

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 7 August 1984

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

THE LATE HON. W. G. ATKINSON

Condolence Motion

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Acting Premier) [2.17 p.m.]: I move, without notice, the following condolence motion—

The House records its sincere regret at the death of Hon. Gordon Atkinson, M.L.C., a Member of the Legislative Council and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow, Olwen, and their four children, Robert, Nanno, Harry and Angela.

I know that I speak on behalf of all members of the Legislative Assembly in saying that we were profoundly shocked at the sudden and untimely death of Gordon Atkinson. Although he was only a recently elected member of Parliament, he was a man who was warmly regarded by his friends with whom he worked. He was also highly respected by the members who sat opposite. He will be sadly missed not only by his family, but also by the wider community at Dalwallinu.

Dalwallinu is a very typical small country town which relies heavily on people who demonstrate leadership qualities and a preparedness to provide service. Gordon Atkinson certainly did that over a long period, even though he was a relatively young man. He had lived in Dalwallinu most of his life and the people of Dalwallinu and surrounding districts will miss him very much.

Gordon was a very enthusiastic, all-round sportsman both as a participant and a supporter. It is a tragic feature of his death that a young man of 43 years of age should die while enjoying one of his favourite sports. That fact underlines the tragic nature of his sudden death and contributes to the shock which everyone felt.

It is a matter of deep regret that he died at a stage when his parliamentary career was well and truly in front of him and he had had only a brief opportunity to demonstrate to the Parliament and the people he represented in this place the qualities of leadership and the contribution that he was obviously expected to make over a considerable period.

In moving this motion, I ask all members of the House to join with me in extending the deepest sympathy to the members of his family who will

miss him so much, and to all his friends in the wider community of Dalwallinu.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [2.20 p.m.]: I second the motion.

William Gordon Atkinson was aged 43 years. He was always known as Gordon. He was the oldest of six children of Mr H. L. (Bill) and Mrs Jessie Atkinson who now live in Dalwallinu. The other members of the family were four boys and a girl.

Gordon married Olwen and they had four children: Robert, now 19, a part-time student at Muresk Agricultural College; Nanno, aged 17, a student at Perth College; Harry, aged 15, a student at Guildford Grammar School; and Angela, aged 11, a pupil at the Dalwallinu Primary School.

Gordon was educated at the Dalwallinu school, Northam High School, and Muresk Agricultural College where he was an honours graduate and dux. He was involved in farming in the district from 1949 when the family moved from Ballidu to Dalwallinu. He was a councillor of the Royal Agricultural Society, and was active in sporting and community affairs in Dalwallinu, particularly cricket, tennis, squash, and golf.

That is a bare outline of a person's lifetime and work. However, I refer to the broader issue.

It is the whole purpose of the existence of Parliament that it should represent the people. It is the guiding principle of our particular form of parliamentary representation that each community should be properly represented and its needs, desires, hopes, thoughts, and feelings should be represented in the Parliament, the assembly of law-makers. My remarks in this respect are in line with the comments of the Acting Premier. Gordon Atkinson was such a representative. There are times when representatives seem to genuinely embody the reality and spirit of the community which is their electorate; when the character of the representative appears to be the same as the character of the community he or she represents.

Gordon Atkinson represented his community in such a way. He had about him a quiet confidence, efficiency, optimism, and a sense of reality which are the characteristics of the area he represented. He had the stability one associates with our rural communities, and the inventiveness, adaptability, and commitment to new ways which are the hallmarks of the Western Australian rural industries and their communities. He had the calmness and kindness of those who have worked hard for all they have done and who have not lost their understanding in the struggle.

In his short time in Parliament, Gordon Atkinson made a strong impression on all those he met. There was a basic goodness in the man which could not go unnoticed. His sudden death has robbed his family of an irreplaceable husband and father. It has deprived us of a valued friend and colleague, and it has taken from the Central Province a man who truly represented it.

It is impossible to express adequately the sympathy that we feel for those closest to him, but I hope, with other members, that this resolution of the House will help them to understand that Gordon Atkinson was admired and respected by the representatives of all the communities of Western Australia. I hope that this will bring comfort and strength to his family in their suffering.

MR OLD (Katanning-Roe) [2.25 p.m.]: I would like briefly to support the remarks of the previous speakers, the Acting Premier, and the Leader of the Opposition, in paying tribute to Gordon Atkinson. Gordon unfortunately was not long with us in Parliament, and it was indeed a sad and bitter blow to his family and friends to learn of his sudden death. It was a bitter blow not only to his family and friends, but also to this Parliament in which Gordon Atkinson played a very active part.

While our electorates were not adjoining, we were both concerned with the welfare of country people and the agricultural industry. As the Leader of the Opposition has already pointed out to the Parliament, Gordon was a very skilled and efficient operator within that industry.

We were serving on a committee together and he was an important contributor to that committee and to his industry in particular.

It is not often that we get young men of the calibre of Gordon Atkinson into the Western Australian Parliament. It is indeed very sad to lose him at such an early age. On behalf of my colleagues, I extend my deep sympathy to his wife and family.

MR COWAN (Merredin) [2.27 p.m.]: I support the motion moved by the Acting Premier, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, and supported by the Leader of the National Country Party. The seat of Merredin is in the Central Province. I can certainly vouch for the vigorous approach of the late Gordon Atkinson to the duties he was required to perform as a member of Parliament. I hope you, Sir, will convey this motion of condolence to his family, because his death is a very great loss both to this Parliament and to Western Australia.

Question passed, members standing.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Legislation: Ministerial Statement

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform) [2.28 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

Mr TONKIN: I wish to make a statement to Parliament about a matter which is central to the existence of members as representatives of the people of Western Australia. The central matter is the electoral system which has selected every member here.

Since Parliament last dealt with electoral reform in 1983 the Government has thoroughly researched the whole question. A careful analysis of all the criticisms made of the Acts Amendment (Constitutional and Electoral) Bill 1983 indicated the areas which were of most concern to the Opposition. Following this analysis, the 1983 Bill was completely revised to produce a compromise proposal which was announced on 10 April this year.

At the same time that the compromise proposal was announced, the Government invited interested people, including all the political parties, to comment. Talks have taken place as a result of this invitation and it is the progress of consultation that the Government now wishes to share with the Parliament and the people. I fully appreciate the need for talks to occur in private and I hope these will continue. However, the reform of the electoral system is of such universal interest and of such fundamental importance to the people of this State that the Government has decided to make public a letter that has contributed to the formation of a consensus. I refer to a letter from myself to the member for Floreat that I now table.

The letter was tabled (see paper No. 89).

Mr TONKIN: The Government signals its sincere wish that the debate proceed in terms of fairness—fairness in the representation of the people and fairness for all political parties. From the tabled letter it should be clear that the Government is prepared to listen. In the process of the emergence of a fair electoral system the Government accepts responsibility to facilitate the progress of the debate. Compromise and consultation are taking place and the next step must be taken.

Shortly, a fair representation Bill will be introduced into Parliament, which is the proper place for the advancement of debate.

The invitation for constructive contributions from members and interested people remains open. The Government will put forward its

compromise Bill in the spirit of seeking a consensus.

I thank the House for granting me leave to make that statement.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [2.32 p.m.]: I seek leave to respond to the ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

Mr MENSAROS: I thank the Minister for his advice that he intended to make a statement of this nature. In introducing the statement the Minister said the matter he wished to talk about was of central interest to the existence of members and the people they represent. I do not think that that question is more central today than it was 90 years ago, 50 years ago, 10 years ago, or yesterday. In fact, when one talks in the corridors to members from both sides of the house, it is clear it is not a matter which has been referred to frequently in recent months, weeks, or days. My experience as far as the public are concerned, which has been derived from attending school meetings and discussions which took place there, from general conversation, and from contact with people who attend receptions and the like, would not lead me to believe there has been a great concentration on the subject. Even as far as the media is concerned, despite the undoubted urgings of the Minister, his party, and the Government, I do not think they have considered the matter so central that they would put it on the daily menu.

The Minister knows that the only hope for his success, and it is a faint hope, is to win the constant publicity which keeps the matter before the public eye with the mathematical comparison about people living in one electoral district or province, and ignoring the geographical situation and size of the electorate. The purpose of this ministerial statement is to continue that publicity. That is the purpose also of the Royal Commission which was announced recently and which will recommend ways of solving deadlocks between both Houses of Parliament. It is the purpose of introducing the so-called "compromise Bill"—which properly could only be called a "one-sided compromise"—and it is the purpose of the Minister's request to his own Government to refrain from introducing controversial legislation during the time this so-called fair representation Bill is debated in the two Houses, sandwiched between the two Houses, in the so-called Parliament Week. This request was made because the publicity the Minister expected to gain last year from his electoral Bills was overshadowed by the debate on the tobacco advertising legislation. We know that the Minister desperately wants publicity by any fair or unfair method.

I shall comment further on the way in which the Minister tabled the letter he wrote to me and, indeed, on the writing and sending of the letter itself. I shall tell the House the background and the circumstances to this matter as painstakingly and truly as my memory allows me to do. I shall then leave it to members' individual consciences to make their own judgments—even if publicly—about the propriety or otherwise of the Minister's actions.

I saw the Minister on 18 July this year. He saw me in Parliament House on his own, without his advisers, and I appreciated that. The discussion was in polite terms with mutual assurances that we would be perfectly frank with each other. We canvassed the value of such discussions and agreed that they would have no value and, indeed, would be a waste of time, if they were conducted as a public meeting. Parliament is the proper place for such an exercise. However, like negotiations between two businessmen about even the smallest matter of fair interest, or like negotiations on matters of worldwide interest between, say, the foreign Minister of the USA and his counterpart of the USSR, they ought to be conducted in private if any measure of success is to be expected. Consequently the Minister and I agreed that we would not issue media releases of a one-sided nature. We agreed that, if we issued a statement at all, it would have a mutually agreed text and it would be issued simultaneously by both of us.

We agreed also that should we be asked by the media about this matter, we would give guarded, non-controversial replies. The undertakings arrived at in that last conversation were honoured by both the Minister and myself, because both of us were approached after our discussion last time and our responses were so non-controversial that the Press did not consider them to be newsworthy.

However, at least in my humble view, the Minister had breached our mutually agreed undertaking by publicising our meeting in a one-sided manner. He did this by publishing the letter he wrote to me and by, a few days after our meeting, announcing the setting up of the Royal Commission when he had not mentioned to me previously that he intended to do so.

Mr Tonkin: That is rubbish! I undertook not to publish the contents of our discussion, and that letter does not reveal the contents of our discussion.

Mr MENSAROS: I said that that was my view. Therefore, I am forced to set the record straight. I told the Minister that I was not opposed *per se* to changes being made to the electoral laws. However, I said also that every change which had been

made to the Constitution affecting either House of Parliament in the past, since an elected Parliament was instituted in this State, was initiated by the non-Labor, conservative side of the Parliament.

Mr Jamieson: That is not so.

Mr MENSAROS: Those changes were accepted by the Labor Party and passed in Parliament more or less as consensus measures.

I further said to the Minister that, if he really wanted success in his endeavours instead of publicity, he must leave it to me so that our coalition parties could produce suggestions which could be discussed. I went on to say that I would need more time to obtain agreement to such propositions, as none had been accepted yet. Therefore, in my view, the Minister's intention to introduce another Bill of this nature would not be expected to meet with a large degree of success. The Minister seemed to understand that, but he did not make any commitment. We did not discuss at all—it was considered to be superfluous—any material changes suggested by either of us.

Those are the facts. I am extremely sorry that, in spite of our mutual undertaking, the discussions during our meeting became—directly or indirectly—the subject of a public statement to this House. Apart from the impropriety of the Minister's action in his obsessive pursuit of publicity, I do not think such a procedure will help to achieve any changes in the system based on consensus. Indeed, I must reluctantly come to the conclusion that the Minister and/or the Government are not genuine in their endeavours to arrive at a consensus solution on this issue.

HEALTH: DENTAL

Technicians: Petition

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.40 p.m.]: I have a petition to present from 99 citizens of Western Australia, and it is worded as follows—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled. We the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that the Parliament of Western Australia will support

(i) The amendment of the Dentist's Act, 1939-1972 to include provision for Dental Technicians who qualify through Legislation to treat members of the public direct in the fitting, manufacture and repair of removable dental prosthesis (dentures), thereby providing members of the public with a free choice of consul-

tation in the matter of fitting, manufacture and repair of removable dental prosthesis; and

(ii) The establishment of a recognised course of clinical training to be undertaken in addition to the existing Dental Technician's apprenticeship to enable existing and future Dental Technicians to qualify under the term of paragraph (i) above. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 28.)

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: THE LATE JOHN PAT

Royal Commission: Petition

MRS HENDERSON (Gosnells) [2.41 p.m.]: I have a petition to present from 44 residents of Western Australia, and it is worded as follows—

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

We, the undersigned, request the honourable members of Parliament to institute a Royal Commission into the death of John Pat, on the grounds that:

1. An all-white jury was selected despite the large Aboriginal population resident in the area.
2. An all-white jury acquitted the police officers and aide.
3. A 16 year old boy died in police custody as a result of injuries inflicted by police officers.
4. The social position of Aborigines, manifesting itself in poor diet, malnutrition, alcoholism, unemployment and cultural despair, must be considered vis-a-vis the social position of police officers in terms of their ability to use the legal system on their own behalf.
5. The legal concepts of intention and criminal responsibility, and their implication for justice for Aborigines need to be examined.
6. Solutions for Aboriginal-police conflict in country towns must be sought at all levels; the responsibility and contribution of police and white community members

as well as Aborigines, to that conflict must be acknowledged for any genuine progress to be made.

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

I have certified that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 29.)

HOSPITAL: MARTINDALE

Closure: Petition

MR TRETHOWAN (East Melville) [2.42 p.m.]: I have a petition to present similar to one I presented last week in which citizens asked the Parliament to help save Martindale Hospital in Applecross from closure, which closure can be prevented only by the hospital's being recategorised. I certify that the petition bears 85 signatures and conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 30.)

HEALTH: DISABLED PERSONS

Buses: Petition

MRS BEGGS (Whitford) [2.43 p.m.]: I have a petition to present which reads as follows—

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

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens, respectfully sheweth that we, the undersigned, strongly urge that consideration be given to rectifying the following potentially dangerous situation as soon as possible.

Buses carrying up to 25 handicapped children to and from Balga Special School each day and doing so in such a manner as to cause extremely hazardous conditions.

The children, all of whom are handicapped in varying degrees, are not restrained by seat belts. In today's peak period traffic, this borders on the edge of criminal neglect. Our children are not able to care for themselves, and it behoves us, the Government, and the whole community to provide a high degree of caring.

A solitary adult, driving the bus, cannot exercise any care or control of his passengers.

A shouted word from the front of the bus does nothing to alleviate the problem. However, that is all that is available.

We urge that the following recommendations be accepted and implemented now.

Recommendations

- (1) That aides be appointed to all special buses.
- (2) That seat belts be installed for every child travelling in every special school bus.

Your petitioners will ever pray

The petition bears 28 signatures, and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 31.)

AUDIT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Acting Premier) [2.47 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendment proposed by this Bill will facilitate the day-to-day management of the State's budgetary process.

Specifically, the amendment will allow the Treasurer to delegate to another Minister of the Crown specified in the instrument of delegation, all or any of his functions, powers, and duties under this Act, other than the power of delegation.

As members are aware, last December the Government established a Ministry for Budget Management, and the delegation powers provided by the amendment will permit the Minister to assume the full responsibilities of the portfolio.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Hassell (Leader of the Opposition).

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS BILL

Second Reading

MR McIVER (Avon—Minister for Works) [2.49 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The organisation currently operating at North Fremantle under the name of State Implement and Engineering Works has been in existence since 1913. It operated originally under the Government Trading Concerns Act which was

replaced by the State Trading Concerns Act 1916. It is still controlled by that Act.

Control under the State Trading Concerns Act means operating directly in the name of the Minister as a corporation sole. There is no existing provision for any control by a departmental head nor for any statutory board or committee to advise the Minister. That Act is also deficient in that it does not provide adequate powers for the management, operation, and financing of a major engineering undertaking in such a manner as is essential for survival in the present commercial context.

The purpose of this Bill is to establish a new control mechanism for the existing trading concern. This will take the form of a new statutory authority to be known as the State Engineering Works of Western Australia. I will mention the major proposals for the new authority only briefly at this stage and return to deal with them in greater detail later. They are—

Control, subject to the Minister, by a five-person board of directors;

operation as a statutory authority which will be an agent of the Crown in right of State;

power to operate outside Western Australia to take advantage of available interstate and export markets;

more flexible borrowing and financial powers;

provision for adequate reporting to the Minister and accountability to Parliament for the proper stewardship and employment of its assets;

a requirement to perform its functions in accordance with prudent commercial principles;

a requirement that 50 per cent of its net earnings be paid each year to the Consolidated Revenue Fund;

a provision to safeguard the privacy of individuals and the secrecy of information;

exemption of its employees from the Public Service Act;

provision for the transfer of assets and liabilities to the new corporation; and

deletion of the State Implement and Engineering Works from the provisions of the State Trading Concerns Act 1916 and repeal of a section of that Act which will cease to be effective.

Before dealing in detail with these new provisions, let me briefly outline the history of the State Engineering Works and the reasons for its existence.

The origin of the present State Implement and Engineering Works is found in a Public Works Department workshop existing for some years before 1913 on another site. Its purpose then was the maintenance of floating plant used on harbour works and other engineering requirements of the department, including the manufacture of cast-iron pipes and fittings for water supply works.

In 1913 a decision was made to establish an agricultural implement works with the object of encouraging local manufacture in place of importation of agricultural equipment. As a result the workshop was transferred and re-erected on the existing North Fremantle site. Legislation covering the works was proclaimed in the Government Trading Concerns Act 1912 and the business of trading was handed over to the Department of Agriculture. In December 1914 control reverted to the Minister for Works and Trading Concerns.

In 1917 the Government Trading Concerns Act was repealed and replaced by the State Trading Concerns Act 1916. Under that Act the nature of operations of the State Implement and Engineering Works were and still are described as "general engineering and jobbing work, manufacturing and sale of agricultural and farm machinery, accessories and spare parts, purchase and sale of imported agricultural and farming machinery, spare parts, oil, twine and general farming and agricultural sundries, and the carrying on of any business appertaining or incidental to above, including the purchase of stores and new materials required, establishing of agencies on commission, etc."

The manufacture of agricultural implements grew to 50 per cent of all activity by 1922-23, but then gradually declined owing to the entry of private enterprise into manufacturing and dealing in these lines. By 1940 this side of the organisation's activities had practically ceased. Employment at the works declined accordingly from a peak of 570 in 1915 to a low of about 100 in 1933.

During World War II the State Engineering Works filled an important role in the repair of ships, mostly for allied navies. Sales increased dramatically and employment rose to a new peak of 598 persons. Munition and wartime equipment manufacture was also important during this phase, including the manufacture of Bren gun carriers.

Following the war, activities were directed to postwar reconstruction and concentrated on the manufacture of specialised and heavy equipment items which were outside the capability of local private engineering firms. Examples of this work were bulk handling equipment for harbour development, heavy land-clearing equipment, and mar-

ine overhauls and servicing, in addition to regular work associated with water supply and other Government undertakings.

During the 1960s and 1970s the State experienced rapid expansion in the fields of mineral extraction and processing, and the construction of new water supply and power generation facilities. In the face of new and increasing demands, the State Engineering Works was able to provide facilities to supply goods and services which would otherwise have been imported. In addition it was able to extend specialised engineering support to many small local fabrication workshops which, because of that support, were able to participate in the work which became available. The value of that type of support to the small manufacturer should not be overlooked.

This period saw a very significant increase in total engineering capacity in Western Australia. Local firms and branches of firms from outside the State responded to the expansion of industry by upgrading and modernising their equipment, skills, and organisation. Much of the heavy or specialised equipment at the State Engineering Works was duplicated by these firms, thus providing an element of competition which did not exist previously. One effect of this was to create the opportunity for major Government and private clients of the State Engineering Works to have a choice of supplier and from the mid-1970s they quickly began to take advantage of that opportunity.

