary centre on the school site?
- (3) If "yes" to (2), what is the estimated cost of the classroom conversion and the provision of additional facilities?
- (4) What is the cost to the department of leasing the Edale pre-primary centre from the City of Stirling?

- (5) Why has the department decided to concentrate pre-primary groups at the school in converted premises rather than at the Edale centre which is an established fully equipped, dual unit pre-school centre capable of accommodating 100 children per day and is situated in an area where a new State Housing Commission subdivision comprising over 200 new home sites is currently being developed?
- (6) Was the parent committee at the Edale centre consulted about this re-arrangement, and if not, why not?
- (7) (a) Is he aware that the Edale centre will be left standing idle in 1983 as a result of this departmental decision; and  
(b) how does he justify this decision in view of that apparent eventuality?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) Consideration has been given by the Education Department to the handing back of the Edale pre-primary centre to the Stirling City Council. The matter is still under investigation and no decision has been made.
- (2) Yes, if the proposed project proceeds.
- (3) A cost estimate has not yet been determined.
- (4) The Education Department pays \$750 per year to lease Edale pre-primary from the City of Stirling.
- (5) As pointed out above, no decision has been made. The established policy of the department is to use departmental facilities to the maximum. Since enrolments at Westminister have declined, the inquiries referred to have been initiated.
- (6) Yes. Officers of the department have made a preliminary visit to Westminister junior primary school to examine the availability of space. A meeting was arranged by the school principal to discuss the department's proposal with a group of representative parents from the Edale Centre at 10.00 this morning.
- (7) (a) and (b) No decision regarding this matter has been made.

## TRANSPORT

### *Passengers: Unemployed*

1785. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

Can he indicate what cost, if any, would be involved in providing free public

transport for unemployed persons during off-peak hours, in view of the situation in which the majority of MTT buses appear to drive around with large numbers of vacant seats?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I recently asked the Co-ordinator General of Transport and the MTT to review the matter of travel concessions for unemployed people and when the results are available I will be making any necessary recommendations to Government.

It is not possible to indicate what cost would be involved until I receive the report.

## HOUSING

### *Purchase: Cost*

1786. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the estimated average cost per house of the 250 purchase homes to be constructed by the State Housing Commission in 1982-83?
- (2) What is the estimated coverage cost per house of the 426 family housing rental units to be built by the State Housing Commission in 1982-83?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) The average cost per house is estimated at \$21 250 excluding land. All houses are in the metropolitan area.
- (2) Average cost for family unit including metropolitan, country and north-west is \$37 526, excluding land.

## EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

### *Mirraboopa*

1787. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What particular works are to be carried out at the Mirraboopa Senior High School under the General Loan Fund works programme allocation of \$20 000 in 1982-83?
- (2) Is this allocation part of an on-going programme of additions and improvements to the school?
- (3) (a) If "Yes" to (2), what is the estimated cost of the total programme of works;

- (b) over what period will the programme be carried out;
- (c) how will it be staged; and
- (d) what actual works will the total programme include?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) It is expected that \$20 000 will be spent in the 1982-83 financial year with the commencement of an upgrade programme.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) \$250 000;
- (b) May to October 1983;
- (c) the project will be let to tender as one project consisting of various improvements around the school;
- (d) improvements in the areas of social sciences, home economics, physical education office, administration area, English facilities and house centre together with minor items in various areas around the school.

#### HOUSING: GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY

##### *Construction Programme*

1788. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many houses will be constructed and purchased by the Government Employees' Housing Authority under the \$9 086 000 expenditure proposed in the 1982-83 works programme?
- (2) In which areas will these houses be constructed and purchased and how many will be provided in each of these areas?
- (3) How many building lots will be acquired by the authority under the \$1 250 000 expenditure proposed in the 1982-83 works programme?
- (4) In which areas will these lots be acquired and how many will be sought in each area?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) 179 units.
- (2) North 78;
- south 101 (other country areas).
- (3) 125.
- (4) North 76;
- south 49 (other country areas).

#### HOUSING: GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY

##### *Lease-back Arrangements*

1789. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he provide details of the lease-back arrangements under which the Government Employees' Housing Authority proposes to sell houses to the Superannuation Board to raise \$4 000 000 to help finance its works programme in 1982-83?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

The Government Employees' Housing Authority sells units to the value of \$4 000 000 annually to the Superannuation Board under a lease-back arrangement.

The authority is responsible for maintenance and all outgoings on these properties in addition to the lease payments to the Superannuation Board.

#### ROADS

##### *Greenough*

1790. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In relation to allocation of funds for tourist roads, what funds have been allocated in the Greenough electorate?
- (2) Which are the roads involved?
- (3) (a) What is the nature of the works programme; and
- (b) are local shire funds involved?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Funds totalling \$49 000 have been provided in the Main Roads Department's 1982-83 programme of works.
- (2) and (3) (a) The roads involved and nature of the works are—

##### *Local Authority Roads*

Road	Shire	Work	Allocation \$
Coolimba-Illawong	Carnamah	Maintenance grading	8 000
Cliff Head South No. 1	Irwin	Improve formation and gravel	6 000

##### *Roads in National Parks*

Road	National Park	Work	Allocation \$
Access to Loop and Z Bend	Kalbarri	Form and gravel sheet	35 000.