Quite suddenly the State Engineering Works found itself in the relatively novel position of having to compete on a service and cost basis with private industry for Government work it had previously taken for granted. Gone were the days of cost-plus charging and inadequate attention to reducing overheads. The organisation faced a new challenge to modernise its buildings, equipment, operating methods, accounting, and marketing to meet the changed marketing scene.

Unfortunately it also found itself ill-prepared to meet this challenge. Its equipment was old and outdated. Its buildings were in very poor shape, many of them having stood for over 60 years after having been relocated from other sites. Its accounting system was not geared to commercial methods and it had virtually no marketing organisation.

Furthermore, its finances were in poor shape. Although it had been making profits year after year, Treasury policy had dictated that all surpluses should be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, leaving no funds for rehabilitation. Depreciation had been provided, but only on an

historic cost basis, which meant that funds available to replace very old machinery were totally inadequate to purchase new, high technology equipment.

Over the period from its inception to the end of the 1973-74 financial year, the State Engineering Works had earned cumulative profits of \$3.8 million, but \$3 million of this had been taken by the Treasury so it had virtually no reserves from which to commence a reorganisation to meet the demands of the late 1970s and the 1980s.

Since that time the rebuilding and modernisation of the foundry and further re-equipment has been financed by the retention of profits, by private loans, and by the negotiation of a leverage lease payable over a period of 10 years. State Engineering Works has never been subsidised and has not called upon the Government for a Loan Fund allocation for many years. Of its total General Loan Fund capital of \$425 000, \$305 000 was made available prior to World War II and the remaining \$120 000 in 1959. Over half of the total debt has now been repaid.

Because of the financial difficulties, the rehabilitation process has been rather slow, but the challenge is being met. Following an extensive interdepartmental investigation in 1976, a decision was made by the previous Government to upgrade the works on its existing site at North Fremantle. The old foundry has been replaced by a modern building and re-equipped to a standard which makes it probably the most modern in Western Australia. Modern equipment has been introduced to other departments, although some of the older equipment is still retained for special purpose work.

Accounting was partly computerised in 1976-77 and arrangements are currently in hand for an updated and more comprehensive system co-ordinated with production. The contract supervision and marketing staff have been supplemented by highly skilled persons and a consulting organisation is currently investigating new, technology-oriented markets.

Members may ask why all of this effort is being made by a Government trading concern to enable it to remain viable in an area where there are commercial organisations equipped to fulfil most, if not all, of the demands of the market.

Throughout its 70-year history, the State Engineering Works has underpinned the capacity and availability of local industry to respond to demand. It has provided equipment which no single firm found it could justifiably instal for its own purposes. It has given the support of its unique facilities to smaller organisations to enable

them to take on contracts which would otherwise have been beyond their capability. It has performed work in Western Australia which would otherwise have been performed elsewhere. It has undertaken unique tasks, such as the casting of the keel of *Australia II*. It has provided a benchmark for the pricing of goods and services supplied to Government undertakings. It has remained always ready to take on "drop everything" tasks when emergencies have arisen in essential Government services such as water, power, shipping, and heavy handling facilities.

A very good example of this was provided when, in November 1981, the State Ship *Pilbara* grounded near Derby and suffered severe hull damage. State Engineering Works responded immediately and, within a few days of receiving the Lloyds survey, two supervisors were flown to the ship to organise the on-board repair work. Materials were acquired and heavy T-beam sections were fabricated within a fortnight of the accident. A workforce of 11 men from State Engineering Works was then flown to the ship and worked extremely long hours without a break every day from 14 December to 2 January to complete the repairs under most arduous conditions in the tropical summer.

The ship was then able to complete its journey and discharge its cargo prior to docking for recommissioning repairs in Hong Kong. The repair work and prompt service attracted many favourable comments from the management of the State Shipping Commission, from the Lloyds surveyors, and from all associated with the project.

This is just one of many incidents which demonstrate the value of having available at short notice an organisation with the skills, equipment, and willingness to rise to the occasion whenever an emergency strikes one of the essential services of the State or Commonwealth. The Commonwealth quite recently took advantage of the services of the State Engineering Works for the repair of the stricken survey ship *Cape Pillar*, which was slipped at Fremantle and repaired in an expeditious and thorough manner. This was valuable employment-creating work which would otherwise have been lost to this State.

State Engineering Works has been a valuable provider of employment ever since its inception in 1913. Current employment level is about 225 at a time when there is a major recession in the engineering trade. An important aspect of this employment has been the training of a large number of apprentices to a very high level of skill. Apprentice numbers have always been high in relation to total staff, and fine tradesmen have been turned out, many of them subsequently snapped up by private

industry. In this age of increasing emphasis on higher technology, the training medium provided by State Engineering Works has a very significant impact on the availability of skilled persons to make their contribution to the advancement of the State of Western Australia.

Before deciding to bring this Bill to Parliament, the Government commissioned a prominent national firm of business consultants to study the role, structure, and prospects of State Engineering Works. The report of the consultants endorsed the views of the Government, which views are now reflected in the Bill before the House.

I will now elaborate on some of the salient features of the Bill mentioned previously. Remembering that the specific purpose of this Bill is to create a vehicle for the better management and control of a Government activity, I trust members will forgive me for dealing with these matters in some detail.

The State Engineering Works of Western Australia will be established as a body corporate on a date to be fixed by the proclamation of the Act. It will take over the functions, assets, liabilities, and staff of the existing State Implementation and Engineering Works, which will then cease to exist.

The corporation will have a board of directors consisting of five persons, including the general manager. The board will be the governing body of the corporation, but the Minister will have power to give direction on matters of policy, the furnishing of reports and information, and the functions and operations of the corporation, including its power to acquire, sell, or otherwise deal in land.

The corporation will be provided with all the powers needed to carry out its functions both inside and outside Western Australia. These include powers related to—

- the borrowing of money;
- the purchase, leasing, disposal or other dealing in real and personal property;
- trading in partnerships or profit-sharing arrangements; and
- trading on an agency basis.

These powers are either non-existent or inadequate in the State Trading Concerns Act.

The application of commercial principles to the corporation will be spelt out in the new Act. The corporation will be required to conduct its operations in accordance with sound commercial principles and to derive a profit. It will be required to pay half of its annual net profits after depreciation to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and to pay

rates and taxes. The purpose of these provisions is to place the corporation on an equal footing with private industry.

Provision is made in the Bill to safeguard the privacy of information relating to any director, officer, or other employee of the corporation and to protect the secrecy of designs, patterns, formulae, inventions, and other information in the possession of the corporation.

The Bill provides the board with power to appoint staff, and to determine their remuneration and conditions of service. It is provided, however, that the staff of the corporation shall not be subject to the Public Service Act. This provision is considered necessary because of the wide diversity of employees, some in categories not catered for in the Public Service, and because of the competitive nature of the business of the corporation with a constant need for adjustment of staff levels at short notice.

However, the rights of those few officers—there are now only three—who are members of the Public Service are protected. Also, the rights of all staff to become or to continue as subscribers under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act will be maintained.

There are also provisions in the Bill for power to engage professional and technical assistance under contract, to have work carried out by contractors, and to appoint consultants as required. These provisions are necessary to enable the corporation to have sufficient flexibility to meet the demands of an ever-changing market and to keep pace with rapid technological development.

There are quite stringent requirements in the Bill to ensure that the board is fully accountable for its conduct of the business of the corporation. Annual financial accounts will be prepared each year in a manner which meets the requirements of the Treasurer and the Auditor General. Annual estimates and reports on any aspect of the business of the corporation must be supplied to the Minister and the Treasurer. Annual reports will be prepared and then tabled in Parliament. The Bill gives full recognition to the need for greater accountability by statutory authorities.

Finally there are transitional provisions to vest in the new corporation all of the assets of the State Implement and Engineering Works, which will cease to exist. The new corporation will take over all rights, title, and responsibility for the assets and will assume responsibility for all debts, contracts, or other liabilities of the former works. These transitional provisions also protect the rights of employees to continuity of employment and accruing rights to leave and superannuation.

Provision is made for the removal of the State Implement and Engineering Works from the provisions of the State Trading Concerns Act 1916 and the repeal of section 7A of that Act. Because it now applies only to the borrowing powers of the State Implement and Engineering Works, that section will cease to have any effect. The Public Works Department has been instructed to initiate a review of the future need for the State Trading Concerns Act and the question of a major reconstruction of the financial provisions contained therein.

A great deal of thought and study has preceded the decision to bring this Bill to the House. It was started by my predecessor as Minister for Works, the member for Floreat, who recognised the inadequacies of the State Trading Concerns Act for the proper management, control, and financing of the State Implement and Engineering Works and appointed an interim management committee. The functions of this committee, which first met in May 1982, were—

- to control the works in its day-to-day operations;

- to plan for the ongoing rehabilitation of the works; and

- to develop a draft Bill for the establishment of the works as a statutory authority.

The committee has carried out these functions for more than two years. Its appointment and functions were endorsed by the present Government soon after assuming office.

Following the committee's recommendation last year, that the legislation now proposed should be introduced, the Government arranged for the independent investigation by consultants which I have previously mentioned. That investigation produced conclusions which generally supported the views of the interim management committee.

In the light of this advice, supported by my own close observation of its performance, the Government supports the retention of the State Engineering Works as a valuable contributor to the engineering capabilities of the State and a very worthwhile provider of employment of labour in the Fremantle district. It is a logical consequence that the organisation should be provided with the legal status, management structure, financial powers, and administrative authority necessary to enable it to operate efficiently and economically.

I therefore commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros.

Message: Appropriations

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed from 2 August.

MR RUSHTON (Dale) [3.14 p.m.]: I wish to participate in this debate by raising a few issues that have arisen since we last met. I have pleasure in restating my loyalty to the Crown and also in congratulating the new Governor, Professor Gordon Reid, on his appointment. I was delighted that he finally decided to reside in Government House as the majority of Western Australians wished. It is all the more pleasing when one realises that the Government set out to turn Government House into a museum and to have the Governor live at his private residence. The Government responded to the reaction made by the public. This Government only does things in response to monitored public opinion.

Mr Pearce: The Government suggested that the Governor reside at Government House.

Mr RUSHTON: I am not showing any disrespect to the Governor. I am stating that this Government set out to have the Governor live in his own home and not at Government House. Public opinion and the Governor's own good sense resulted in his living in Government House. It will not now be turned into a museum, nor will the Crown and the system we work under be denigrated.

Mr Pearce: The Government asked the Governor to do that.

Mr RUSHTON: The Minister should not complicate his situation by telling untruths. I have placed a question on the Notice Paper today relating to the meeting of the Minister's liaison committee. Members will remember that when we debated the construction of the proposed casino some time back I said that I thought it was reasonable for the Government to utilise the liaison committee after its having had discussions with the Minister and the Lord Mayor. The siting of the casino should have been carried out in consultation with the Council of the City of Perth.

The day after that debate, I think, the Government issued a Press release stating that it would use the Minister's liaison committee which was the normal way to process consideration of the siting of the casino on Burswood Island or at any other place. I thought I would test the Government and leave the matter rest for a few months to see what happened and to see how sincere the Government

was. I also wished to see how much progress would be made in the siting processes and the planning of the casino.

The Government's commercial operation has been a debacle. It called for applications for the development of the site and then made a decision to site the casino on Burswood Island without going through the planning process and without reference to the Perth City Council. The Government trapped many people who were interested in building the casino into spending large sums. This money has been wasted through the very poor administrative and commercial practices of the Government and through the way the Government has gone about its business.

In his answer to me in relation to the planning issue, the Minister said that the liaison committee had not considered the casino being placed on Burswood Island. The Minister's liaison committee was especially established in my time to deal with matters of this nature and to debate and consider sites for this type of development with the city council. The Government has not honoured the commitment which it made in the Press. My fourth question asked—

Is a major amendment to the metropolitan region scheme to be tabled in Parliament to legalise the siting of a casino on Burswood Island?

The fifth question was as follows—

If no amendment is to be tabled, what planning process is to be implemented to authorise and legalise the use of Burswood Island for a changed use for a casino?

The answer to (4) and (5) is as follows—

This will be done if and when appropriate.

That is the type of standard answer the Opposition is receiving from the Government, and it indicates that nothing is being done regarding the construction of a casino on Burswood Island. I have made my point previously that while I object to a casino being established in Western Australia I, like other people, disagree with the centralisation of such an establishment in the city. If it has to be, the casino should be sited in a commercial area which is acceptable to the City of Perth. A suitable area would be Northbridge, where a cosmopolitan atmosphere exists.

If the casino were established in Northbridge, no trouble would be experienced with transport. The whole question of transport would need to be examined if the casino were established at Burswood Island. An added problem would result

from the increased traffic flow along Riverside Drive and the Causeway.

I have advocated for years that if there is to be a casino it should be established in the area bounded by Beaufort, James, Stirling, and Bridge Streets, because the existing rail and bus services could be used. This would result in the valuable piece of land known as Burswood Island being available for other development.

This State is in its infancy as far as development is concerned and the use of Burswood Island should be considered with the same respect that is shown towards other parks, particularly Kings Park. Burswood Island should not be used to create a monument to the name of this Government. I will not spend any more time on this issue because other occasions will arise during this session when the subject will be debated.

I am pleased that the Government is continuing to plan for the rail freight service south of the river. Although there is no sign of this happening as yet, a reply I received in answer to a question I asked in this House indicates that the freight service south of the river is being completed and will take trains off the northern link; that is, Perth to Fremantle. During my time as Minister for Transport the then Government upgraded the standard gauge railway and installed the sleepers and bridges to take the narrow gauge. I am happy to learn that this project will be completed in readiness for the America's Cup challenge. I am also happy to learn that there is a continuing move afoot to provide an alternative rail vehicle which will cut costs on rail services.

I enjoyed the humour of the Minister in his answer to the following question I asked in this House—

- (4) What decisions has the Government made towards ensuring adequate suburban passenger rail cars are available to accommodate the large number of tourists and other passengers who are expected to visit Perth and Fremantle during the America's Cup defence?

Mr Pearce: All the questions and answers have been printed and circulated.

Mr RUSHTON: I am reflecting on those questions and answers because I enjoyed the Minister's humour. He replied as follows—

- (4) Receiving a question on the future of the Fremantle railway from the member for Dale is like receiving a floral wreath from Jack the Ripper.

For the member, like Jack the Ripper, it's too late to say he's sorry.

History will show that the decisions I made when I was Minister were spot on and that what this Minister referred to is not true. The Minister knows that is correct.

Another matter I wish to raise concerns the Government's intrusion of party politics into local government. This is ably demonstrated by what the Government is doing in regard to the Wanneroo Shire Council.

There has been a charade by the Minister for Local Government relating to the auditor's report on Wanneroo town planning scheme No. 5. In my opinion it is a political action which is attempting to discredit those members of the Wanneroo Shire Council who have served the area very well.

Mr Tonkin: One of the troubles with your speeches is that you over-prepare.

Mr RUSHTON: A reasonable answer to the Leader of the House who has interjected is that in his great aim to be so democratic he has set the Opposition limited time, but if members on his side of the House want an extension of time it is agreed to. That is how he acts and that is the reason we have no faith in his proposals for Parliament Week. The Minister for Electoral and Parliamentary Reform is like Dracula in the blood bank. He has a thirst for the Opposition's blood and he can see nothing but enemies when he looks at this side of the House.

Mr Tonkin: Not you, Cyril, because I look on you with affection.

Mr RUSHTON: I was referring to Wanneroo town planning scheme No. 5 which was approved during the term of the Tonkin Labor Government. During my time as Minister for Local Government and Town Planning—if my memory serves me well—there was a move, as a result of legal advice, to modify that scheme in order that certain things which were found to be inadequate when the scheme was initially approved could be corrected. It was a voluntary scheme and certain expenditures were made. The present Minister for Education's brother arrived on the scene—thus involving party politics—and moved towards discrediting those councillors who had worked so hard and effectively for the Shire of Wanneroo. The Minister for Education's brother became the shire president and he moved towards taking action against the people who were involved in that scheme to make sure previous councillors were seen to be discredited.

This whole matter should have been cleaned up a long time ago, but by prolonging it the Government has extracted every little bit of political advantage it could.

Mr Carr: I hope you will explain the allegation about our being political about it.

Mr RUSHTON: There is no reason that President Pearce should not have negotiated with the people involved in that scheme to solve the problems. However, instead of that, he took legal action.

Mr Carr: You were accusing him of being politically motivated.

Mr RUSHTON: In recent times the Government, through the media, has dramatised this case. The matter should have been put to rest at the earliest possible opportunity and should not have been allowed to continue as something the Government could not solve.

I give the Minister credit because at each step of this saga he has indicated that he recognised that the actions of councillors were taken in good faith. The Minister has said that he has acted to the maximum of his rights under the Act. That has yet to be clarified and I have no doubt that the Minister will bring forward an amendment to the Act.

Mr Carr: Can you tell me what I did that I should not have done or what I did not do that I should have?

Mr RUSHTON: The Minister should have recognised that politics had intruded into that area, as they had at Carnarvon.

Mr Carr: There has been a two-way political fight for years in that area, but that is not my responsibility.

Mr RUSHTON: The Minister's responsibility is to act in good faith towards local government and to bring the situation to a conclusion in the interests of the people in Wanneroo. For instance, I recall amendments introduced to rectify a situation that occurred during the time of the Tonkin Government. The events which took place have not been proved to be a result of administrative misdemeanour and if the Minister judges that all actions were taken in good faith, he should move to correct the situation.

Mr Carr: I have already said that the Government intends to bring legislation forward to amend section 632 so that the present ludicrous situation does not continue. It should have been put to rest months or years ago. The matter has been investigated by the Auditor General and was in his hands until three or four weeks ago when he issued the surcharge notices. You accused me of political intervention. Will you tell me what I have or have not done that is of a political nature?

Mr RUSHTON: I am implying that the Minister is the meat in the sandwich in this political

scene. If I have given the wrong impression, I will put the Minister's mind at rest: I do not think he is guilty of political intervention. However, I think that other parties have intervened and that the Minister has the responsibility of bringing the case to a conclusion.

I acclaim some of the great work carried out in Wanneroo over the years. It was a relatively small rural community and in a short period has become one of the largest shires. More should be said about its achievements rather than the occasions on which, in good faith, it did wrong. Given the huge development that has taken place, it is not surprising that an error or two may have occurred. I hope the Minister recognises that. I remember being involved in parts of its development—the industrial park at Wangara which has provided much employment in the area.

I hope the Minister will quickly introduce the amending legislation to assist those people who have been issued with notices involving huge sums of money. It appears that someone is seeking to discredit the council. If wrongdoing has occurred we have an obligation to take action, but if that is not the case it should be stated in the clearest terms that the people in question have been the victims of circumstance.

Great interest has been shown by the Government in maximising its political involvement in the Wanneroo Shire. I refer to the nodes issue which a short time ago was basically a council matter. The council, in good faith, endeavoured to give the people of that area adequate reserves. A compromise was reached that a road would be built away from the ocean frontage and part of the nodes would be used for other purposes. When people began to live in the area more interest was aroused in the issue. I understand that it is now proposed to build a marina on the land which was previously regarded as sacrosanct as far as building was concerned. Some questions need to be answered on this issue. The Government has cost the taxpayer dearly over the issue of the nodes.

I now refer to action taken by the Minister for Transport in establishing a committee of some members of Parliament and other people to look into the east-west public transport in the northern corridor. I have received information, which fell off the back of a truck and to which I should not have had access, regarding the appointment of two members of that committee who apparently do not represent the people they are supposed to. It has been put to me that these people are close friends of the members for Whitford and Joondalup. The establishment of this committee to maximise the bus routes is a political charade. For many years such work has been the function of the MTT. This

matter should be questioned by the media. I will develop this matter at a later stage because I have information that proves that some of the appointments made are doubtful and have been made for purely political reasons which should be questioned. The media should let the public know how patently artificial the Government is. I received an answer today regarding the appointment of the Minister's political adviser as chairman of this committee which will be carrying out tasks that the MTT has done regularly.

I now refer to Westrail's efforts to go further into its commercialisation. I have almost finished reading the report which indicates that Westrail's proposal is similar to that which I had planned. Deregulation was a major step towards commercialisation, and legislation will be introduced to extend the services Westrail can provide. The Opposition has not taken a position at this stage but, as one well versed in the background of Westrail's endeavours, I support the move, subject to a different timing of introduction. However, the Government has not yet given an indication of where it stands. I see no indication of the Government's having made a commitment, or having examined or supported the move towards commercialisation. The previous Government took some steps in this direction which had proved successful. Westrail has now produced an outline of its proposal and some of the results to be achieved by its introduction.

I suggest that Westrail should be given complete autonomy in moving towards commercialisation over a period, and subject to priority of certain changes. It is in a competitive field and surely cannot expect to have certain freedoms relating to competition when it has the advantage of regulation to its own mode. For that reason thought should be given to establishing a corporate board comprising commercial people to preside over the commissioner and his staff rather than the Treasury doing so. It should be ascertained whether Westrail can move to a break-even position without the load of the various social services it provides to the community.

All those things were in the course of being done, and it should not be too difficult to take the next step. But one cannot move to a position of complete freedom, and compete with commercial opposition when regulations are retained to administer Westrail service. For instance a time could come when all the various freights are deregulated. By that time there could be a corporate board to make sure Westrail traded commercially. Westrail could then have complete freedom, and not be propped up by Treasury.

Those decisions must be made this year prior to the Government introducing its legislation. From my reading of the report, I support these moves, but the timing is something I challenge, and we will have the opportunity to do that when the legislation comes before the House.

I would like to touch on two or three local issues. One is the siting of various buildings of the Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital. The site is possibly the best in the metropolitan area, or in Western Australia for that matter. It has magnificent views and very pleasant flora for the enjoyment of patients and staff. At present building is being done in a higgledy-piggledy manner. I have drawn this to the attention of the Minister so that every effort can be made to plan properly. I support very strongly the establishment of permanent-care facilities in this area, and I hope provision will be made for this in the Budget this year.

My other question relates to the Byford trotting complex. Legislation is to come before the House shortly. What is intended for the running of meetings on that complex? The trotting horses in the country meetings come in the main from Byford. It is only reasonable that there should be a meeting or two at Byford every year, because they have a first-class track, very good facilities, and it is their home.

People should have the right to perform in their own district without having to go to other areas. This is the basis upon which this complex was established.

The question of a high school being established in the Byford-Mundijong area is very sad. This relates to the other participation of the Minister, when he attended a public meeting. I suppose through inexperience—or perhaps it was political astuteness—he made a statement to the public meeting that the people could have a choice of sites for a high school. The previous Government's intention was that a district high school would have been started next year for Mundijong—something which I fully support—but this has now been lost due to the change of Government.

Mr Pearce: That is inaccurate, because your Government had no such intention.

Mr RUSHTON: I will continue without answering the Minister's interjection. The natural place for a high school in that area is Byford. It is misleading for the Minister to say to the public, "I will come and consult with you and you will have a choice".

Mr Pearce: I did.

Mr RUSHTON: The Minister would have to be off his head to say that. The population projec-

tions are obvious. There will be a build-up of people in the Byford area, and that is the natural place to establish a senior high school. So the Minister is misleading the people. He will have to answer for that, and he will not be able to get away with it. One can talk politics for only so long, but it catches up in the end, and the Minister will have to answer for this in due course.

The recent incidents regarding the Harding River Dam and the Mt. Anderson Station lease will have to be followed up. I expect an answer from the Minister for Lands and Surveys very shortly, and I intend to ask him a question during question time about Mt. Anderson Station. I led a deputation yesterday which had the opportunity to prove beyond doubt that the commercial proposal with regard to the station went through all its correct stages, such as calling for tenders, with Government approval, and was now being held up for the reason that the Aborigines were being given consideration beyond what was reasonable. A Cabinet meeting would have discussed this matter yesterday. I will ask the Minister questions this evening in order to clarify the situation. The issue will not go away, because what is being done is politically motivated.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth) [3.48 p.m.]: The matter I want to touch on is not a controversial one. It concerns the need in the community to establish facilities which will enable the young unemployed in particular to make effective use of their leisure time. This could be achieved relatively easily by providing a series of very accessible crash courses in basic skills which would stand them in good stead throughout their lives.

The situation as far as the unemployed are concerned is, of course, very serious. Grim reports have been published recently in respect of the unemployed. As late as 23 July 1984 an item appeared in the *Daily News* headed "March jobless nearly 1.5 m"—referring, of course, to the situation in Australia as a whole. The item reads—

Almost 1.5 million people wanted to work in March but were either unemployed or only marginally attached to the labour force.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics' latest survey of people not in the labour force shows that 750,000 people who did not show up in the March unemployment statistics wanted to work.

In March Australia's official unemployed totalled 701,000. The unemployed are classified as people who were actively looking for work and available to start a job in the week of the survey.

People who wanted to work, but who were not included in the unemployed because they were not available to start in the survey week, are classified by the bureau as having marginal attachment to the labour force. There were 724,300 in this category.

That indicates the number of unemployed in Australia, including those who are ready and available to work and those who want to work.

About the same time a further article appeared in the same newspaper titled "Jobless up but only on paper". That article refers to seasonally adjusted figures which indicate that 9.3 per cent of the work force of Australia was out of work. Obviously that situation will continue. Recently the R & I Bank warned it was not realistic to expect the number of unemployed to decrease. The article which referred to the report issued by that bank read, in part, as follows—

Australia's 700 000 unemployed face a bleak future, warns the Rural and Industries Bank.

I will not continue to quote from that source, because it contains the sorts of warnings which we read virtually daily in the newspapers throughout Australia.

The fact that we have a large percentage of unemployed people is not the fault of a particular Government; rather it is due almost entirely, firstly, to better management practices adopted in this country and, secondly, to the widespread use of labour-saving technology. In the past other factors have had a bearing on our rate of unemployment—for example, the relatively recent drought which affected almost the whole of Australia. However, the two main factors which have caused unemployment are the use of better management practices and labour-saving technology.

The unfortunate aspect is that this situation is unlikely to improve, simply because Australia has reached an advanced stage in labour-saving technology and better management practices. Nor can we gain any solace from what is happening overseas. For instance, Japan's current population is 120 million. The Japanese are extremely resourceful and intelligent; they have a tremendous amount of initiative, and have access to the ultimate in modern technology.

The population of South Korea is 50 million. Once again it is a nation of resourceful, industrious, intelligent people who have access to the latest technology. The Americans are pouring finance into Korea and, as a consequence, the Koreans are in a position to engage in the manufacture of an extraordinarily wide range of articles which are exported throughout the world. The

same situation applies in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Recently I was in Taipei and I was tempted to bring home the yellow pages telephone book, because it was crammed with information about businesses manufacturing everything from bubblegum to motor cars. There was not one item of machinery one could not get in Taipei, if one were involved in manufacturing. I did not bring home that book, firstly, because it was very heavy and, secondly, because it cost \$50. Those aspects deterred me, particularly when it is possible to peruse the yellow pages of the Taipei telephone book at the GPO in Perth. I was struck by some of the advertisements in that book. They were to the effect, "If you want to manufacture bubblegum, we have the machines" or "If you want to go into the heavy haulage manufacturing business, we can supply the machines" and so it went on.

When one looks at these Asian countries and bears in mind the resourcefulness of the people, their intelligence, and the fact that they have access to the very latest technology, one realises the difficulties this country will face in endeavouring to make an impact on the manufacturing area.

Therefore, it is imperative that, in Australia, we accept that, possibly, unemployment will be with us *ad infinitum*; so we must think in terms of re-educating people for leisure. Over the last few years educational courses available in this country have changed rather dramatically. At one stage in Australia education was almost exclusively orientated towards the work ethic. That situation has changed to some extent. Now we place much greater emphasis on education as a means of achieving self-knowledge and personal development and to strengthen the self-image. We use education to develop creativity and it teaches us how to use our time effectively. At times individuals in our community are critical of the new course education has taken, but without question as time goes on we must place even greater emphasis on educating for leisure.

For that reason, I take the opportunity in this debate to emphasise the need to supply the community with facilities which will enable our young unemployed to make effective use of their leisure time.

A tremendous number of young people in the community are interested in motor vehicles, which are an indispensable part of modern life. Young people will use motor vehicles throughout their lives. Therefore, it is extraordinary that so few young people are familiar with the workings of the internal combustion engine, electrical systems,

transmissions, braking systems, and the like of motor cars.

I suggest that, in order to overcome this lack of knowledge, relatively short, two or three-day, crash courses in motor vehicles, their parts, and operation should be conducted. Such courses would give young people an insight into this area, an insight which would stand them in good stead throughout the remainder of their lives.

A tremendous number of young people in the community do not have the opportunity to learn these sorts of skills. For instance, the children of supporting mothers are frequently at a great disadvantage when compared with other children who are part of a family, some members of which are constantly tinkering with cars. Children from such families grow up with a knowledge of motor vehicles whereas others—for example, children of supporting mothers—may not have that opportunity.

During World War I and World War II it was necessary to train large numbers of people in a relatively short time in various aspects of warfare, particularly in the use of weapons. A very practical method to do this was by means of the bullring system. Doubtless that system dates back over the centuries, because principles of warfare do not change and, similarly, methods of training troops do not change. Therefore, the bullring system of training would have been used in Roman times and long before that.

Simply, it would mean people would go to a place such as at Blackboy or Northam where an area could be selected with a number of trees under which instruction could be undertaken. The troops to be trained would have an hour at each instruction point, and this would go on for days or weeks. At the first instruction point they might have someone with a machine gun. The small groups would move to that point where they would hear a talk on the Bren gun and learn how to pull it down and reassemble it and become familiar with it in that way. They would then move on to another tree a hundred yards away at which point an instructor with, say, a Mills hand grenade, would give them a talk on the grenade. They would pull it to pieces and become familiar with it, and an hour later they would move to another tree where they would sit down in the sunlight in pleasant circumstances and have a talk on a Thompson submachine gun and so it would go on.

That was why it was termed a bullring system. It was not necessary to have costly buildings. It was a relatively simple, practical method of imparting knowledge. That bullring system could

be employed equally well for training people in those basic skills to which I have referred.

A venue in which to teach those skills could be the Claremont showgrounds where there are a number of buildings which would be eminently suitable. In one building we could have a course of instruction points relating to automobiles. One section might deal with the internal combustion system, another with the automotive electrical system, another with the carburettor system, and another with automobile transmissions. Similarly, other pavilions could be used for imparting knowledge about televisions, computers, etc.

In our community there are a huge number of tradesmen who have left the work force or are retired who would be prepared to come along and instruct in an honorary capacity at an educational centre of the type to which I have referred. They might put in only one day a week, but they would be prepared to do it.

I happen to be the President of the Leisure Time Centre in South Perth. We have 80 volunteers at that centre who distribute over 27 000 meals on wheels each year. It is extraordinary that we have 80 volunteers prepared to go out driving and distributing 27 000-odd meals a year. Like those volunteers, we could get retired tradesmen to make themselves available one day a week or fortnight to come to a place like the showgrounds and be prepared to instruct; so it would not necessarily be a costly exercise at all.

As a means of inducing young people to attend the showgrounds to undertake such training, it would be a relatively simple matter to give them free passes on the bus or rail system; others would find their own transport to the showground. Many young people in the community are not prepared to enrol for extended courses in the conventional education system; they are not prepared to go along to a technical college and spend a year studying mechanical engineering or some other course. Because of their keen interest in, for example, automobiles, those young people would be prepared to go to the showground and join a crash course which might last from two days to five days. This could possibly lead to their undertaking an advanced course or entering a trade.

A tremendous number of young people in our community are drawing unemployment benefits, and many of them could be using their time much more profitably. This would not impinge on the existing technical educational system. Basic skills could be imparted and serve to be an introduction to a trade. Young people who had undertaken a crash course in some aspect of automotive engineering might decide to continue with it as a trade.

They could then go to a technical college or seek an apprenticeship. It could serve to introduce young people to the various trades and other skills. I am suggesting this to the Minister for that reason.

Members received a letter yesterday, written by the Director of the Community Employment Initiatives Unit. That is a section of the Department of Employment Training. This is something which I feel could be handled by a unit of that kind because, up to a point, it would serve as an introduction to various forms of employment.

When I was the Minister for Labour and Industry, I made some approaches to the Royal Agricultural Society along these lines and at that stage we were told we could certainly make use of the showgrounds for that purpose. I made quite a lot of inquiries of retired tradesmen and they indicated they would welcome the opportunity of going along and imparting their knowledge one day a week or fortnight. It is quite obvious that if a Government department got behind something like this it could make a success of it and fulfil a very real need in the community. In that way a facility would be provided to enable the young and unemployed to make more effective use of their leisure time.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [4.09 p.m.]: Firstly, I congratulate the Government on the man it has chosen to fill the role of Governor in this State. I think it made an admirable choice. He is a man I feel will fill the role to the satisfaction of Western Australia, and I am sure he will enhance the prestige and dignity of the office of Governor. I wish the new Governor and his wife all the best in their new role in this State.

In his speech to Parliament the Governor indicated that this House would be handling a whole range of legislation, and would be busy doing so. That is how it should be. Of course the Government will have to tread carefully in some areas. I suggest the State would gain if it were to take notice of the Opposition, the National Party and the feelings of the people of this State. I am referring to land rights, grain freight, FID tax, and State rights with regard to Federal issues.

I believe the Government is taking notice already of public concern with regard to land rights. I wonder whether the application for sacred sites on the Harding River Dam was something of a put-up proposition. I wonder whether the Aborigines were encouraged to make the application so that it could be considered by the Federal Government. The State Government was able to act firmly and positively on that matter to protect the State's interests. The Federal Government was

able to say "Nay" to the Aboriginal people. That indicates the State Government has been prepared to act in the interests of the people of this State. However I am afraid that I have a suspicion that it might have been a put-up job, to allay the mounting fears of the people in this State with regard to land rights.

I would like to address a few congratulatory remarks to the Minister, the Director of Fisheries, and also the tuna task force for the capable way they handled the tuna problem which threatened a serious economic impact on the fishermen in Albany and the industry along the south coast. It was recognised that resource management was necessary to maintain a sustainable yield. The IAC report sent shudders through everyone connected with the fishing industry along the south coast; however agreement has been reached and the Minister has announced that, although one or two will be disadvantaged, the people in the area will end up with more than they hoped for.

Mr Watt: Than was hoped for?

Mr STEPHENS: I think in some cases they have ended up with more than was hoped for. Some certainly wanted more than they thought they would get.

Mr Watt: Certainly more than they recommended.

Mr STEPHENS: I know that the fishermen and the people involved in the area do acknowledge the good work that has been done, and I am only too happy to give recognition where it is due to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife and the Director of Fisheries, as well as those involved in the tuna task force.

I would like to congratulate also the Minister for Transport on one issue. I noticed it was reported in the weekend papers that he is seeking a conference to upgrade the *Indian Pacific*. He is certainly on the right line there. I travelled recently on the *Indian Pacific*. It is an enjoyable way to travel, but there is a need for improvement. Quite apart from the suggestions the Minister for Transport made with regard to stops along the route, the service on the train needs improvement. The brochures refer to piped music, but I did not hear it. A television set has been put in the lounge car, but has been placed at eye level which makes it difficult to view. With a little foresight it could have been mounted so that irrespective of where a person stood or sat, he could see it readily. Some attention should be given to the sound as well, because at times it was rather difficult to hear.

Mr Grill: The whole thing needs to be looked at.

Mr STEPHENS: The idea of television and entertainment on the train is good, but it has to be

carried out properly. I congratulate the Minister on his initiative in seeking to discuss and improve the service.

I move to the matter of local government. Of course we all realise that local government is an important element in the running of the State and that it is the fundamental responsibility of the State. I am aware that during the time of the Whitlam Government a concerted effort was made to more or less do away with State Governments in favour of regional governments. The Government of that time certainly pursued that policy.

I read recently a speech made by the present Prime Minister on 9 May 1984 at the National Seminar of the Institute of Municipal Management in Canberra. His speech indicated that the Federal Labor Government is still interested in taking over local government. I shall quote briefly four sections from that speech. The first states—

The Government has a strong commitment to raising the status and strengthening the capacity of Local Government. Our aim is a genuine partnership of the Commonwealth, States and Local Government.

Further on he said—

My Government established the first Ministry for Local Government last year and appointed one of its most experienced Ministers to lead it. That represented an historic step forward for Local Government.

With the States we aim to secure recognition for Local Government as an essential part of the Australian Federal system.

I ask members to note the words "an essential part of the Australian Federal system". Further on he adds—

It is with this objective in mind that the Federal Government will be working for a durable strengthening of Local Government capacity.

And further—

Another major step has been the formation of a sub-committee of the Australian Constitutional Convention to work on a co-operative approach to the constitutional recognition of Local Government. This provides a valuable opportunity for a reappraisal of the place of Local Government in the Australian governmental system.

It is quite obvious from those quotes that the Federal Government still has its eyes on the takeover of local government. It would be an easy matter, once the Constitution was changed, for the Federal Government to starve all States of finance and

direct it through local or regional Government so it could then virtually bypass any constitutional change and relegate the States to a lower status than they have at the moment.

We must be conscious always of Labor policy in respect of this matter and be on our guard to maintain the strength of local government. It is important also that we maintain the autonomy of local government, and to do this we must ensure that local government is working effectively and efficiently.

Those are my observations on the matter. Perhaps Parliament should be looking at instituting a parliamentary standing committee to which members of local government could refer such matters which concern them personally and which they do not appear to be able to rectify within council. I will elaborate on that. We were made aware recently of a problem within the Wanneroo Shire Council. By way of a Press statement the Minister has indicated that the Government will introduce legislation into Parliament to retrospectively rectify the problem facing that council.

On television a few days ago, a Mr K. Pearce indicated a degree of corruption could exist there, and that if he were given the protection afforded to members of Parliament he would be prepared to say more. We all know the only protection he could get in that way would be with a parliamentary Select Committee or a Royal Commission. I do not think it is desirable to appoint Select Committees or Royal Commissions every time such a problem arises.

This is where a parliamentary standing committee on local government could be useful because when problems or areas of concern arise, people could come to the committee and be given protection so that the matter could be investigated.

I turn now to a matter closer to home and refer to a situation in the Albany Town Council. It could be argued that I am not the member for Albany, and that is correct. However, I am a ratepayer in Albany and I am concerned at what goes on in the Albany council. I am also a ratepayer in the adjoining local government area, the Shire of Albany, and an inter-relationship exists between the two; so the efficiency and effectiveness of one may have a bearing on the other.

I was approached recently by several people in Albany. They gave me a copy of a draft of a letter they had planned to send, but instead they came to see me. I would like to read the House a couple of quotes from the letter. The first is as follows—

Re: Affairs of the Town of Albany.

We have been advised of the following allegations outlined below relating to the actions of the Town of Albany between 1979 and 1984.

Further on it states—

We request either legal or parliamentary protection to enable us to bring forward this information for examination by an independent authority to determine whether or not any legal proceedings should be instigated against the Council as a whole or particular individuals associated with Council.

The final paragraph states—

We trust you appreciate the delicate position we are in—if we do nothing we are judged guilty by complicity by the persons making the allegations, if we make the allegations without due care we could be liable to damages claims from possibly innocent parties.

I think all members will agree that in such a situation councillors are in a very invidious position. It is incumbent on us as legislators to consider that position. I will outline briefly the allegations. The first is as follows—

Council obtained a legal opinion and acted in direct contradiction to the advice obtained, causing injury to a party directly affected.

I have all the documentation here, but I am deliberately not going to quote from it. I will briefly paraphrase the situation. I was given all the documentation, but my understanding is that if I quote from it somebody might ask me to table it. The situation is that advice was given by a town solicitor, and that was not followed in the communication that went to this party.

The second allegation states—

Information provided to council's solicitors and acted upon on council's behalf was factually wrong, causing undue concern to a party directly affected.

This relates to a letter that the party received from the town council's solicitors pointing out that he was not eligible for nomination for council because he had a pecuniary interest by virtue of an agreement with the town council. That was one point; the other was that he was not eligible because of non-payment of rates which were six months in arrears. The letter from the solicitor was dated 19 April 1983. The amount of rates outstanding was \$3 718.56. I have a photostat copy of a cheque No. 580551, dated 5 April 1983, which has been cleared by the bank and carries the Town of Albany stamp.