- (3) (b) No local authority contributions are involved.

# ROAD

## Cliff Head-Coolimba

1791. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have funds been allocated for the upgrading of the Coolimba to Cliff Head road in the Carnamah and Irwin Shires?
- (2) If "Yes"—
  - (a) what was the amount allocated;
  - (b) what distance is it estimated will be upgraded with these funds;
  - (c) have proposed plans for a new survey of the entire route been finalised; and
  - (d) if not, where is the delay occurring?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) \$100 000;  
(b) 5.0 km;  
(c) and (d) an alignment over the whole route has not been agreed as a number of matters relating to coastal access points and environmental factors have yet to be resolved. At present the onus lies with the Main Roads Department to finalise its proposal in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Carnamah Shire Council. It is not expected that the \$100 000 expenditure referred to will be unduly delayed.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### POLICE: FIREARMS

#### Ownership

649. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

My question relates to a report of a statement made by Professor Harding with respect to gun laws. Part of that report states that firearms ownership is increasing at a rate which exceeds the population growth. I ask—

- (1) Does the Minister believe this situation would be true of Western Australia and, if so, does it give him cause for alarm?

- (2) Does the Government intend to take any action to slow down the growth in the number of firearms which some people think is excessive?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) I do not know whether the figures quoted by Professor Harding are applicable to Western Australia, but no doubt when the annual report of the Commissioner of Police is tabled within a few days—I do not have it with me—those figures will be available, because the commissioner reports in detail on all such matters. However, if they are not available, we could check the position independently.
- (2) The growth in the number of firearms is related not only to increasing numbers of people who have firearms, but also to the number of firearms which individuals own. Controversy has arisen among people who are interested in firearms generally as to whether they should be permitted to have multiple ownership, given that approval to own a firearm is granted because they meet the character requirements.

Those sorts of issues were the subject of consideration in Mr Dixon's report which dealt also with the way in which we handle applications for approval for the ownership of firearms. Various recommendations were made which, generally speaking, are believed to be an improvement on the present situation.

As a result of time constraints on departmental officers, we will not be able to introduce legislation relating to firearms in the current session, although I had hoped to do so. Bearing in mind the other legislation for which the Police Department is responsible, it has not been possible in the time available to introduce legislation of that nature this year.

However, it certainly is intended to introduce legislation in relation to firearms after the matter has been examined fully. We are generally concerned about the ownership of firearms and perhaps the issues which are more important than the simple ownership of them are the means of dealing with that ownership, the regulation of ownership, and the procedures for identifying who has firearms.

## MINING

*Bunkers Bay*

650. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Mines:

Regarding applications for prospecting licences at Bunkers Bay—

- (1) Has a date been set for a hearing in the Wardens Court?
- (2) Is it the intention of the Government to oppose the granting of permits?
- (3) For those titles which are dated prior to 1899, is the Government able to control mining activity by any other provision, legislative or otherwise?
- (4) Has the Minister seen a report in the *Daily News* of today outlining other proposals for the area?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes, a date has been set for the hearing in the Wardens Court in Mineral House, Adelaide Terrace on 24 November and all the persons who have objected have been notified.
- (2) The Mines Department will be opposing the granting of tenements in relation to those titles where the minerals do not belong to the Crown, because the Mining Act does not apply; therefore, under the terms of the Act, the Mines Department does not have any influence in that area other than to recommend opposition to the granting of those titles. I advise the member and those who are interested in this matter that, if the company is successful and the other titles are granted in the normal sense, it will still have to obtain an extractive licence from the local government authority. It will rest with that body as to whether approval will be given. Therefore, I emphasise the minerals in the land are not automatically able to be mined by the owner.
- (3) I turn now to the existence of powers to stop the development. Apart from the powers that reside with the local government authority and the Government, the Environmental Protection Authority advises on this matter. It has indicated already the conditions which must apply should be approved by the other bodies involved and has outlined the provisions which would have to be adhered to.

- (4) I have seen the report in the *Daily News* and indicate that the alternative development referred to would be more desirable in many ways. However, it would also be subject to assessment by local government, the Environmental Protection Authority, etc. At face value, the proposal appears to be more desirable than the original proposition.

## EDUCATION

*Student Guilds*

651. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Education:

After the report in today's *Daily News* that Government members have been told no action has been taken on legislation relating to student guilds, does the Minister intend to maintain the farce of claiming that the matter is under active consideration while failing to admit that a decision has been made?

Mr CLARKO replied:

I point out to the honourable member that the statements I have made in the House, each time he has raised this issue, that the matter was under active consideration precisely reflect the situation. We know the member for Gosnells has a tendency to develop states of high euphoria when his bionic lips begin to move, but the facts are quite clear: The matter was under active consideration whenever the member asked a question about it.