Mr Watt: For the full amount?

Mr STEPHENS: Yes. I also have a photostat which I am told is a copy of the man's bank statement, and on 7 April 1983 in that statement, as a debit, appears cheque No. 580551 for the amount of \$3 718.56. So, *prima facie*, it would appear the cheque was paid to the council—bearing in mind it has the Town of Albany stamp on it—and was cleared, and appears on the bank statement on 7 April 1983. I am further told that the council's records show that four rate receipts totalling \$3 718.56 were entered in the council ledger on 26 April 1983.

This poses the question as to why the lawyer wrote such a letter on 19 April if the cheque was paid over to the council on 5 April, banked on 7 April, and the receipts entered on 26 April, which is 19 days later.

The third allegation states—

Advice given by representatives of council on council's behalf was unjustified and potentially damaging to the third party.

This refers to a couple of statements, one signed, in which a person said he was advised, "do not pay rent, he is nearly out of money, and the sooner he goes under the better off we will both be". The other statement refers to the fact that a party was interested in leasing the ground floor of a premises, and that party was given what appears to be incorrect information.

The fourth allegation states—

Information has been withheld from council which may have caused financial loss to a party directly affected by council's resolution which would not otherwise have been made had the information been placed before council at that time.

This refers to missing plans and advice supposedly from the council officer which was not passed on to the councillors. I am not in a position to say that the information is correct. I am in a position to say, from the information and documents given to me, that it appears to be correct, and I feel one person at least—if it is correct—has been victimised, and the matter should be investigated.

That is all I am asking—that the matter be investigated by an independent authority. That is why I raise the suggestion of a parliamentary standing committee. At present, when problems arise which councils seem unable to resolve, in the main they write to the Minister. I am not reflecting on the Minister when I say that the system then is that he refers it to his department and in many instances the department no doubt refers it back to the council concerned. That is very much like an appeal from Caesar to Caesar.

Instead of councillors writing to the Minister when they find themselves in situations of this kind, a mechanism should be established whereby they can go directly to a parliamentary standing committee. That committee would give councillors privilege, but I am not suggesting the councillors, within Council meetings, should be given absolute privilege. I know that sometimes the reason for absolute privilege in this House is questioned, but it is essential that we have it, provided it is not abused.

I would be loath to give councils absolute privilege when councillors find themselves in a situation where they may appear to need it. However, a compromise would be for the Parliament to set up a parliamentary standing committee in order that councillors who came before it could have absolute privilege, and the case could be investigated without any fanfare. When questions of this nature arise a great deal of heartburn and anxiety is caused because the councillor concerned must go to the Minister or his local member, who decides whether to go through the formality of raising the matter in Parliament and to move for a Select Committee to investigate the case.

I hope the Government will give due consideration to implementing a scheme along the lines I have suggested. If it does not, at a later stage I will give consideration to taking the necessary action. I realise the prospect of success would be greater if the Government were to introduce it.

There is a need for the appointment of a parliamentary standing committee and the councils of the Shire of Wanneroo and the Shire of Albany—the two examples I have cited—indicate there is a need for councillors to have more protection. I would be happy if the Government adopted a procedure along the lines I have suggested.

The Governor, in his speech to this Parliament, made reference to agriculture and said—

Western Australia's agricultural sector continues to contribute strongly to the State's economy and the Department of Agriculture forecasts that in 1984/85 production could be as high as \$2 270 million.

For the sake of the farming community I hope that it is not only that high, but also that it exceeds that figure. However, that is only part of the problem.

I refer to a graph which appeared in the *National Farmer* on 28 July and which indicates a serious problem that is facing the farming community in Australia today, and this naturally includes Western Australia. The graph shows that in 1975-76 the gross value of rural production in Australia was \$6 154 million and the costs in-

curred in obtaining that value were \$3 886 million, of which the community's share was \$2 268 million. Nine years later the gross value of rural production has risen to \$14 550 million and the farming community's share at the costs in obtaining that income has risen to \$11 100 million. The farming community receives \$3 450 million.

In other words, in the last nine years the farmers' share has dropped from 37 per cent to 24 per cent. One does not need to be an expert to know that that is reflected very seriously in the profitability of farmers in Western Australia and Australia generally.

I am aware of the Government's move in regard to the Rural Hardship Select Committee. It is a step in the right direction, but I am sure that many of the findings from that committee are facts that we have known for years. What we are looking for is a solution to the problem.

Mr Gordon Hill: Have you made a submission to that committee?

Mr STEPHENS: No, I have not, and there are reasons for that.

Possibly the main solution, in order to overcome the problems which beset the farming community, lies with the Federal Government rather than the State Government. Solutions to date have been ineffective. The farming community has been innovative and has followed the "get big or get out" syndrome and has amalgamated. There is very little more it can do to help itself. The general feeling is that for years the primary industry—mining and agriculture—has supported this nation and the manufacturing sector, which has been protected by tariffs. The original concept of tariffs is quite acceptable as it was to assist industry to establish and then be phased out. The original concept was to phase out tariffs, but it has not worked that way. Tariffs have been with us for many years. Mr McEwan, who was a Federal member and leader of the Country Party for many years, promoted tariffs more than anyone else. Tariffs made the manufacturing industry complacent because with all the industrial awards that were imposed by union demands, it found it easier to give in and to seek the protection of increased tariffs to cover the costs. I do not believe we can permit that to continue.

The farming community is amazed with the recent redundancy payment award that has been handed down to industry. It is another cost which will have to be borne by the industry and which will have to be recouped. It means that cost will, undoubtedly, be met by primary industry because

it cannot pass it on. It is high time the problem of tariffs was tackled.

It is rather ironic that while the Government is happy to pursue the policy of tariff protection for secondary industries, a policy which undoubtedly increases costs to the farming community, the same Government is not prepared to give agricultural industries any protection from overseas competition. I quote from the *Western Farmer and Grazier* dated 2 August under the heading "Import barriers ruled out" as follows—

CANBERRA: Primary Industry Minister John Kerin has ruled out substantial protection for Australia's domestic agricultural markets.

Speaking in Townsville at the beginning of the Australian Agricultural Council, Mr Kerin said any moves to protect the domestic market further from import competition would severely diminish Australia's credibility when trying to free up international markets.

That may be true, but it places the farming and primary industry sectors in a difficult situation. They have to bear the costs which are considerably higher by virtue of tariff protection and which, therefore, reduce Australia's competitiveness, and now the Government is apparently going to allow into the country primary products which are produced on a cheaper market to compete with Australia's domestic market, a market where costs have been forced up by factors outside the farmer's control. It is a matter which will need the attention of this Government and, more particularly, the attention of the Federal Government.

I did at one stage support the concept of a 30-minute time limit for speeches in the Address-in-Reply debate, but on this occasion time has prevented me from mentioning an interesting topic; that is, the proposed Royal Commission into ways of handling deadlocks between the two Houses of Parliament.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

JUSTICES AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 April.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [4.40 p.m.]: This Bill comes from the Legislative Council where much more learned people than myself have dealt with the subject. As in the other place, the Opposition here has nothing against the measure.

The Bill deals with the suspension of drivers' licences for traffic offences by Courts of Petty

Sessions. There is provision for appeal by way of an order *nisi* to review. In these cases the Justices Act, section 201(2), provides for the stay of execution. If such an order *nisi* is granted, the suspension of the licence becomes void. Finally, if the Supreme Court rules against the appeal, the balance of the suspension becomes effective against the convicted person.

The Bill simply legalises that procedure by the Police Department which was apparently in some doubt. I think that is fair from the point of view of everyone involved; consequently the Opposition supports this measure.

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Transport) [4.42 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for supporting this Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Grill (Minister for Transport), and passed.

PAROLE ORDERS (TRANSFER) BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 April.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [4.45 p.m.]: The provisions of this Bill have been agreed by all States and the Northern Territory via the Attorneys' General normal meetings. It simply provides that when a parolee transfers from one State to another the receiving State looks after him, and it provides the conditions of the parole.

This is a reasonably fair arrangement which enables those convicted criminals who have served their punishment to return to the States where they are domiciled and where their families might be. Because of the conditions of the parole, once they have left the gaol or whatever institution it might be, they do not have to remain in a strange State.

The question of costs has arisen. Apparently the parolees are considered either to work, or to receive unemployment benefits or any other social service benefits, so the costs of the actual transfer are met by the parolees themselves.

The Opposition supports the Bill.

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Transport) [4.48 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for supporting this Bill. When the Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Bill was introduced last year a few questions remained unanswered and there were a few gaps to be filled in. This Bill does in fact fill in one of those gaps. I am pleased that the Opposition sees fit to support it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Grill (Minister for Transport), and passed.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 11 April.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [4.51 p.m.]: The Opposition generally supports the Bill, which was initiated by the previous Attorney General (Hon. Ian Medcalf), and even the drafting was commissioned by him. By and large the measure is based on the Law Reform Commission's report on project No. 66.

As Hon. Ian Medcalf reminded Parliament in the Legislative Council, the origin of this measure is Lord Campbell's Act of 1846, an Act which enabled relief for dependants by way of civil action when a breadwinner was killed or died as a result of a third person's wilful act, default, or neglect.

In a comparatively short time, Lord Campbell's Act was adopted in all British colonies which, considering the means of transport and communications in the middle of last century, speaks very complimentarily of the organisation of the British Empire.

It became law in Western Australia—as the Minister representing the Attorney General said—in 1849. The Act, now known as the Fatal Accidents Act, allowed a specific circle of dependants to take action where the deceased would have had a right to take such action. It limited, however, the scope of action to recover economic and material loss. The damages are measured by the annual income or financial loss suffered by the dependants who are entitled to claim.

The range of the dependants who are entitled to take action before this amendment is accepted and becomes law has been widened from time to time as the Act was replaced and then later amended.

The purpose of the present Bill is again to widen the scope of persons according to the changing circumstances and views of society. In other words, a person who in past times—such as an illegitimate child—attracted only an *ex gratia* payment, now has a legal entitlement. This can be perfectly logically explained by the factual statement that the people as a rule, and the majority of them, are supporting such relationships and Parliament is therefore legalising a situation which is the existing trend.

Without opposing the Bill, it might be worthwhile perhaps to give some thought to the question of whether this procedure is really the right one. It definitely would not have been considered the right procedure and would not have been adopted 100 or even 50 years ago, for in the past, society and its leaders firmly believed in absolute rights and wrongs from a firm moral point of view. They did not measure the rules pertaining to society according to society's vogues, customs, or whims of the day, but according to the moral rules usually given by a religious belief.

When permissiveness overflowed and proliferated in the biblical times, such as with the Israelis, the law was not changed to follow the tendency of that permissiveness. It was the permissiveness which was rejected by yet stronger laws against it. I think no-one would know that better than the Attorney General. That was also the adopted procedure in Muslim countries. It was definitely the adopted procedure during the times when the principles of Christianity really prevailed in Government, whatever form of Government it was. From what one can deduce, it was also the procedure adopted by the Chinese, ever since Confucius qualified the rules of the reigning bureaucracy.

There is no doubt about it that *de facto* relationships and illegitimacy are accepted by the majority of today's society. My question is really one of whether we accept it as being right or do we accept it only because it is practised by some and not condemned by most, but is still considered to be wrong. I can assure members that this is not only a theoretical question, but also something of not inconsiderable importance, particularly in the historical context.

Will future historians come to the conclusion about our times that we really had abandoned Christian principles and paid only cynical and hypocritical lip service to Christian, Jewish, or

Muslim beliefs? These religions have given a definition of what is right and what is wrong, irrespective of the percentage of society following the ethical rules of absolute right.

If my question is to be dismissed by most as an idle philosophical exercise—as I think it undoubtedly will—I must remind people that we can take this attitude—that it is possible to follow by legislation a community view whether it is right or wrong—to the extreme, which is what we do now, in my humble view.

For instance, because homosexual activities are talked about much more today than they were—without there necessarily being more homosexuality—we, or at least some of us, seem to be endeavouring to legalise these activities. The next logical step then ought to be to legalise bank hold-ups because they are proliferating and more and more people are indulging in this exercise. This argument could be called stupid, but in reality it only highlights the necessity to question whether morally wrong things should be made legal just because more and more people indulge in them and society remains silent in its condemnation.

But I have digressed somewhat from the subject. The present scope of dependants who can claim include descendants and ancestors, whether natural or adopted, and this includes a child, a stepchild, a grandchild, a parent, a step-parent and a grandparent. The extension is being made by deleting the definition of the above-mentioned dependants and substituting a definition of relatives who in turn are described in a new second schedule proposed to be added to the Act. This schedule would first include brothers and sisters, and then persons who behave like a parent—the term used is *in loco parentis*—to the deceased; or conversely it would include people who behave like a child to him or her.

It further extends to include a divorced or separated spouse, and to the *de facto* or past *de facto* spouse if a child was born from that relationship or if the relationship lasted bona fide for at least three years.

Additionally, the Bill provides for adopted and illegitimate persons to be treated as legitimate children in terms of their adoptive parents, their mother, and reputed father. It provides for an unborn child to be treated as if he or she were alive at the time of the fatal accident. Finally, it allows any of these specified dependants to join an already commenced action if the court so decides.

As far as claims are concerned, the court must be rather circumspect when assessing the damages. Possibilities such as ill-health or unemploy-

ment on the part of the claimant and her chances of remarrying must be considered. However, the Statute excludes the court considering payments from social insurance, pensions, and superannuation.

One argument occurred in the Legislative Council between the Attorney General and his learned opponent and predecessor. It was in connection with the definition of the term "*de facto*" in the proposed second schedule. The argument did not relate to what the definition should express; rather it related to whether it was expressed in the best way, particularly as it omitted the recommended definition by the Law Reform Commission.

The detailed, very well-reasoned argument put forward during the Committee stage in the Legislative Council is a sufficient source from which any court may ascertain Parliament's intention which, according to the Interpretation Act proclaimed recently, it must do. According to both the Attorney General and the Opposition spokesman (Hon. Ian Medcalf), the intention of Parliament is that a non-spouse, domestic relationship such as that of a housekeeper or that between a homosexual couple, should not be considered as a *de facto* relationship for the purpose of the Bill.

I support the motion.

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Transport) [5.02 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for its general support of the Bill.

I will not enter into a philosophical discussion with the learned member for Floreat with respect to his interpretation of the *Bible* and the absolute rights and wrongs of society. However, I indicate that, in respect of the technical matter to which he referred, I have already placed on the Notice Paper an amendment which should satisfy him.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mrs Henderson) in the Chair; Mr Grill (Minister for Transport) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Schedule 2 added—

MR GRILL: I move an amendment—

Page 5—Insert after the words "lived with the deceased person" where they occur in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (h) of Schedule 2 the words "as husband or wife of the deceased".

The member for Floreat has made clear already the reason this amendment is necessary. The

Government and the Opposition in the other place have agreed to clarify this clause in the schedule.

MR MENSAROS: We accept the amendment; indeed, it was recommended by Hon. Ian Medcalf, and the Attorney General undertook to see whether it was necessary. Apparently it was.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 17 April.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [5.08 p.m.]: The Opposition accepts this Bill. It has been argued at length previously in the Legislative Council and I do not wish to reiterate what was said there, because the Bill was accepted in that place. Therefore, we accept it here.

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Transport) [5.09 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for its support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Grill (Minister for Transport), and passed.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 29 May.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [5.12 p.m.]: Certain technicalities of this Bill are not as simple as previous Bills. That does not mean, however, that the Opposition objects to it; in fact, we support the principle of the legislation, which was introduced by us when we were in Government. Indeed, those principles were the subject of added terms of reference inserted by the previous Attorney General to the Brinsden committee, which became the Clarkson committee.

The principle of the Bill is not only acceptable, but also is excellent. It should be extended not only to legal practitioners but also to all pro-

fessions and occupations, particularly to those which require registration and those which use a registration board in lieu of this legislation.

The principle is that legal practitioners should be indemnified against damages which may occur to their clients, or a third person, to whom the legal practitioner is liable and is not in a position to pay.

Those members who may have listened to my humble utterances in this place would know that I have always been opposed to the registration of various trades and occupations, because I never thought that the registration procedure, as claimed, would protect the public. I felt it would create another QANGO, and protect only the ones who are "in" against newcomers to the occupation.

I could never understand—and I am not being political—the reason that estate agents had to be registered, and as a condition of that registration process they should learn English Literature. I thought the old estate agents such as Robinson Bros. and Mr Shellabear, who did not learn English Literature, were more reliable than some of the present estate agents who have fulfilled all of these condidtions.

Indemnity insurance is to protect the public in every field—not only with lawyers—and is not much dearer than the combined cost of regis-

tration fees to keep up the boards and various other procedures.

I accept that a requirement for proper qualifications is necessary in all professions and trades. That is quite correct where it is appropriate, but I do not think that is so in respect of registration.

Some difficulties have arisen in the implementation of this Statute, and that is understandable, and hence regulations in this case are much more important to an understanding of what the legislation wants to do in practice than is the enabling Bill with which we are dealing. This prompted me to ask the Minister representing the Attorney General—and I think the question will appear on the next Notice Paper—what has happened to the regulations? Have they been drafted?

Leave to Continue Speech

I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage of the sitting.

Leave granted.

Debate thus adjourned.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

House adjourned at 6.00 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

EDUCATION: TERTIARY

Western Australian College of Advanced Education

2. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Would he inform the Parliament—

- (a) how many Western Australian College of Advanced Education appointments were made in December 1983 as a result of the open advertisements for academic positions;
- (b) how many offers of such Western Australian College of Advanced Education appointments contained a specific role description, duty statement, and salary level;
- (c) the level of appointment, salary, qualifications, and teacher education experience for each successful applicant of the positions above;
- (d) what contract/tenure appointments have been made since December 1983; and
- (e) what selection procedures were held for these additional appointments?

(2) (a) Is he aware that assistant lecturers/tutors have been appointed as course co-ordinators/controllers; and

(b) how can he justify persons at the lowest levels of the scale assuming such responsibilities?

(3) Would he inform the Parliament what is the duty statement and role of each of the academic positions in the Western Australian College of Advanced Education, including—

- (a) dean;
- (b) principal lecturer;
- (c) senior lecturer;
- (d) lecturer;
- (e) lecturer 2;
- (f) lecturer 3;
- (g) assistant lecturer;
- (h) tutor.

(4) Is he aware that three contract staff members who did not have their contracts renewed for 1984—

(a) had each completed six years of service at the Western Australian College of Advanced Education and required only one more year to secure long service leave; and

(b) were elected members of a WACAE staff association campus executive?

(5) (a) Would he inform the Parliament what qualifications, years of teacher education experience, years of teaching experience, and special expertise each of the members in (4) had; and

(b) does he believe these members were inadequately qualified, insufficiently experienced, or lacking in required expertise so as to preclude each from re-appointment?

(6) Is he concerned that the three persons in (4) were discriminated against in the selection process because of their union involvement?

(7) (a) Would he inform the Parliament whether the Western Australian College of Advanced Education has a policy of terminating contract staff before they can earn long service leave?

(b) If not, how will he justify the failure of the WACAE to re-appoint these staff?

(8) Would he explain why one of the contract members had been refused *pro rata* long service leave by the college council.

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1) (a) 94.

(b) Offers of appointment usually specify the particular position and the salary level. Each appointee discusses duties with the appropriate head of department.

(c) All appointees satisfied respective selection committees regarding their qualifications and experience.

Senior lecturer	11
Lecturer I	22
Lecturer II	43
Lecturer III	16
Tutor	2

94

(d) Few contract or tenured appointments have been made since December 1983.

(e) Normal selection procedures were followed.

- (2) (a) It is usual college policy that junior staff do not act as course co-ordinators/controllers. Specific cases will be investigated if details are given.

(b) See (2) (a).

- (3) Almost all college staff are expected to make a contribution to the educational programme. A few are restricted to administrative duties.

(a) Dean. Expected to give educational leadership.

(b) to (g) To teach in the academic programme.

(h) Very few tutors are appointed and only for specific activities.

- (4) The college is continuing to experience a significant rundown in enrolments in teacher education and this has required the reduction of the number of staff employed. Details are set out in the college's 1983 annual report.

(a) Yes. Each was paid a gratuity greater than *pro rata* long service leave.

(b) Yes.

- (5) (a) All three were qualified and experienced staff.

(b) No. The lapsing of their contracts derives wholly from the reduced number of staff required to teach in the teacher education programme.

- (6) No. There was no discrimination.

- (7) (a) There is no such policy.

(b) There were no continuing positions for the staff members concerned. Further, each was paid a gratuity greater than *pro rata* long service leave.

- (8) The contract member of staff concerned was paid a gratuity greater than *pro rata* long service leave. The payment of *pro rata* long service leave was refused on the basis of advice from the college's solicitors and from the State Government's Industrial Relations Service which took advice from the Crown Law Department.

EDUCATION: TERTIARY

Western Australian College of Advanced Education

3. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Education:

(1) (a) Would he inform the Parliament how many tenured academic staff have resigned from the Western Australian College of Advanced Education since the amalgamation of advanced restaffing from January 1982 and at which contracts they are employed?

(b) How many tenured academic staff resigned from the WA College of Advanced Education in the comparable period prior to the amalgamation; that is, during 1981 and 1980?

(2) Is he concerned at the resignation rate since the amalgamation?

(3) What effect does he consider the loss of these staff will have upon the quality of teacher education?

(4) (a) Is he aware that certain members of the Western Australian College of Advanced Education academic staff were offered renewed contracts at lower salaries than they had been previously receiving at WACAE?

(b) If "No" to (a), will he investigate the cases?

(c) If "Yes", how does he justify these decisions?

(5) (a) Would he inform the Parliament whether the persons in (4) accepted the offers from the WACAE?

(b) If not, are these persons presently employed and how do their current salaries compare with those offered by the WACAE?

(6) (a) Is it true that one staff member who attempted to resign from Churchlands' staff has been kept on in the capacity of writing three external study units while retaining the salary?

(b) How can this be justified?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1) (a) 21 staff (4.8 per cent) resigned in 1982 and seven staff (1.6 per cent) resigned in 1983. Present employment details are not available.

(b) Data are not readily available.

(2) No.

- (3) None.
- (4) (a) No.
(b) and (c) If specific cases are cited the matter will be investigated further.
- (5) (a) See (4) (b) above.
(b) See (4) (b) above.
- (6) (a) and (b) The college has both a general policy and a specific policy, deriving from difficulties associated with amalgamation, of encouraging and facilitating the retraining and further education of members of academic staff. The staff member concerned has undertaken teaching duties with students in the college, is engaged in teaching practice supervision, and has written external study units; the case is within the parameters of established policy which has been applied to various staff on the basis of individual applications.

EDUCATION: TERTIARY

Western Australian College of Advanced Education

4. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Would he inform the Parliament, for the period January to December 1983 and the period January 1984 to the present date, the relative number of male/female/contract/tenured academic staff for each academic position/level including—
 - (a) dean;
 - (b) principal lecturer;
 - (c) senior lecturer;
 - (d) lecturer 1;
 - (e) lecturer 2;
 - (f) lecturer 3;
 - (g) assistant lecturer;
 - (h) tutor?
- (2) Would he indicate the relative percentages of contract/tenured female academic staff for each of the positions in (1)?
- (3) In relation to the internal appointments made since January 1982, would he inform Parliament—
 - (a) how many new senior administrative positions have been created in-

cluding Senior lecturer, principal lecturer and dean, even if only temporary;

- (b) how many of these positions have been filled without internal or open advertisement;
 - (c) how many women have been appointed to the positions above; and
 - (d) what is the relative percentage of male/female appointments for each of the positions of dean, principal lecturer, senior lecturer?
- (4) In view of the stated Government policy on discrimination against women in employment, what action will he take to redress this situation?
 - (5) In relation to the Western Australian College of Advanced Education's appointment filled in December 1983 as a result of advertised appointments, would he inform the Parliament—
 - (a) why there were only three women serving on the selection panels of 253 persons;
 - (b) why only 6 of 21 tenured positions were offered to women;
 - (c) why only 2 of 11 senior lecturer positions were offered to women;
 - (d) why the majority of the 40 positions offered to women were awarded at the lower scales; that is, tutor, assistant lecturer, lecturer 3;
 - (e) at what level/salary was each of the 40 women appointed; and
 - (f) why women who had superior qualifications/experience/expertise to other applicants were not offered appointments?
 - (6) What immediate action will he take to redress this inequitable situation?
 - (7) Would he inform the Parliament how many of the 40 women appointed who have been placed at tutor/assistant lecturer scale/level are course coordinators/controllers?
 - (8) Is he going to act to ensure that such women are given fair payment in relation to tasks performed; that is, assuming full lecturer responsibilities?
 - (9) What immediate action will he take to redress this situation?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1) (a) to (h)

	1983				1984			
	Tenured M	F	Contract M	F	Tenured M	F	Contract M	F
Dean	8	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Principal lecturer	26	3	0	0	26	3	0	0
Senior lecturer	69	5	7	0	79	7	2	0
Lecturer I	145	61	17	3	130	61	13	7
Lecturer II	8	16	24	38	12	12	45	44
Lecturer III	1	2	16	21	2	4	8	15
Tutor	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	4
	257	87	65	65	257	87	70	70

The terms "lecturer III" and "assistant lecturer" are synonymous.

Contract staff at the lecturer III and lecturer II levels include some 15 persons seconded from the Education Department as well as others appointed on a temporary basis to relieve staff who are on accouchement leave, long service leave, leave without pay, and professional experience programme leave.

	1983		1984	
	Tenured %	Contract %	Tenured %	Contract %
Dean	—	—	—	—
Principal lecturer	100	—	100	—
Senior lecturer	100	—	100	—
Lecturer I	95	5	90	10
Lecturer II	27	73	21	79
Lecturer III	9	91	21	79
Tutor	—	100	—	100

(3) (a) 70.

(b) Following amalgamation in August 1981 the college adopted the advice of the Minister for Education and the Western Australian Post-Secondary Education Commission that "where possible fill senior and other appointments within the new institution by invitation from staff of Churchlands, Mount Lawley and Nedlands Colleges and Claremont Teachers College rather than by open advertisement". Most of the 70 positions which were filled from 1 January 1982 were on an internal basis. Since that time some of these new positions have been filled as a result of open advertisement.

(c) 3.

	M	F
(d)	%	%
Dean	100	—
Principal lecturer	90	10
Senior lecturer	92	8

(4) The college is reviewing the position of female academic staff. During the past five years the four separate colleges up to August 1981 and the amalgamated col-

lege since August 1981, have provided good opportunities for retraining and/or for the improvement of qualifications in relation to female staff, as good level graduate degrees are necessary for promotion.

In late 1983 the college received a total of 860 applications for vacant positions, of which 238 (28 per cent) were received from females. When appointments were offered, 43 per cent were offered to females, indicating that there was no negative discrimination against females.

(5) (a) Of the 56 persons who served on selection committees three were female. Selection committees normally comprise senior and other academic staff directly concerned with the vacancy. Recent discussions have been held with the Academic Staff Association related to a greater number of females serving on selection committees.

(b) Seven (33 per cent) of 21 tenured positions were offered to females whereas only 28 per cent of all applicants were female, indicating no discrimination on the basis of sex.

(c) Decisions were made by separate selection committees but in general there was a lack of female applicants for the position of senior lecturer.

(d) Of the 42 female offered positions, 11 (26 per cent) were at the lecturer III level and below whereas 31 females (74 per cent) were offered salaries above this level.

(e)	\$32 871	1
	\$31 390	1
	\$30 734	1
	\$29 896	2
	\$29 057	1
	\$28 218	1
	\$27 380	2
	\$26 751	9
	\$25 912	4
	\$25 073	3
	\$24 233	3
	\$23 394	3
	\$23 100	3
	\$22 513	1
	\$21 926	1
	\$21 338	3
	\$20 751	3
		42

- (f) Decisions regarding recommendations for particular appointments were made by separate selection committees that took into account both qualifications and experience, and interviewed extensively. If specific cases are cited the matter will be investigated further.

(6) See 4 and 5 (a).

(7) It is usual college policy that junior staff do not act as course co-ordinators/controllers. If specific cases are cited the matter will be investigated further.

(8) See (7).

(9) See (7).

118. *Postponed.*

PERTH MINT

Transfer to Western Australian Development Corporation

120. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister representing the Acting Treasurer:

Has the Government received a proposal to transfer the Perth Mint to the Western Australian Development Corporation?

Mr BRYCE replied:

No. However, future development of the Perth Mint is under active consideration by the Government.

122, 123, and 128. *Postponed.*

TECHNOLOGY: COMPUTERS

"Software House"

129. Mr COURT, to the Acting Premier and Minister for Technology:

(a) Was he successful in attracting IBM to establish a "software house" in Western Australia?

(b) If "No", will the Government still be standardising on IBM computers for its main hardware requirements?

Mr BRYCE replied:

(a) and (b) As advised in my answer to question 2604 asked by the member during

the last session, discussions are continuing with a range of companies on the establishment of a software industry.

The Government is still considering the issue of "IBM compatability" on its main hardware requirements. This is not the same as standardising on IBM computers. Many major computer companies, such as FACOM/FUJITSU, are also "IBM compatible". It is an international standard not linked to any particular company.

DEFENCE: SUBMARINES

Construction: Western Australian Companies

133. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Defence Liaison:

Will the Government ask Mr Greg Mott, the ex-Vickers shipbuilding managing director, to assist Western Australian companies in preparing their case for winning the contract to build the Australian Navy's new submarines?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The Government may seek advice from Mr Mott or any other suitably qualified individual as and when appropriate.

134. *Postponed.*

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Banks: Licences

136. Mr COURT, to the Acting Premier:

(a) Will the Government support applications by the Western Australian private sector financial institutions to go into joint venture financial arrangements with foreign banks to gain a foreign licence;

(b) If "Yes", what form would this support take?

Mr BRYCE replied:

(a) The State will consider support for any application that would lead to the development of economic activity in Western Australia.

(b) The Government is prepared to promote the licensing and establishment of an acceptable proposal for a new Australian trading bank with headquarters in Perth.

137. *Postponed.*

DEFENCE: NAVY

Helicopters

147. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Defence Liaison:

Has he approached the United States company, United Technologies, to see whether Western Australian industry can participate in its \$300 million helicopter project for the Australian Navy?

Mr BRYCE replied:

No, but in April 1983, the Department of Industrial Development contacted Brown & Dureau Ltd. (the Australian representative for United Technologies which is the parent company for Sikorsky Aircraft bidding for the RAN helicopter project) and was advised in June 1983 that if Sikorsky Aircraft was successful, Western Australian companies would be given every opportunity to participate in the project. My understanding is that the tenders are still being evaluated and no decision is likely within three months.

159. *Postponed.*

MINERALS: DIAMONDS

Northern Mining Corporation NL

176. Mr PETER JONES, to the Acting Premier:

What is the current market valuation of the five per cent equity interest in the Argyle diamond project purchased by the Government in 1983 when it acquired Northern Mining?

Mr BRYCE replied:

As with all transactions in the commercial world, market values are determined by the sums purchasers are prepared to pay for an asset.

The Western Australian Diamond Trust, in a deal underwritten by Australia's leading financial institutions, is prepared to pay \$45 million for the net assets of Northern Mining which consist principally of the 5 per cent interest in the Argyle diamond mines joint venture and the Ashton exploration joint venture.

179. *Postponed.*

ENERGY

University of Western Australia: Advice

190. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Has the State Energy Commission received, or is it receiving, any assistance or advice from the University of Western Australia on energy matters relating to Western Australia?
- (2) Also, what department(s) of the university is/are involved?
- (3) What is the precise nature of the work being done for the State Energy Commission?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The Department of Economics;
(b) the Faculty of Engineering.
- (3) (a) Assistance in the development of energy demand modelling;
(b) development of wind generators;
(c) studies of electrical transmission system behaviour.

ENERGY: GAS

Pipeline: Geraldton

191. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Adverting to the reply given to question 87 of 31 July 1984 concerning the proposed natural gas extension pipeline to serve Geraldton, what daily volume of gas will need to be sold in Geraldton to service and pay the costs involved in providing a pipeline and reticulation system?
- (2) What daily volume of gas sales is estimated to be involved in the six sales finalised?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Since gas is sold at a range of prices it is not possible to relate a fixed volume of gas to economic viability. The revenue from the six completed contracts is expected to recoup almost all of the revenue required to economically justify the construction of the lateral and associated reticulation equipment. It is fully expected that other contracts will be

signed long before the completion of construction of the lateral now that the Government has announced this decision which was described by the Mayor of Geraldton as a vote of confidence in that town.

- (2) 7 000 cubic metres per day.

MINERALS: COAL

Western Collieries Ltd: SEC Funding

192. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) What funds have been advanced to Western Collieries by the State Energy Commission to assist in financing capital works?
- (2) Is Western Collieries currently undertaking stripping and other mine-preparation activity preparatory to making coal deliveries to the State Energy Commission?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Detailed contractual arrangements between the State Energy Commission and its suppliers are considered to be confidential commercial information.
- (2) As in (1).

ENERGY: GAS

Deliveries

193. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is it fact that deliveries of natural gas have been reduced to some commercial and industrial customers by the State Energy Commission?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) for what reason has the reduction been imposed;
 - (b) how many customers are affected;
 - (c) for how long will the reduction be enforced?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) to (c) Not applicable.

MINERALS: COAL

Collie: Open-cut

194. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) What is the current ratio of underground to open-cut coal recovered on the Collie coal field?
- (2) Does the Government consider this ratio to be satisfactory for the long-term development of the coal field?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "No", what ratio would the Government wish to see achieved in order to protect employment and the long-term development of the Collie coal field?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) 1:4.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.

195. *Postponed.*

ENERGY

Appliances: Competition

196. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Referring the Minister to question 329 of 2 August 1983 and his party's fuel and energy policy which stated, "A Labor Government will fully support the solar energy appliance manufacturing sector by ensuring that there is fair competition in the market place for energy appliances", has he any evidence to support his Government's claim that there is "not fair competition in the market place for energy appliances"?
- (2) If so, will he make the evidence available for public scrutiny?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The Government has not made such a claim.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Efficiency Audits

197. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Treasurer:

- (1) When will the efficiency audits into Government departments, as previously proposed by the Treasurer, commence?
- (2) Who will carry out the audits?
- (3) Who will determine which departments will be so audited?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (3) The position has not changed since the reply was given to question 2793 of 5 April 1984.

TAXES AND CHARGES

Increases: Treasury Approval

198. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Treasurer:

- (1) In relation to all charges recently increased by the Government, were all proposed increases referred to Treasury prior to receiving Cabinet approval?
- (2) In any instance, were private financial consultants engaged to help Treasury with the evaluation of these proposals?
- (3) If so, who was employed?
- (4) For which proposals were they employed?
- (5) In this assessment, what guidelines do Treasury or private financial consultants use to ensure that the increases provided the public with an acceptable standard of service?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) and (4) Not applicable.
- (5) In deciding the level of charges the Government has aimed to keep increases to a minimum while maintaining an adequate standard of service. It is Government policy to keep taxes and charges as low as possible for the benefit of individuals and businesses in the community.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Employment: Public and Private Sectors

199. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Treasurer:

- (1) What is the current percentage of Western Australian employment in—
 - (a) the private sector;
 - (b) the public sector?
- (2) Within the public sector, what percentage of Western Australian employment is employed on—
 - (a) local government;
 - (b) State Government;
 - (c) Commonwealth Government?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The latest information available can be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The relevant publication is catalogue No. 6248

TRANSPORT: AIR

South Africa

206. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

Will the State Government support Qantas flights direct to South Africa?

Mr BRYCE replied:

This is an area of Federal Government discretion. The Government supports the policy of the Federal Government enunciated by the Minister for Aviation on 25 March 1984.

The Federal Government does not allow Qantas flights to South Africa. However, travellers may take advantage of Qantas once-weekly flights to Harare in Zimbabwe where they may transfer to connecting flights to other parts of southern Africa including South Africa.

A recent review of air services to southern Africa by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Hayden, has reiterated the Federal Government's desire that Qantas maintain the existing service to Harare. The current policy held by the Minister for Aviation incorporates this review.

TOURISM

Western Australian Tourism Commission

208. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How many officers of the Western Australian Tourism Commission are currently located in regional areas?
- (2) Where are they located?
- (3) What is their role?
- (4) When will other areas in Western Australia be considered for the appointment of regional offices?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Four.
- (2) (a) South-West Region—(Bunbury)
(b) Great Southern Region—(Albany)
(c) Goldfields Region—(Kalgoorlie)
(d) Kimberley Region—(Kununurra)
- (3) To provide regional representation on all activities of the commission and to develop and maintain liaison between private tourism operators, local government, regional travel associations and other bodies associated with tourism. To act as a regional consultant to tourism operators in providing assistance and advice in the areas of marketing and development.
- (4) Consideration will be given to further appointments in the 1984-85 Budget.

210. *Postponed.*

PORTS AND HARBOURS

Marina: America's Cup

211. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Who is constructing the marina being prepared for the America's Cup contestants at Fremantle?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of its construction?
- (3) When did work begin on the marina?
- (4) When is it anticipated that work will be completed?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Construction is by the Government under the provisions of the Public Works Act.

(2) \$7.775 million.

(3) 28 June 1984.

(4) July 1986.

HOUSING

Completions

212. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

How many State Housing Commission homes were completed in the 1983-84 year in—

- (a) the Perth metropolitan area;
- (b) country areas;
- (c) north-west areas?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (a) to (c) As the information will take some time to collate the member will be advised by letter.

ROTTNEST ISLAND

Hotel-marina Complex: Submissions

214. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

- (1) which are the four groups invited to make submissions to the Rottnest Island Board on the proposed development of a resort hotel-marina complex on Rottnest Island?
- (2) What is the closing date for the submissions?
- (3) Has each of the invited groups made a submission?
- (4) If not, which of the groups have made a submission?
- (5) When will the board decide which proposal is to be proceeded with?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) (a) Ansett Transport Industries;
(b) Oceanic Equity Ltd;
(c) Swan Hotels;
(d) Multiplex.
- (2) 20 August 1984.
- (3) No.
- (4) Refer answer to (2) above.
- (5) Refer to answer to question 18 (3) of Thursday, 18 July 1984.

ROTTNEST ISLAND

Consultants: Brief

215. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is it fact that the brief from the Rottnest Island Board to the consultants who prepared the Rottnest Island master plan interim report included a direction to "identify the best site for a hotel facility between the existing settlement and Kingston Barracks"?
- (2) If this is so, how does the Minister reconcile that instruction with his claim that consultants were not asked to present "a view of what we thought we wanted"?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) As the member is well aware, the question is identical to a question he asked on Thursday, 10 May 1984 to which he was given a clear answer in a letter dated 5 June 1984.

May I suggest to the member that care should be taken to ensure that the House is not involved in unnecessary work through such duplication.

- (4) 25 years initial term, and two 5-year options to extend the lease.

FORESTS

Pine: Planting

217. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) What areas of land—and in which localities—are considered likely to be released by the Government as a concession for any potential loss of agricultural land in the Manjimup Shire resulting from pine planting?
- (2) Has the Government considered making similar offers to release further land for agriculture in return for private pine planting in other areas of the State where such a venture would be suitable?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) No specific locality has been determined. The overall question is being investigated by a working group comprising officers from the Department of Agriculture and the Forests Department.
- (2) Answered by (1).

FORESTS

Pine: Planting

218. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Acting Minister for Forests:

- (1) On what date did the Government commission the University of Western Australia's Centre for Applied Business Research to carry out the study of farmer attitudes on pine planting in the Manjimup Shire?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the study and is it intended the study will include inputs by the shire council, Primary Industry Association, Potato Growers' Association, etc.?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) 9 April 1984.
- (2) Project budget is \$8 000. As the project is a survey of attitudes of individual farmers, it is not intended to seek the views of the shire council, Primary Industry Association, and Potato Growers' Association. However, the shire has been provided with details of the study.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Accommodation: Bunbury

216. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) What is the number of Government officers to be located in Bunbury when the new Austmark building is completed?
- (2) What is the total amount of office space sought in the building by his Government?
- (3) What is the price per square metre sought for office space in the new Bunbury building?
- (4) What is the term sought by the Government in renting space from Austmark?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Approximately 450, subject to detailed planning.
- (2) 8651 sq. m. net useable space.
- (3) \$150.82 per sq. m. per annum, including car parking, plus normal outgoings.