Mr Pearce: That is about the only time it was!

Mr CLARKO: The Government has now decided not to proceed with any legislation relating to the abolition of compulsory amenities and services fees at tertiary institutions during the life of this Government.

It is false in the extreme to suggest efforts have been made to delay an announcement on this matter because of elections which might have been taking place at the tertiary institutions; there is no truth in such a suggestion. Instead of getting into these fanciful states, I suggest the member for Gosnells try occasionally to pay attention to the truth.

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MADE GOODS

## "Go for it" Campaign: Progress

652. Mr NANOVIICH, to the Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development:

Could the Minister outline the progress of the revised local products campaign which is using the "Go for it" theme?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

I am pleased to provide the member with an updated explanation of the position. As I have explained to the House previously, the campaign was reviewed recently with the assistance of some outside advice. It then got under way with a new set of objectives. In the initial stages of the campaign we are concentrating on supermarket items, because they are the easiest goods against which to measure the performance and success of the campaign.

As a consequence of the campaign, we have made some important improvements to the position. We have arranged for a consultant to liaise with the supermarkets and manufacturers to ensure they receive proper advice about their products, such as how they should be displayed, weaknesses which may exist in their presentation, and how they should be improved so that they will have better sales potential. We have also been in contact with the major retailers to ensure the campaign has been structured correctly.

They have given us advice on how we should improve it. This evening we are launching a new supermarket support campaign which will involve a trailer making an appearance at 12 shopping centres around the metropolitan area, and later in country areas, in support of the campaign. There will be promotional aids including educational posters and recipes using Western Australian products for housewives to support local industry. I am pleased to say that we have received great support from manufacturers and retailers and their staff. I hope the Western Australian buying public respond to the campaign and support their local manufacturers as this, in turn, will add markedly to employment prospects in the State.

# POLICE

## Detonators

653. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Mines:

I refer the Minister to recent questions I have asked on the dumping of detonators in a Kalgoorlie Town Council sewerage lagoon. As it is now many weeks since this matter was brought to his notice and as I understand that the police have completed their report on this matter, could he state—

- (1) Why has he not yet received the police report?
- (2) As the action of the company concerned without doubt was an offence against the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act regulations and as it would seem further improper dumping of explosives may have occurred in the goldfields, does he not consider it appropriate that action should be taken against the company and in the Mines Department to ensure there can never be a recurrence of this offence?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) The reply to the second part of this question is "No" because I have no basis yet on which to make such a decision as to whether I consider action should be taken. The report prepared by the police was first shown to and discussed with the chief inspector of explosives at the end of last week. Following a report I saw in the Press, I asked what stage had been reached and was told that consideration was being given to whether it was possible to take action under the Act and its regulations. I cannot say what will be done. I remind the member that there has been no delay in doing something. As I said, the report has gone to the chief inspector of explosives but I have yet to see it. Until then I can take no action.

# TELECOM AUSTRALIA

## Telegram Service

654. Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware—

Opposition members: He is not here.

Mr CRANE: I gave the Premier notice of my question. I thought members opposite would have had the intelligence to realise that. I shall start again as follows—

- (1) Is the Premier aware it is reported that Telecom Australia is proposing to withdraw or seriously restrict its telegram service?
- (2) In view of the importance of this service, particularly to those people not connected to the telephone network and people in remote areas, will he make strong representation to the Federal Minister for Communications (the Hon. Neil Brown) on behalf of Western Australia to ensure the continuance of this service?

Mr Rushton (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

The Premier's spirit is with us. He has asked me to answer on his behalf, and the answer is as follows—

- (1) No.
- (2) The Premier shares the member's concern. He indicates through me that he will take the necessary steps to show our concern for this vital service, the curtailment of which the member has very rightly queried.

#### HEALTH: PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Dr J. G. Tees*

655. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

Further to my question 1757 of yesterday about the Government's failure so far to offer any compensation to

Dr J. G. Tees for his unjustified dismissal from the Public Health Department, will the Minister advise me why he is not prepared to consider offering compensation or an *ex gratia* payment to Dr Tees?

Mr YOUNG replied:

A decision to make a payment to Dr Tees would not be mine alone. Further, for the information of those members who have not read the member's previous question and my answer, I did say that the doctor referred to was paid, I think, over a full year's salary for the time he had been dismissed and, of course, during that period he had not been working. To keep the matter in perspective we must understand that he was paid over \$40 000.

#### NATURAL DISASTER

##### *Floods: Government Action*

656. Mr SIBSON, to the Minister for Works:

What action has the Minister taken following the January 1982 floods in the south-west to ensure that lessons learned are used to alleviate flood risks in future flooding events?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Surveys and collection of data in areas where flooding occurred have been undertaken. The information will provide the input to flood studies being undertaken for these areas. Specific studies are under way at Corrigin and Tambellup, and studies will commence later this year for towns along the Blackwood River.