LAND: NATIONAL PARKS

Shannon River Basin and D'Entrecasteaux

220. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) Who has the Government requested to draw up the management plan for Shannon River Basin and d'Entrecasteaux National Park?
- (2) When did the Government seek public input for the draft management plan?
- (3) When is it expected the plan will be completed?
- (4) Is it proposed that the draft management plan would be implemented by the Department of Conservation and Land Resource Management?
- (5) On what date did or will the draft land release management plan come into operation?
- (6) What is the expected yearly budget of the Department of Conservation and Land Resource Management as contained in *Western Australian Government Notes* No. 2 of 30 May 1984?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) A planning group under the co-chairmanship of Dr P. Christensen of the Forests Department and Dr J. Watson of the National Parks Authority.
- (2) An outline of the planning proposals is about to be released for initial public comment.
- (3) About June 1985.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Answered by (3) above.
- (6) It is premature to indicate future budget expectations at this stage.

222. *Postponed.*

DEFENCE: ARMY

Swanbourne

223. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) (a) Has the Government made any determination on the future of the Swanbourne Army base;
- (b) has there been any communication with the Federal Government on this matter?

- (2) Has the State Government made any investigations to provide an alternative site and, if so, what sites have been considered?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) and (2) The relocation or otherwise of the Swanbourne Army facility is a matter for the appropriate Federal authorities. However, the Prime Minister has recently agreed to set up consultative procedures with the State regarding the siting, extension, or disposal of defence installations. Through this mechanism we will be in a position to assist should any such movement be proposed.

DEFENCE: ARMY

Rottnest Island

224. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) Following the decision that will lead to the Army being obliged to vacate Rottnest Island as a base, is he aware if any shire district has sought the Army's relocation to its community?
- (2) What areas were under active consideration?
- (3) Are negotiations still proceeding to relocate the Army, and at what stage have they reached?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) to (3) The member will be aware from Press coverage about 14 and 15 July 1984, that the agreement with the Federal Government relieved the Western Australian Government of the responsibility of finding a replacement site for the Army's Rottnest facility.

The Prime Minister has recently agreed to set up consultative procedures with the State regarding the siting, extension, or disposal of defence installations. Through this mechanism the State Government will assist the Defence Department to locate a suitable alternative site in Western Australia. At least one shire district has expressed an interest in the relocation of the facility.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Referendum

225. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Acting Premier:

What has been the total cost of conducting the daylight saving referendum?

Mr BRYCE replied:

Two observations come to mind when we consider the cost of holding a referendum. It is obviously a lot cheaper to cancel all elections and referenda but this is ridiculous. Although these crucial democratic decision making exercises should not be run extravagantly, there is a bottom line of cost about which no quibble can be raised. It is a cost far outweighed by the benefits which accrue to our community.

Secondly, it is obviously just as easy for Western Australian electors to give a decision on one question at a referendum as it is to give an answer on two or three questions. The rejection by the Opposition in the Legislative Council of a referendum on the electoral system last year means that a splendid opportunity to save money by asking both questions together was forgone.

The cost of this year's daylight saving referendum was \$1 064 500.00.

226. *Postponed.*

PASTORAL INDUSTRY

Lease: Mt. Anderson Station.

227. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

Regarding the request by Messrs Blair to purchase Mt. Anderson station pastoral lease, has he or his officers received any complaint against the suitability of the purchasers, and if so, what was the extent of the matters raised?

Mr McIVER replied:

No such complaints have been received.

228 and 229. *Postponed.*

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

Mr Selby

230. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) Does he have a Mr Selby either on or attached to his office?
- (2) What is Mr Selby's position, and what duties does he perform?
- (3) Was Mr Selby formerly employed in the Government service and, if so, where?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Ministerial adviser.
- (3) No.

DEFENCE: ARMY

Northam

231. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) Has the Government made any decision on relocating the Northam Army base?
- (2) If "No", would he give me a categorical assurance that would resolve this issue?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) and (2) The relocation or otherwise of the Northam Army facility is a matter for the appropriate Federal Authorities. However, the Prime Minister has recently agreed to set up consultative procedures with the State regarding the siting, extension, or disposal of defence installations. Through this mechanism we will be in a position to assist should any such movement be proposed.

236, 238, and 239. *Postponed.*

ENERGY: GAS

Deliveries

240. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Adverting to the reply given to question 3173 of 2 May 1984 concerning commencement of deliveries of North-West Shelf natural gas, when is it now estimated the North-West Shelf joint venturers will deliver natural gas to the State Energy Commission?
- (2) Having regard to (3) of the reply, what compensatory offset arrangements is the

Government proposing to seek against the future State Energy Commission take-or-pay arrangements?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The most recent advice from Woodside Petroleum, the operator for the North-West Shelf gas project, is that gas should be available at Dampier on 22 August 1984.
- (2) Arrangements in this regard have not yet been finalised.

MINERALS: COAL

Payments

241. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Adverting to the reply given to question 86 of Tuesday, 31 July 1984, and the advice that there are outstanding claims for payment relating to coal delivered by Griffin Coal Mining Company Ltd., what is the total value of the outstanding claims being made by the company?
- (2) For how long have the claims (and the funds) been outstanding?
- (3) What is the value of the claims being made on the company by the State Energy Commission?
- (4) What funds have been "paid in good faith" to the company by the Commission, but which the Commission does not consider it owes the company under the contract?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) to (4) The operation and the commercial obligations of the parties in the long term contract (approved by a Liberal Cabinet) between the State Energy Commission of Western Australia and the Griffin Coal Mining Company Limited, is the subject of a dispute before the Supreme Court under action 2336/83.

Supreme Court action 2336/83 hinges on matters of construction of the coal sales contract which are either ambiguous or in need of definition. It is not considered to be in the best commercial or legal interests of either of the parties involved to make detailed information, as requested by the member for Narrogin, available on the issues covered by action 2336/83.

Consequently, I intend to follow normal practice and not comment further or answer further questions relating to matters in issue in the present litigation.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Caustic Soda Plant

242. Mr PETER JONES, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) With reference to the caustic soda plant negotiations which were announced in July 1984, what studies and inquiries have been addressed to the project since the original announcement?
- (2) Is it still proposed that the Israeli Chemical Company will be the main equity participant?
- (3) When will the feasibility studies be completed?
- (4) Who is undertaking the various studies?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) I assume the member for Narrogin is referring to an announcement made by the Deputy Premier in July 1983 in his then capacity as the Minister responsible for resources development. Since late 1983, the Australian Industry Development Corporation has held an exclusive option on the Australian licence for the process technology and is conducting a pre-feasibility study in conjunction with a major company. The WA Government is pursuing the matter and is providing information and assistance to the Australian Industry Development Corporation during the course of the study.
- (2) The technology for the process under consideration is owned by Israeli Chemicals Ltd. However, it is premature to consider the equity structure for the possible project at this stage.
- (3) It is anticipated that the pre-feasibility study will be completed before October 1984.
- (4) See (1) above.

MINERALS: IRON ORE

Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates

243. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

What processing obligations remain to be discharged under the Iron Ore (Cleveland Cliffs) Agreement Act, 1964 (as amended)?

Mr PARKER replied:

There are no outstanding obligations by Cliffs for secondary processing.

TAXES AND CHARGES

Financial Institutions Duty: Review

245. Mr HASSELL, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) In answer to question 55, of 1984, he advised the recently completed review of financial institutions duty was conducted at a departmental level. In the light of this information, will he advise if public submissions were sought?
- (2) If "Yes", will he table copies of these submissions?
- (3) If submissions were not sought, why not?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) On several occasions, the Government made public its intention to undertake a complete review of all aspects of FID following its first six months of operation. As a result, a number of submissions were received and are being considered as part of the review process.
- (2) It is not the practice to table submissions of this nature.
- (3) See (1) above.

HOUSING

Construction Programme

247. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Housing:

What was the number of State Housing Commission homes—

- (a) built;
 - (b) under construction, in—
 - (i) Bunbury;
 - (ii) Busselton;
 - (iii) Margaret River,
- in the 1983-84 financial year?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (a) The number of State Housing Commission units constructed are as follows—

	Common-wealth/ State	Aboriginal
	units	units
Bunbury		
1980-81	5	6
1981-82	34	—
1982-83	34	3
1983-84	4	1

(ii) Busselton

1980-81	10	—
1981-82	4	—
1982-83	2	—
1983-84	1	—

(iii) Margaret River

1980-81	4	—
1981-82	1	—
1982-83	4	—
1983-84	—	—

(b) The number of units under construction as at 30 June 1984 are as follows—

(i) Bunbury	68	4
(ii) Busselton	27	—
(iii) Margaret River	4	—

WATER RESOURCES: WATER AUTHORITY

Government Publicity Letter

248. Mr MENSAROS, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) What was the cost of producing the letters which were sent out with water bills to country consumers and electricity bills generally?
- (2) How many of these letters were produced and approximately how many were sent out?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) The cost of printing the letters was \$10 602.00.
- (2) 635 000 letters were printed.

As all consumers have not yet received electricity or water bills for the most recent period, all letters have not yet been sent out.

249. *Postponed.*

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Burrendah

260. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has work yet begun on the improvements to the withdrawal area at Burrendah Primary School, the funding for which was approved under the minor works programme in August 1983?
- (2) If not, why not?

- (3) When is it anticipated the work will commence? 270 to 273. *Postponed.*

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Burrendah Primary School is a standard 1970 cluster pattern primary school. A design for modifications to withdrawal areas in this standard pattern of school was prepared and documented ready to proceed late in 1983. However, the school principal and the Education Department requested modifications to this design specifically for the Burrendah Primary School. Redocumentation for this purpose was completed in February 1984.
- The Education Department requested further modifications and comparative costs before determining which of the designs was to proceed.
- Alternative schemes and cost estimates were forwarded to the Education Department on 26 June 1984 and approval was given on one of the schemes on 10 July 1984. Contract documentation will be completed by 3 August 1984.
- The principal of the Burrendah Primary school and the regional education office have been kept fully informed.
- (3) It is anticipated that work will commence in the first week of September 1984.

264. *Postponed.*

TOURISM: COMMISSION

United States Campaign

268. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

What has been the result of discussions held between the Tourism Commission and Qantas as referred to by the Minister in question 3291 of 9 May 1984, concerning the United States campaign by the Australian Tourism Commission?

Mr BRYCE replied:

Discussions are continuing and the Tourism Commission is most optimistic that a number of new initiatives may shortly be introduced. As negotiations are still in progress, I am unable to provide more precise details at this time.

TOURISM

Survey

274. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What is the name of the company which has been commissioned by the Western Australian Tourism Commission to undertake the survey of tourists coming to Western Australia beginning from 1 July?
- (2) Where is the firm of consultants based?
- (3) How many other consultancy agencies tendered for the study?
- (4) How many of those were based in Western Australia?
- (5) Why was it felt that a Western Australian company did not have the expertise or capacity to carry out this work?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Cameron McNamara Pty. Ltd.
- (2) Brisbane, Queensland.
- (3) Five.
- (4) Two.
- (5) The two Western Australian tenders did not match the quality of the tender submitted by Cameron McNamara in the following areas—
- (a) Relevant experience and technical expertise.
- (b) Thorough and competent understanding of the brief.
- (c) Number of proposed interviews and therefore accuracy of results (Cameron McNamara proposed 12-14 000 interviews as opposed to 2-3 000).

275 and 276. *Postponed.*

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Community Employment Programme: Funds

277. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Under the terms of the Commonwealth/State agreement for the community employment programme what amount of funds were provided for West-

ern Australia for the year ended 30 June 1984?

- (2) What was the detail of the agreement concerning the level of funding for the year ending 30 June 1985?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Answered by question 265.
 (2) The level of funding for 1984-85 will not be known until after the Federal Budget is brought down.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Work Force Unit

278. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Has the Government since its election established a State work force unit as outlined in its policy of December 1982?
 (2) If so, when was the unit established?
 (3) Would the Minister outline for me the detailed achievements of the unit to date?
 (4) If the unit was not established, why not?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) No. Following the State employment task force's report *A Review of Administrative Arrangements for Industrial Training in Western Australia*, the Government decided in December 1983 to rationalise its organisation of policy commitments for employment and training by establishing a Department of Employment and Training. The platform proposals for a State workforce unit and a Treasury employment unit were subsumed by the new department. The State employment task force was also converted to the employment and training policy unit of the new department.

- (2) Not applicable.
 (3) Yes. The principal achievements of the new Department of Employment and Training are outlined below, and a detailed statement will be provided in writing to the member—

State administration and co-ordination of the community employment programme.

Initiation and implementation of State employment schemes, including co-action, self-employment business ventures, community em-

ployment initiatives, co-operative advisory service.

A review of state training arrangements.

The administration of the State's industrial training system.

Initiation of additional group apprenticeship schemes.

Monthly labour market reports.

Annual labour market report.

Main features discussion paper on the proposed Industrial and Commercial Training Commission.

The establishment of a comprehensive labour market data base.

A submission to the Kirby inquiry into labour market programmes.

An analysis of job sharing within the Western Australian Public Service.

A review of administrative arrangements for employment and training within the State Public Service and the instrumentalities.

Three case studies—

A review of Western Australian Public Service Information System Technology.

The Western Australian Printing Industry: A Case Study on the Impact of Technical Change and its Implications for State Government Training Policy.

The Western Australian Electronics Industry—a Case Study.

- (4) Not applicable.

ROTTNEST ISLAND

Interim Report

279. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister Representing the Acting Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How many submissions were received by the Rottneest Island Board commenting on the Rottneest Island Board interim report?
 (2) How many of those submissions were opposed to the report?
 (3) How many submissions were in favour of the report?
 (4) Will those submissions be made public?
 (5) If not, why not?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) 8 054 submissions were received. 200 duplications were included in this figure.
- (2) to (5) The subcommittee of the Rottneest Island Board formed specifically to study the submissions is well advanced in its work. As the subcommittee's work is still in progress I am unable to provide any further detail.

STATE FINANCE: TREASURY

Employment Unit

280. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Has the State Government established a special Treasury employment unit as detailed in its employment policy of December 1982?
- (2) If so, when was the unit established?
- (3) If the unit has not been established, why not?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) to (3) Answered by question 278.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Community Employment Initiatives Unit

281. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Has the community employment initiatives unit made any grants to a Mr Karl Kath?
- (2) If so, what was the nature of the assistance granted to Mr Kath?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Assistance has been provided under the self employment business ventures scheme to Mr Karl and Mrs Joan Kath.
- (2) An interest free loan to the value of \$6 000.

HOUSING

Local Government Scheme

282. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will he be supporting the Federal Government's proposed local government housing initiatives which are designed to involve local authorities in public housing?

- (2) Has he had any discussions with local authorities or their representative organisations about this proposal?

- (3) If so, when, and what was the outcome of these meetings?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) During the past 12 months, I have had discussions with local authority representatives in Kalgoorlie, Fremantle, and Collie about such proposals and keen interest was shown. Once the new Commonwealth/State agreement is finalised and funding established, I will ensure that there is suitable discussion with local authorities to look at ways of local involvement in setting priorities and implementing programmes.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Rents: Setting

283. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is he aware that the proposed Commonwealth-State housing agreement indicates that in future State Housing Commission rents are to be set at a level on the basis of the cost of provision of public housing?
- (2) What is the likely implication for Western Australian State Housing Commission tenants as a consequence of this change in method of rental setting?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The implications of the new rent formulae will be that rents will be based on a cost basis and will not be subject to market fluctuations.

284. *Postponed.*

TOURISM

Bungle Bungle

285. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) When did the working group appointed to make recommendations for the future of the Bungle Bungle area last meet?

- (2) What are the terms of reference or brief which have been given to the working group?
- (3) Who is the chairman of the working group?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) The last formal meeting was held on 30 March 1984. Most working group members were present at a special informal meeting held at Bungle Bungle on 5 July 1984.
- (2) The initial brief for the working group was to investigate and report on the status, vesting and purpose of Bungle Bungle and adjoining lands. Subsequently, it became clear that the working group would also need to address the issue of management.
- (3) Mr G. Whisson of the Department of Conservation and Environment.

HOUSING

General Purpose Funds

286. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Since election to Government what general purpose capital funds have been nominated and reallocated for transfer into housing?
- (2) When were the funds so nominated and transferred?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) In the 1983-84 financial year the State nominated funds out of General Purposes Capital Funds totalled \$7.0 million.
- (2) The State Housing Commission received these funds in February 1984.

TRANSPORT: AIR

National Airports Authority

287. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

As the Federal Minister for Aviation has indicated that a National Airports Authority will be legislated for in 1985 and will become operational in 1986, how will Western Australia benefit by having Perth Airport taken over by this new authority?

Mr GRILL replied:

As the member knows, there is no detailed agreement yet as to how a national airports authority will work. Although this is a matter of Federal Government jurisdiction, I will continue to liaise closely with the Federal Minister for Aviation, Mr Beazley. I can say this: To the extent that the NAA in its final form fulfils its aim of making Australia's main airports more efficient and more innovatively managed, Western Australia will benefit by having a gateway airport which better meets the needs of air travellers and the general community.

TRANSPORT: FREIGHT

Joint Venture: Assets

288. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What Westrail assets (vehicles, leases, accounting systems, etc.) were transferred to Total West as part of its contribution to the joint venture?
- (2) What Westrail assets were returned after being identified as not required by Total West?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) 386 items of plant and equipment (including vehicles but no leases or accounting systems) valued at \$1 668 000.
- (2) 27 vehicles valued at \$169 100.

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Light Rail Vehicles

289. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When can we expect some progress towards selecting and ordering light rail vehicles for suburban transit to replace the present antiquated railcars?
- (2) When does he expect to be in a position to order some of the vehicles mentioned in (1)?
- (3) Does the Government intend to order more of the same type of passenger rail cars as the 10 presently on order?
- (4) What decisions has the Government made to ensure adequate suburban passenger railcars are available to accommodate the large number of tourists and other passengers who are expected to

visit Perth and Fremantle during the America's Cup defence?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) As indicated in answer to question 244 of 2 August 1984, progress towards selecting an efficient and technologically advanced lighter railcar is being made. The inquiry into this matter will recommend the type of vehicle best suited to the State's suburban rail system.
- (2) Nothing is firm and I do not wish to pre-empt the inquiry but it is anticipated that orders could be placed by mid-1985.
- (3) This is not anticipated.
- (4) Receiving a question on the future of the Fremantle railway from the member for Dale is like receiving a floral wreath from Jack the Ripper.

For the member, like Jack the Ripper, it's too late to say he's sorry.

The most important decision made by this Government to ensure an adequate rail service to Fremantle was to reverse the member's decision to close the service.

GAMBLING: CASINO

Burswood Island: Liaison Committee

290. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Minister's liaison committee which includes the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Perth met and discussed the building of a casino on Burswood Island?
- (2) When did this committee first discuss this issue?
- (3) Is the Minister's and Perth City Council's technical committee examining and evaluating the siting of the casino on Burswood Island?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), when is the technical committee expected to make a recommendation on this issue?
- (5) Is a major amendment to the metropolitan regional scheme to be tabled in Parliament to legalise the siting of a casino on Burswood Island?
- (6) If no amendment is to be tabled, what planning process is to be implemented to authorise and legalise the use of Burswood Island for a changed use for a casino?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) to (4) No.
- (5) and (6) This will be done if and when appropriate.

TRANSPORT

North-west Corridor

291. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Referring to the report in *The West Australian* of 9 July 1984 headed "Inter-suburban bus plan mooted", why has the Government decided to appoint a party political work party with one of its political advisers appointed chairman to review east-west services in the north-west corridor when this task has been carried out by the Metropolitan Transport Trust efficiently in the past?
- (2) Knowing that the present metropolitan transport strategy has been structured with transport stations to provide for flexible routing including east-west services, why has the Metropolitan Transport Trust had taken away from it the normal service provision responsibility?
- (3) Is it intended to provide special subsidised bus services in the areas being reviewed?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3)—
 - (a) will Treasury make special provision to provide these services; or
 - (b) will the taxpayer, through the Metropolitan Transport Trust deficit, fund the cost and loss?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) This Government, unlike the previous administration, believes in the solution of public transport problems by utilising the resources of the community and the Government agencies. The two MLAs on the committee are doing their job as elected representatives of the community in the metropolitan north-west corridor.
If the member were to have made the effort to inquire, he would have discovered that representatives of the MTT and the Co-ordinator General of Transport are included. As for Dr Vaughan's involvement, the member has, on a previous occasion, asked why his expertise was needed. Now, when I

rightly make use of his technical knowledge and organisational skills, it shows up the inability of the member and his conservative partners to use people with new ideas to the best advantage.

- (2) The MTT has not had normal service provision responsibility taken away from it. I note that the member saw that east-west services could be provided so why did he not take steps to attempt to remedy the situation?
- (3) No.
- (4) (a) and (b) Not applicable.

292. *Postponed.*

NATURAL DISASTERS: FLOODS

Flood Plain: Swan River

293. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has the Public Works Department carried out a flood plain study on the Swan River and the adjacent area?
- (2) If not, does he intend to carry out a flood plain study for the Swan River and the adjacent area?
- (3) If the Public Works Department is in the process of carrying out a flood plain study, when will the report be available?
- (4) If a flood plain study is not to be carried out in this area, why not?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) A flood study of the Swan River between the causeway and Middle Swan has been completed.
- (2) to (4) Answered by (1).

294. *Postponed.*

ENERGY: GAS

North-West Shelf: Condensate

295. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the reply given to question 85 of 31 July 1984, concerning North-West Shelf condensate and as the treatment of condensate and its availability to Western Australia has been

under review by the Government since early 1983, who is conducting the review?

- (2) What discussions have been held with the various joint venturers?
- (3) In view of the Government's commitment to safeguard the State's requirements, when will the review be completed?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) and (2): Each of the participants in the North-West Shelf project has been assessing various options available to them for the marketing of condensate from the project for some considerable time.

Particular issues concerning the marketing of condensate to be produced from the project are under consideration by Department of Resources Development, State Energy Commission, Treasury, and the Department of Mines.

A number of discussions have been held with the participants on condensate marketing issues. These discussions are undertaken on a confidential basis and cannot be disclosed until agreement has been reached on the overall marketing strategy.

- (3) During 1984.

296. *Postponed.*

ENERGY: GAS

Sales: Agreements

297. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) In negotiating gas sales agreements with industrial customers, how does the State Energy Commission determine whether a potential customer will be assessed as "coal competitive" or "oil competitive"?
- (2) Do the North-West Shelf joint venturers have to agree on the assessment made?
- (3) By what method of negotiation, discussion, or determination, does the State Energy Commission resolve conflicts over which price level should apply?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The classification of gas customers takes into account all relevant technical and economic factors. To assist in such as-

assessments the State Energy Commission in 1982 engaged a consultant, through the Confederation of Western Australian Industry, to review the energy use of a number of major energy consuming industries to develop a methodology which could be used to determine the financial aspects of those processes likely to prove coal competitive.

In dealing with its customers the commission uses the results of this study as a broad guideline. Where there is doubt in the case of individual customers it is normal practice to engage independent consultants to make a detailed technical and economic assessment.

- (2) and (3) As the member for Narrogin is well aware, since he was the Minister responsible when the gas sales agreement between the State Energy Commission and the North-West Shelf joint venture participants was signed, in determining the price of gas paid by the commission it is necessary for the joint venture participants to agree on the classification of customers. If agreement is not reached the parties may call for an independent expert to determine the issue.

298. *Postponed.*

TAXES AND CHARGES

Mining Act: Increases

299. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the increases in Mining Act fees and charges, and the media statement of 5 July 1984, what has been the amount of the reduction of revenue to the Government following the introduction of the 1978 Mining Act compared with the previous Act?
- (2) What was the amount of revenue viewed by the Government from the above fees and charges in the 1983-84 financial year?
- (3) What is the estimate of revenue which will be payable to the Government in the 1984-85 year as a result of the new fees and charges?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) to (3) A considerable amount of research is required in this matter and a letter will be sent to the member in due course.

MINERALS

Revenue: Study

300. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the appointment of Professor Paul Bradley to examine the State's minerals revenue, for what reason was Professor Bradley chosen for this task?
- (2) What are the estimated costs of conducting this revenue study?
- (3) What remuneration and accommodation is payable to Professor Bradley for his efforts?
- (4) What secretarial and administrative support is being provided for Professor Bradley?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Professor Bradley has a wide experience and knowledge of mineral revenues matters. A copy of his curriculum vitae is tabled herewith.
- (2) \$350 000
- (3) A net remuneration, after Australian tax, of \$46 304 plus the Public Service accommodation and incidental allowance.
- (4) A Secretary and a Research Assistant and support from the Departments of Mines, Treasury and Resources Development as necessary.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 88).

301 and 302. *Postponed.*

SIR LENNOX HEWITT

Involvement with Government

303. Mr PETER JONES, to the Acting Premier:

- (1) Has Sir Lennox Hewitt any association, office, or position with the Western Australian Government?
- (2) Did Sir Lennox Hewitt accompany the Premier to any meetings or functions during the Premier's visit to New York earlier this year?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, in his capacity as Chairman of Northern Mining.

ENERGY: STATE ENERGY COMMISSION*Restructuring: Legislation*

304. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) When is it anticipated that the promised legislation to restructure the State Energy Commission will be introduced?
- (2) Has drafting of the proposed legislative amendments been commenced?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) It is anticipated that legislation to restructure the State Energy Commission will be introduced during either this session or in the autumn session of Parliament in 1985.
- (2) Some of the legislation required is complex and different parts are at different stages of preparation.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER*Power Tariff: Relativity*

305. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Adverting to the reply given to question 2033, of 16 November 1983, concerning the proposed aluminium smelter in the Bunbury region, by what measurement or relativity was the "prepared power supply proposal" considered "competitive"?

Mr PARKER replied:

The economic viability of an aluminium smelter project depends on several factors. An important element of course is the price of electric power.

A power tariff for a smelter can only truly be considered as commercially viable if the prospective owners of an aluminium smelter are prepared to proceed on the basis of the power tariff which is put forward.

At the time of reply to question 2033 of 16 November 1983 the comment was made in comparison with a number of aluminium smelters and smelting projects generally around the world.

TRANSPORT: SERVICES*Franchised, and Subsidised*

306. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Referring to question 150 of 1 August 1984, concerning franchised and/or subsidised road transport services, will he please advise me now how many applications have been received for franchised and/or subsidised road transport services since 1 July 1982, as invited under the new freight policy?
- (2) From what area has each application been made?
- (3) Will he please list each of the franchise and/or subsidy transport services which have been approved and introduced since 1 July 1982?
- (4) How many applications have been received since 1 July 1982—
 - (a) for franchised grain carting;
 - (b) for franchised air services?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) As the member is aware, applications for subsidy are received from many different sources, and in many different styles, and there is no ready way of tracing and enumerating such applications and requests given the limited manpower available to the Commissioner of Transport.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) (a) 68.
- (b) 8 (for non-competitive routes)

ENERGY: ELECTRICITY*Voltage: Standardisation*

307. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Following receipt of the report in April 1984 titled "Voltage Standardisation Study Report No. ES40", which recommended a reduction in the standard State Energy Commission voltage for Western Australia—

- (a) was it correctly reported that the report would be widely available for public comment;
- (b) what steps have been taken to distribute copies of the report and seek comment;

- (c) as the study concluded there would be a cost benefit to the community, when will a start be made towards its implementations;
- (d) how long will it take for the complete implementation of the change; and
- (e) is it a fact that the standard voltage has already been reduced in one major north-west town?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Copies have been placed in certain libraries (including the Parliamentary Library) and can be purchased at a nominal price by any member of the public at the Government Publications Office.
Comment was sought by advertisements in papers, Ministerial Press releases and requests for comment on radio talk-back shows.
- (c) The Government has not yet decided to implement the report's recommendation. It will first consider any public submissions received and also review a complete comment on the report from SECWA.
- (d) Depends on the Government's final decision.
- (e) I understand that most, if not all, of the iron ore mining towns, which are located on company leases, adopted 415/240 volt supplies from the outset. The voltage has not been reduced, to my knowledge, in any town supplied by the State Energy Commission.

308 and 309. *Postponed.*

FISHERIES: ROCK LOBSTER

Advisory Committee

310. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:
- (1) With reference to question 80 of 1984 and its answer, can he say who were the five nominees to the position on the rock lobster advisory committee which was eventually filled by Mr Keith Pearce?
 - (2) Who were they nominated by?
 - (3) What are the qualifications of each of the nominees, including their involve-

ment with various nominating Fishermen's Association branches?

- (4) Can he verify the Two Rocks Fishermen's Association is an active branch?
- (5) How long has it been active?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) to (5) The Fisheries Act sets out that the Minister shall appoint members to the rock lobster industry advisory committee. The qualification for fishermen members on the Committee is "... who for commercial purposes are actually engaged in the taking of rock lobsters."

There is no requirement for persons appointed to be a member of a Fishermen's Association, although associations were given the opportunity to put forward names.

It has not been the practice in the past for the Minister to give details of personnel considered. However, I am prepared to provide these to the member on a confidential basis.

GAMBLING: TWO-UP

Kalgoorlie

311. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Acting Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Government receiving any revenue from the now legalised two-up school near Kalgoorlie?
- (2) If so, in what form (licence fee, tax on turnover, etc.)?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENT

National Estate

312. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Does he or his department make recommendations directly to the Australian Heritage Commission or through the Commonwealth Minister or Department of Home Affairs and the Environment about places in Western Australia to be entered in the register of the National Estate?

- (2) If so, what were the places so recommended since the Labor Party became the Government early in 1983?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) If by "recommendations" the member means "nominations", I personally have not made any. However, the Western Australian Museum which is chartered by the Aboriginal Heritage Act to preserve Aboriginal sites, has made nominations to the Australian Heritage Commission after consultation with the Departments of Works, Agriculture, Lands and Surveys, and Mines.

Any member of the public is entitled to nominate a place for the register. A special form has been designed for this purpose and can be obtained from the commission's office. As the register is an on-going project, places may be nominated at any time.

Before a place is entered in the register, the commission is required to place it on an interim list and to inform the community of this through a public notice in the *Commonwealth Gazette* (available for inspection at all official Post Offices). The commission may not make a final decision until adequate time has been allowed for comments or objection to any proposed listing. The minimum time for comment or objection from the date of public notice is—

for objections to the entry in the register of a place advertised as on the interim list—3 months.

following advertisement of entry on the interim list for objections to the proposed removal of a place from the interim list—3 weeks.

for objections to the proposed removal of a place from the register—1 month.

The Minister however has the power, after considering an environment report (an inquiry conducted under the terms of the Environment Protection Act), to order the commission to enter or not to enter a place on the register or to remove a place from the register.

- (2) The places so nominated since 19 February 1983, have been put forward by the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites who works under the auspices of the Aboriginal Heritage Act. In the circumstances

the member may seek the information requested from the Hon. Keith Wilson, Minister with Special Responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs.

ENVIRONMENT

"A National Conservation Strategy for Australia"

313. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Does he know the booklet titled *A National Conservation Strategy for Australia* (proposed by a conference held in Canberra in June 1983)?
- (2) If so, does his Government as a policy fully accept the strategy outlined in this booklet?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "No", to what, if any, extent does his Government agree with the strategy?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes—in broad terms.
- (3) Not applicable.

SEWERAGE

Subsidised Schemes

314. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has he received a resolution from the annual conference of 31 July 1984 from the Country Shire Councils Association of WA sponsored by the executive of the association regarding subsidised sewerage schemes?
- (2) If so, what are his comments to this resolution?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) No advice of this resolution has been received.

SEWERAGE

Rates, and Subsidised Schemes

315. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has he received the resolution from the annual conference of 31 July from the Country Shire Councils Association which was sponsored and initiated by the Shire of Moora regarding sewerage rates and subsidy payments?

- (2) If so, what are his comments to this resolution?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) No advice of this resolution has been received.

316. *Postponed.*

WATER RESOURCES

Dam: Stinton Creek

317. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

When is the proposal pertaining to the Stinton River dam going to be gazetted and tabled in Parliament?

Mr TONKIN replied:

It is proposed that a small dam will be constructed on Stinton Creek as part of a scheme to pump water back into Canning Dam at some time after 1992. The required statutory formalities will be undertaken at the appropriate time prior to commencement of any construction.

However, if the member is referring to the declaration of the Stinton Creek water reserve, this action will be finalised by December 1984 provided the special by-laws which are currently being drafted can be made available for tabling during the current session of Parliament.

WATER RESOURCES

Dams: Storage

318. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

What was the amount of water stored in the Metropolitan Water Authority's dams as at 31 July 1980 to 1984 inclusive?

Mr TONKIN replied:

Date	Volume
31/7/80—	133.785 million cubic metres
31/7/81—	157.798 million cubic metres
31/7/82—	198.965 million cubic metres
31/7/83—	178.525 million cubic metres
31/7/84—	262.410 million cubic metres

WATER RESOURCES

Dam: Harris River

319. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When is the construction of the proposed Harris River dam expected to commence?
- (2) What is the anticipated total cost?
- (3) Will there be Federal funding available, as promised late in 1982?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) The Government has not yet authorised the construction of a dam on the Harris River.
- (2) In the order of \$20 million dollars.
- (3) This will depend on the present Commonwealth Government's attitude to the future funding of water resources developments, as the previous arrangements under the National Water Resources (Financial Assistance) Act 1978 expired on 30 June 1984.

SEWERAGE

Kelmscott

320. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What areas does the proposed Kelmscott backlog sewerage construction encompass and how many connections are proposed to be made?
- (2) To what stage has the project progressed?
- (3) What is the anticipated time of the completion of the project?
- (4) How many objections have been received?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) The proposed sewerage reticulation area in Kelmscott known as Westfield 6A covers an area generally bounded by Albany Highway, River Road, Gilwell Avenue and Ecko Road. A small area west of Albany Highway near Third Avenue is also included.

It is proposed that 352 properties would be served.

- (2) Preliminary investigation is completed.
- (3) Not known.
- (4) Twenty letters of objection to the scheme were received when the Metropolitan

Water Authority issued notices of intention to enter properties in order to conduct surveys prior to design. A petition with objections from 73 per cent of the properties to be served has also been received.

AGRICULTURE: METROPOLITAN MARKETS

Trading Hours

321. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What are the permitted trading hours of the metropolitan markets for—
 - (a) fish;
 - (b) meat;
 - (c) fruit and vegetables?
- (2) What are the opening times of the metropolitan markets and do these vary during the year?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) There are no trading hours specified by the trust for fish and meat. However, the following times have been established—
 - (a) Auction of fish commences 7.30 am Monday to Friday. The time of completion of sales varies according to the volume of fish offered.
 - (b) Auction of meat commences 9.45 am Monday to Friday. The time of completion of sales varies according to the volume of meat offered.
 - (c) The trading hours permitted by the trust for fruit and vegetables are—

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
5.00 am (Auction 5.45 am) to 1.30 pm

Tuesday and Thursday
8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Saturday
8.00 am to 10.00 am

Note: These hours do not oblige a tenant to open at these times.
- (2) A schedule of trading and receipt hours for fruit and vegetables is printed by the trust and made available to market users. A copy is tabled for information.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 87).

322 to 335. *Postponed.*

STOCK: CATTLE

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis

336. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Was the TB/brucellosis campaign discussed at the recent Agricultural Council meeting?
- (2) If "Yes", were any firm decisions made having regard for the concern of northern cattle producers as expressed at the Darwin meetings?
- (3) Would he advise if any variations to the original requirement of the programmes were agreed to?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) Yes. Australian Agricultural Council decided to establish a high level committee including veterinary, economic and financial expertise, to report within three months on destocking policies and future guidelines for the TB campaign in northern Australia.

STOCK: CATTLE

Tuberculosis

337. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Is the boundary fencing of a pastoral lease required prior to the Department of Agriculture agreeing to TB testing?

Mr EVANS replied:

No.

STOCK: CATTLE

Tuberculosis

338. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the United States of America declared TB free?
- (2) If not, could he ascertain how many States are not recognised as being free of TB?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) In 1983 TB was detected in 11 herds from five mainland States. All but one herd was totally slaughtered.

STOCK: CATTLE

Tuberculosis

339. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Could he ascertain if the remaining bison herd in the American continent is considered free of TB?
- (2) If not, what control programmes are being undertaken?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) The Australian Bureau of Animal Health advises that the bison herd is considered free of TB.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Park

340. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Technology:

When can I expect to receive a response to my letter dated 20 June 1984, in his capacity as Minister for Industrial Development, and Technology, wherein I have requested information concerning the technology park?

Mr BRYCE replied:

By now the member will have received my reply (dated 2 August 1984) to his letter.

ENERGY: GAS

Pipelines: Dampier-Perth

341. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Referring to question 19 of 26 July 1984, why does the fact that the contract for the Dampier-Perth natural gas pipeline is currently under review by the Board of Commissioners of the State Energy Commission preclude him from answering?

Mr PARKER replied:

No further information can be provided until completion of the review of this matter by the Board of Commissioners of the State Energy Commission and after I receive its report.

HOUSING

Construction Programme: Albany

342. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Housing:

What is the State Housing Commission's building programme for Albany for the 1984-85 financial year?

Mr WILSON replied:

The proposed State Housing Commission building programme for Albany in 1984-85 is (subject to funding)—

Commonwealth/State	Aboriginal
19 units	1 unit

343. *Postponed.*

POLICE

Dismissal: Detective Alan Dyer

344. Mr THOMPSON, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Is it fact that although the Commissioner of Police recommended the dismissal of Detective Alan Dyer, a clear opportunity existed for the Minister to countermand the dismissal order?
- (2) Is it fact that Detective Dyer was dismissed under a section 8 order, against which there is no appeal?
- (3) In view of the fact that this man had 9½ years of exemplary service, would he reconsider the dismissal and, if not, would he at least see to it that he receives *pro rata* long service leave, the wages during his suspension, and other emoluments of office?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. However, before the recommendation for dismissal was confirmed, Mr Dyer and his advocate made appropriate submissions to me at a specially convened hearing. I was assisted by a representative of the Commissioner of Police and the Police Union representative on the disciplinary appeal tribunal.
- (3) Upon termination of employment, Mr Dyer received the same emoluments of office as an officer of the same service who had resigned or retired from the service. I am not prepared to seek an *ex gratia* payment for the period of suspension.

345 to 347. *Postponed.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Legislation: Agreement

66. Mr HASSELL, to the Acting Premier:

I have given some notice of this question. I refer to the statement by the Acting Premier on ABC radio on Monday, 6 August, in the following terms—

While there is an understanding that the Federal Government will respect Western Australia's land rights legislation, and that is an understanding that we respect, and which we expect will be respected.

Mr Bryce: It is a great sentence.

Mr HASSELL: Yes, I enjoyed the sentence. I ask—

- (1) Does the Government have an assurance from the Federal Government that the Federal Government's commitment to uniform land rights legislation will not apply to Western Australia?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) what is the form of that assurance;
 - (b) when was it obtained;
 - (c) who gave it;
 - (d) was it approved by Federal Cabinet;
 - (e) who received the assurance in the Western Australian Government;
 - (f) who sought the assurance?
- (3) If no such assurance has been received, what does the statement by the Acting Premier mean?
- (4) Does the Government expect that uniform land rights legislation, to which the Federal Government is committed, will not apply to Western Australia?
- (5) If so, what is the basis of that expectation?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (5) I did not have a great deal of notice of the question in terms of the detail. The Commonwealth has indicated that it recognises the significance and

the quality of the Seaman inquiry as a basis for determining the most appropriate form of land rights which would take into account the special circumstances of Western Australia.

Discussions between representatives of this Government and the Commonwealth Government—I have not been part of those discussions, but I have a distinct recollection of a report on them—have indicated that the Commonwealth Government will have full regard and respect for the model which the Western Australian Government selects following the release of the Seaman inquiry report, and the legislation that will be drafted and introduced into this Parliament.

Perhaps it is an appropriate opportunity to remind the Leader of the Opposition in this context that reference to uniform land rights legislation as it applies across the nation does not imply simply one option. In fact, quite conceivably one option involves the possibility of complementary legislation, and a distinct possibility exists that the model which may be developed here in Western Australia as a result of the Seaman inquiry could become a model for use in other parts of the country. Uniform legislation does not necessarily mean legislation uniformly imposed from above by the Federal Government.

Mr Hassell: I do not think you are aware of what Mr Holding said.

WATER RESOURCES: UNDERGROUND

Bunbury, Busselton, and Capel

67. The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand the Leader of the House has further information in relation to a question he answered previously.

Mr TONKIN: I have received information from the Acting Under Secretary for Works that my answer to parliamentary question 221 in the Assembly on 2 August was incorrect. In paragraph 2, line 6 of the reply, the words "West of Busselton" should be amended to read "East of Busselton".

SHOPPING CENTRE

Karratha

68. Mrs BUCHANAN, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

Can the Minister please give details of the current position regarding the development of a second shopping complex in Karratha?

Mr McIVER, replied:

I thank the member for adequate notice of her question, the answer to which is as follows—

Registrations of interest closed on Friday, 27 July and the Department of Lands and Surveys is now evaluating the proposals received with a view to finalising the terms of a land release to be advertised during September. As previously publicly stated, any resulting Land Board hearing will be timed to enable announcement of the successful applicant immediately after the expiry of the Wesfarmers agreement on 31 December 1984.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Legislation: Agreement

69. Mr HASSELL, to the Acting Premier:

Further to my earlier question, I ask—

- (1) What is the meaning of his statement that there is an understanding that the Federal Government will respect Western Australia's land rights legislation? Is it simply the general statement that he made that the Federal Government has a high regard for the Seaman inquiry, or is it that some specific arrangement exists between the State and the Commonwealth in relation to the State's intended land rights legislation, and the recognition of it by the Commonwealth?
- (2) Has the State Government received the Seaman report? If not, when does it expect to receive it?

Mr BRYCE, replied:

- (1) and (2) Taking the last part first, I advise that the Government has not yet received the Seaman report, but expects to receive it in about four or five weeks. In relation to the first part, I do not

think I can elaborate more clearly or in any more effective detail than I did when I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition that I was not personally party to the discussions held between the Premier of this State and some ministerial representatives from the Commonwealth. As I indicated in the comment on the radio, an understanding has been reached that the Commonwealth Government will respect the decisions this Government makes in respect of the legislation it introduces as a model for land rights in this country.

The Leader of the Opposition may have a vested interest and even a slight pre-occupation with the concept that uniform land rights means federally-imposed land rights across the nation.

There is more than one way of skinning a cat, and it is conceivable—

Mr Hassell: You have read Mr Holding's departmental publications.

Mr BRYCE: There have been fairly detailed and extensive discussions between representatives of our Government and the Commonwealth Government on this matter.

Mr Hassell: Do you have an agreement?

Mr BRYCE: I do not have one in writing. I received the question a couple of minutes before question time.

Mr Hassell: Have you an agreement with the Commonwealth on land rights?

Mr BRYCE: There is an understanding between our Government and the Commonwealth that our legislation will be respected.

TECHNOLOGY

Information: Pitfalls

70. Mr TROY, to the Minister for Technology:

While computer-age systems have the potential to accelerate greatly the flow of information within the State and within Australia as a whole, suggestions of pitfalls have been made. What action has the State Government taken to eradicate potential pitfalls in this area?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The member raises an issue that could involve hundreds of millions of dollars by the turn of the century. I remind members that if we do not act quickly on this

question in different parts of Australia, we could squander hundreds of millions of dollars across the States and effectively bungle the introduction of information technology in Australia.

We estimate that about \$1 billion has been invested by Governments across this country for hardware and software systems. We estimate that by 1987 that figure will approach \$4 billion and increase at a rate of more than \$1 billion a year after 1987, such is the rate of growth of expenditure in this field.

It is with some sadness that I point out to the member for Dale, a former Minister for Transport, that it is probable that Governments across the country will invest more money on information technology in the last 15 years of this century than they invested in railway systems in the previous 85 years. The problem emerging is one of major significance. Because we have established Australia's first Department of Information Technology, we are discovering some of the problems that exist that other Governments, including the Commonwealth Government, have yet to discover. I draw the attention of members to some of the systems which are evolving nationally and which include police, library, tourism, taxation, corporate affairs, industrial relations, and legal systems. The problem which we now face is that because seven different Governments are going in seven different ways, it is conceivable that in respect of the massive amount of data being put together in the individual State data bases, we will not be able to communicate across State borders.

We have before us the incredible error that was made a century ago in this country that led to the different States adopting different rail gauges—

Mr Cowan: No, Queensland and Western Australia had the same gauge.

Mr BRYCE: There were some similarities, but 1 000 kilometres of land lay between them.

The analogy I draw to the attention of members of the House is that more than a century ago we developed rail systems to suit our own desires in the different States, and the different gauges were incompatible at the borders. In doing that,

we exacerbated the tyranny of distance from one side of the country to the other.

In relation to information systems, we have Governments developing different data bases. We have common interests in the data being put together; and I remind the House that if we wait until about 1990 or later to decide to establish the equivalent in information technology terms of a standard-gauge railway across the country, it will cost hundreds of millions of additional dollars.

We have no national strategy to develop the gateway systems necessary to ensure compatibility. The best example to make it clear for members to understand is an indication that the system used by the Western Australian Police Force is an IBM-based system which has been borrowed by the Northern Territory Police Force, and the compatibility in communications between the two forces is excellent. The Queensland police system uses ICL equipment.

Mr Hassell: Which we used to use.

Mr BRYCE: Communications between Queensland and Western Australia, and the Northern Territory are impossible. Therefore, it is quite possible, with this sort of problem emerging—

Mr Hassell: What time does this lesson end?

Mr BRYCE: Shortly I will be calling upon members opposite to share the Government's concern about this matter.

Mr Court: Is your information correct?

Mr BRYCE: Yes. If I may take another moment—

Mr Cowan: You are sounding more and more like a former Deputy Premier than ever before.

Mr BRYCE: To conclude this analogy, let me point out to members that the way systems are developing, if we pursue the problem with the police data bases, it is now possible—

Mr Blaikie: You are putting the Deputy Speaker under absolute pressure and making a disgrace of question time.

Mr BRYCE: That is not true. I am happy to respond to each and every interjection.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Acting Premier will resume his seat, I will give an indication of what is going on.

Mr BRYCE: Excellent!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a particularly informative period of the parliamentary session, but I agree that, to a certain extent, some of the answers tend to become rather lengthy. However, on several occasions I heard the Acting Premier indicate that he wanted to draw his answer to a conclusion, and at that stage a barrage of interjections commenced. He then commenced to answer those interjections. If members want the opportunity to ask further questions, I suggest that they keep interjections to a minimum, and I suggest to the Acting Premier that he draw his answer to a conclusion.

Mr BRYCE: In the most succinct terms, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The point I make is that the police systems will be incompatible, and the cost of rendering them compatible will be very significant. We have written to the Prime Minister and sought the commitment of the national Government for the development of a national strategy in this field.

For the sake of the member for Vasse, I emphasise that because of this problem with the police system, it is quicker for a criminal to cross the State border than it is for his criminal record to follow him.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: LAND RIGHTS

Legislation: Agreement

71. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Does he know what arrangement, agreement, or understanding has been reached between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government in relation to the exemption of Western Australia from the application of the Commonwealth's proposal for uniform land rights?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the arrangement, agreement, or understanding?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The Leader of the Opposition has already put this question to the Acting Premier. I think he has received an

answer from him. I cannot help it if he cannot understand the answer. I cannot help it if he feels miffed about the fact that he is in the Opposition and is not privy to discussions between the State and Commonwealth Governments. The Leader of the Opposition should not go around all of the Ministers of the Government and keep repeating a question which has been answered by the Acting Premier.

Mr Bradshaw: You can't answer it.

Mr WILSON: I suppose the member for Murray-Wellington is an expert on this matter. Perhaps I should sit down and let him answer the question! The point is that there have been a number of discussions at the Premier-Prime Minister level and ministerial level about prospective proposals by the Commonwealth and State Governments for implementing land rights legislation. These are matters of continuing discussion between the two Governments. It can be said firmly at this stage that the Commonwealth has accepted that the Western Australian situation has specific circumstances and that the State Government, in instituting the Seaman inquiry, has put in place an inquiry which will have regard for the specific circumstances which affect these matters in Western Australia.

It is our clear understanding that the Commonwealth Government appreciates that the State Government of Western Australia is best placed to address the special conditions that apply to Western Australia in these matters, and that the Seaman inquiry has that intention in mind. When the State Government receives the Seaman inquiry recommendations, it will be in the best position to address that situation. The Commonwealth Government understands that and will fully respect our position in that regard.

If the Leader of the Opposition is miffed about the fact that, in Opposition, he is not privy to those discussions at a Government level, I cannot help that. He had better do what he can about it. His frustrations about that are his own problem.

HOUSING

Economic Recovery

72. Mrs BEGGS, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the improvement in the home building sector in Western Australia, an improvement which became evident in the second half of last year, been sustained in 1984?
- (2) If so, what indicators of performance of that sector does he have to demonstrate its continued recovery?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) and (2) I am happy to report the home building sector continued to recover in 1984.

The most recent various reports prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Master Builders Association, and the Real Estate Institute of Australia reveal the healthy state of this sector. The reports show—

The cost of housing described in the latest Consumer Price Index figures for the June and March quarters in 1984 are considerably lower than the national average. The rates of increases in the costs of housing for both quarters was considerably lower at 1.69 per cent than the national average of 2.19 per cent.

In another Australian Bureau of Statistics index, the price index of materials used in house building, Western Australia has experienced a lower percentage increase for building products in most months in 1984 compared with the national average.

The Real Estate Institute of Australia annual review of the residential property market released this week show home prices have remained stable in Perth in the last 12 months. Two other small cities, Canberra and Adelaide, have, in comparison, experienced a 25 per cent increase in home prices.

The Opposition will welcome and applaud the fact that job vacancies in the building industry have increased over the last month. The Master Builders Association survey of major Perth newspapers found building vacancies increased by 56 per cent in July compared with June

1984. Specific vacancies for bricklayers increased by 71 per cent in the same period.

It is increasingly obvious the dream of Australians to own their homes can be realised most easily in Western Australia.

WATER RESOURCES: DAM

Harding River: Aboriginal Claim

73. Mr COWAN, to the Acting Premier:

Will the Acting Premier table in this Parliament any necessary documents that may dispel the rumour that recent events relating to the Harding River Dam issue were carefully orchestrated to defuse the obvious backlash against Aboriginal land rights?

Mr BRYCE replied:

There are a couple of elements in that question. The first relates to the question of my tabling all relevant documents. The member for Merredin has not indicated what he means by the words "relevant documents". If he means the sorts of documents that are the subject of normal Government to community negotiations that take place in resolving a situation like the one referred to by the Minister for Housing last week, and referred to before him by one or two other Ministers in this current session of Parliament, it is not normal practice for Governments to table such papers. Previous Governments have never tabled papers in that way and it is not appropriate for this Government to table those sorts of papers now.

Members should bear in mind that members sitting opposite, when they sat on this side of the House, repeatedly advised other members of this place that people who have participated in confidential discussions with Government officers and who actually send off confidential letters to Governments, do not do so on the understanding that they will be tabled in the Parliament simply to prove a debating point.

Mr Cowan: Answer the question "Yes" or "No". It is the biggest con trick ever between two Governments.

Mr BRYCE: It is a most interesting insistence on the part of the member for Merredin. I think he understands the gist

of what I am saying. The answer is "No". We do not intend to depart from a long-established practice in respect of the tabling of papers.

However, in relation to the other aspect of his question, I say with the greatest of respect to the member for Merredin, that what he said in respect of the matter being contrived is complete and utter nonsense.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Canning.

Several members interjected.

TRANSPORT: SHIPPING

South-East Asia

74. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Transport:

As one of the old guard languishing in the back benches, I point out that the question I want to ask of the Minister for Transport is a very important one to me. I ask—

What steps is the Western Australian Government taking to forge sea links to the South-East Asian region?

Mr GRILL replied:

Adequate transport services are vital to the State Government's objective of developing closer trading links with South-East Asia. This Government is particularly committed to developing trading links with its near neighbours Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

However, it is also keen to develop trading opportunities in any area in which we might have a comparative advantage; that is, in other parts of the far east and in countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

Right now, the shipping market is more favourable to shippers than it has been for many years. Most liner shipping routes are over-tonnaged and it looks as though they will remain over-tonnaged for some time to come. The Government will take the opportunity to encourage shippers and shipper representative organisations to bargain hard for favourable freight rates for at least the next two or three years.

We are proud of the Port of Fremantle which is poised to take full advantage of

its Indian Ocean location. There has been considerable capital investment in the port in recent years. Fremantle is a modern container port capable of handling a far greater volume of containerised traffic than its present throughput of around 90 000 TEU per annum. It has, as well as three modern and efficient portainer cranes, RO-RO facilities for stern-ramp and quarter-ramp vessels, and two other cranes which can be used for loading and unloading containers from liner vessels.

I have been able to reach an understanding with the Fremantle Port Authority unions which will avoid the sorts of industrial disruptions that affected other ports earlier this year. There is no reason it should not be regarded as the entry port for Australia for a large range of containerised commodities from neighbouring countries.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY: LEASE

Mt. Anderson

75. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

Further to the meeting with Mr Sandy Blair and his solicitor on Monday when the Minister indicated that Cabinet may make a decision on the same day concerning the leasing of Mt. Anderson Station, I ask—

- (1) Has Cabinet decided to approve the lease of Mt. Anderson Station to the highest tenderer, Mr and Mrs Blair?
- (2) If "No" to (1), have Mr and Mrs Blair failed to satisfy the requirements in any way, be it finance, experience or something else to qualify them to run Mt. Anderson Station?
- (3) What are the Government's reasons for approving the calling of tenders for leasing Mt. Anderson Station and then making the decision to renege on its earlier decision causing the Blairs considerable concern and loss of time and materials?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) to (3) I advise that Cabinet has reached a decision. Various options and all aspects of Mt. Anderson Station were considered and in the final analysis Cabinet

decided that the lease of Mt. Anderson Station would be allocated to the Looma pastoral community.

If Mr Blair can prove, by an independent valuer, that he has incurred costs in his application, the ADC will meet those costs.

Mr Blaikie: You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Several members interjected.

Mr McIVER: Is the member for Vasse going to answer the question or am I?

Before members of the Opposition go off on a tangent and try to embarrass my colleague, the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs, I advise that one of the contributing factors that determined Cabinet's decision was that two previous Liberal Premiers; namely, Sir Charles Court and Hon. Ray O'Connor, my predecessor, Hon. David Wordsworth and Hon. Bill Withers were united in the decision that this station be leased to the Looma pastoral community. The decision was based on the fact that the community is very conscientious and is anti alcohol. The community is keen to prove to everyone in Western Australia and Australia that it has the ability to run the station.

Mr Blaikie: Why did you call tenders in the first place?

Mr McIVER: The community has demonstrated that it can do the job and I want to emphasise that this has nothing to do with Aboriginal land rights.

Several members interjected.

Mr McIVER: As this sensitive matter has been raised by the Opposition in an effort to gain political points I emphasise again that it has nothing to do with Aboriginal land rights.

Several members interjected.

Mr McIVER: The decision was based on previous requests by this community and it was strongly supported by those now who sit in judgment and who, by their interjections and by their direct attack on my colleague, the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs, reveal their own hypocrisy; the statements of members opposite have been designed to divide and stir the people of Western Australia on this very sensitive issue.

The matter was fully discussed by Cabinet and I am positive that the decision was the correct one.

If Mr Blair can prove by an independent valuer that he has incurred costs in this exercise, the costs involved will be reimbursed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! When there are so many interjections it is very difficult for me to determine who the first member is to make the call.

TRANSPORT: SHIPPING

Costs

76. Mr P. J. SMITH, to the Minister for Transport:

Following the Federal Government seminar on shore-based shipping costs, what role will Western Australia play in keeping down shipping costs?

Mr GRILL replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows—

This Government will encourage the negotiation of very attractive rail freight rates moving from Fremantle to Eastern States capitals. In addition, shippers are finding that the Stateship's new vessel *Irene Greenwood* provides an attractive service for containerised cargoes moving to and from Tasmanian and Victorian ports.

As the member points out, last month a successful Federal Government seminar on shore-based shipping costs was held in Sydney. My Federal colleague, Mr Peter Morris, was enthusiastic about the spirit of accord which emerged from the seminar. Reports I have received indicate that high-level executives in the shipping and cargo-handling industries and senior union representatives seemed keen to roll up their sleeves and tackle mutual problems in a spirit of togetherness.

The WA Government will work together with waterfront unions, Government agencies and private sector organisations, such as EAC and Fremantle Cargo Services Ltd, to ensure that Fremantle gains a reputation for continuous, reliable and flexible service at reasonable

cost. In this way I am sure that Western Australia will gain in terms of growth in trade with our Indian Ocean neighbours and in terms of a steady growth in cargo flowing through the Port of Fremantle.

NATURAL DISASTER: STORM

Albany

77. Mr WATT, to the Acting Premier:

Following the severe damage to beaches at Albany in weekend storms, I ask—

- (1) Will the Government provide financial assistance to the local authority to help with restoration work?
- (2) Have Government officers been sent to Albany to assess the damage and to liaise with local councils on the matter of restoration?
- (3) Is he able to advise any initial estimate of the cost of the storm damage?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (3) I thank the member for Albany for some notice of his question. At this stage I do not have detailed information on the extent of storm damage.

Mr MacKinnon: That is nothing unusual.

Mr BRYCE: The smart alec who is currently the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was well known in respect of his individual former portfolios for ducking for cover, not only at question time, but also during debates.

Mr MacKinnon: I always answered the questions—

Mr BRYCE: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was never the Deputy Premier and I suggest to him that he does not use that as an excuse, because it will not do him any good.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have already mentioned the number of interjections this evening which have extended the time taken to give answers. It is obvious that certain members of this House either did not listen or were not here when I made my comments. If members want questions to be answered in a lengthy way, the best way to encour-

age that is to interject and ask for answers to those interjections.

If members want to give an opportunity to each member in this House to ask questions—and I think about eight are still trying to catch my eye—they should not interject.

Mr BRYCE: The member to whom I was referring peddles the excuse through the Public Service today that the reason he was such a miserable failure as Minister for Industrial Development was the difference between being No. 2 and No. 13 in the Cabinet ranking. He does this persistently.

I now return to the question: I will be happy to give the member for Albany full chapter and verse of that detail. A meeting will take place at 6.30 this evening in my office with a number of Government officers, including the representative from the great southern region. We shall be putting together the threads of the information concerning the storm damage in Albany. When that picture has been put together comprehensively and intelligently I will be very happy to respond to the member for Albany with an indication of whether assistance is warranted and the form it will take for the Albany community. I will not be seeking assistance from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

LAND: MANAGEMENT

Accountability

78. Mr JAMIESON, to the Acting Premier:

Can the Acting Premier inform the House of the Government's latest moves to increase Government efficiency and improve public accountability for land management?

Mr BRYCE replied:

Let the record show that "whingeing Willy" has left the Chamber.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRYCE: Shortly after this Government came into office a task force was established to address the question of the management of publicly-owned land in this State because it was a question that had been ignored by previous Governments.

Mr Rushton: The work had already been done.

Mr BRYCE: "Six-vote Cyril" frequently takes credit for everything this Government does.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr BRYCE: Let me make the point perfectly clear to the member for Dale: The work had not been done in this area. A task force comprising three first-class experts has been established. I refer to the task force that the members of the Opposition were all too ready to condemn. It has produced an outstanding set of recommendations that will, in fact, address a major issue in this State.

Mr Clarko: How long will it take to answer this question?

Mr BRYCE: I will answer it in the appropriate time.

Mr Clarko: We shall leave at 6.00 p.m. Will you keep answering the question when we have left?

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin: You are a rude animal.

Mr Clarko: This is a fiasco. The Acting Premier has been on his feet for 80 per cent of question time.

Mr BRYCE: Can I help it if the Opposition is so attracted to me in terms of the information I can supply?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order!

