

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 10 August 1982

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

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Oath of Office

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I have to announce that Mr Eric Greenwell Freeman, on 5 August 1982, did before me take and subscribe the oath of office of Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations in accordance with the Parliamentary Commissioner Act.

EDUCATION: COMMUNITY BASED PRE-SCHOOLS

Funding: Petition

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [4.33 p.m.]: I have a petition from 11 citizens of this State expressing grave concern that the funding for the education of four-year-old children in community-based pre-school centres may be cut, and respectfully drawing the attention of members to this. The petition contains 11 signatures, and I certify that it conforms with the Standing Orders of the House.

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

(See petition No. 13).

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Membership: Motion

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Premier) [4.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the member for Fremantle (Mr Parker) be discharged from the services of the Public Accounts Committee and the member for Swan (Mr Gordon Hill) be appointed in his place.

Question put and passed.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Membership: Motion

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Premier) [4.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Minister for Primary Industry (Mr Old) be discharged from the services of the House Committee and the member for

Mount Marshall (Mr McPharlin) be appointed in his place.

Question put and passed.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED (MERGER) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Treasurer), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [4.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to facilitate the merger of the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited and its subsidiary, the Commercial Savings Bank of Australia Limited, with the Bank of New South Wales and its subsidiary, the Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank Limited.

This merger has been agreed to by the two banks for a variety of commercial reasons. As a result of take-over offers made by the Wales in June 1981, the CBA becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of the Wales. As the CBA Savings Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of the CBA, it also now becomes controlled by the Wales. The banks intend that the business of the CBA should be conducted by the Wales and that the business of the CBA Savings Bank should be conducted by the Wales Savings Bank.

Mr Parker: What do you think of the new name for this?

MR O'CONNOR: The member for Fremantle can comment on that later, if he wishes.

The merger has the approval of the Treasury of the Commonwealth of Australia. The principal legislation connected with the merger has been enacted in New South Wales. To perfect the merger, legislation similar to this Bill is being sought by the Bank of New South Wales in each State. It is hoped that all necessary arrangements made will enable completion by 30 September 1982 so that the merger may become effective on 1 October 1982.

In practical terms the merger of these banks would involve the transfer of many thousands of trading and savings accounts and the transfer of borrowing arrangements of many thousands of customers in Western Australia alone. Every individual customer of the CBA and the CBA Savings Bank would be required to enter into a new banking relationship with the Wales or the Wales Savings Bank. This would involve the closure of accounts and the opening of new

accounts, the release of mortgages and securities and the resubmission of arrangements and the taking of fresh securities. The time and effort involved in carrying out the merger by means of separate transactions would be unduly onerous to customers, bank staff, Government officers, and others.

The purpose of the legislation is to avoid the very great inconvenience which would otherwise be suffered by the general public, by Government officials, and by the staff of both banks in effecting the merger proposals. The saving in documentation which would be achieved by the proposed legislation is not intended to deprive the State of any revenue which might have been derived from the stamping of such documentation.

The Government has negotiated with the Bank of New South Wales for a payment in lieu of stamp duty, and agreement has been reached on this aspect. This follows precedents set by legislation for the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group merger in 1970, and the Bank of Adelaide merger in 1980.

In considering the merger arrangements particular attention has been given to the rights of the staff involved. The impact of the merger on staff conditions has been examined, and the Government is satisfied that the employees will transfer with no break in service on identical terms and conditions, and with the preservation of their superannuation rights.

Clause 3 is the interpretation clause and provides definitions of a number of terms used in the Bill. Principal amongst these are the following—

“excluded assets”: Lands constituting bank premises or bank residences are to remain in the ownership of the CBA or the CBA Savings Bank; the purpose of this definition is to exclude from the transfer of assets land held by the banks otherwise than by way of security, and also to exclude from the transfer any records required by law to be kept by the CBA or the CBA Savings Bank;

“liabilities” is defined as including duties and obligations;

“property” is widely defined to include real and personal property; when excluded assets are not intended to be covered by the use of the general term “property”, it is so provided in the operative clauses of the Bill;

“undertaking” in relation to the CBA or the CBA Savings Bank in each case covers all the property of the relevant bank and

all rights and liabilities of the relevant bank apart from excluded assets and rights and liabilities relating to excluded assets.

The remaining definitions are self explanatory. Clause 5 declares that the Act will bind the Crown.

Members will note that instruments mentioned in the schedule, and any property rights and liabilities arising from or created by those instruments, are excluded from the operation of the Act.

A key provision is included in clause 6(1) whereby the undertakings of the CBA and the CBA Savings Bank are to vest in the Wales and the Wales Savings Bank respectively. This simple enactment enables succession of the Wales to the whole of the property assets and liabilities of the CBA, except excluded assets and liabilities relating to those assets. It allows also the names “Bank of New South Wales” and “Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank Limited” to be read in lieu of “CBA” and “CBA Savings Bank Limited” in relation to documents, places of business, proprietorship of any estate or interest in land, and enforcement of any rights or liabilities arising prior to the appointed day.

Other machinery clauses concern customer relationships, securities for debts, safe custody of documents, negotiable instruments, and preservation of legal proceedings.

Clause 9 ensures that the Wales or the Wales Savings Bank may exercise the rights of the CBA or the CBA Savings Bank in respect of any excluded assets without constituting a parting with possession by the CBA or the CBA Savings Bank.

Members will note that the preservation of the rights of staff is dealt with in clause 12.

Other provisions relate to the appointment of new trustees and the recording and registration of dealings to give effect to the purposes of the Bill.

The final clause exonerates a person dealing with the Wales, the CBA, or the respective savings banks from making inquiries as to whether the property with which he is dealing is an excluded asset.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY LIMITED (MERGER) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Treasurer), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [4.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce a second Bill which parallels the legislation on which I have just spoken. The Bill aims to give effect to precisely the same arrangements in respect of the merger of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited and its subsidiary, the CBC Savings Bank Limited, with the National Bank of Australasia Limited and its subsidiary, the National Bank Savings Bank Limited.

As a result of offers made by the National Bank in mid-1981, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney has become a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Bank. This was the first step towards a total integration and merger of the operations of the two banks, their respective savings banks, and their respective nominee companies. Legislation is necessary to perfect the merger due to the need to amalgamate the assets, liabilities, and businesses of the two banking groups.

One respect in which this Bill differs from The Commercial Bank of Australia Limited (Merger) Bill 1982 is that no property, rights, or liabilities the subject of separate instruments are in existence, and consequently the Bill does not contain a savings clause relating to such matters.

There is a further variation relating to the appointment of trustees. The corresponding clause in The Commercial Bank of Australia Limited (Merger) Bill 1982 provides that within three months after the appointed day a corporation named in an instrument as a new trustee may be appointed in place of a corporation named in the instrument as a retiring trustee. Clause 12 of this Bill specifically vests property held immediately before the merger by Commercial Nominees Pty. Ltd. as trustee, in National Nominees Limited as trustee.

Although this merger is scheduled to take effect from 1 January 1983, three months later than the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited merger, it is most important that the legislation required to be passed in all States is attended to as a matter of urgency. The passage of the two

Bills simultaneously therefore is deemed to be expedient.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

STAMP AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 August.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balcatta—Leader of the Opposition) [4.50 p.m.]: The Opposition intends to support this legislation, but takes the opportunity to make one or two points that further indicate the way in which this Government appears not to know very much about what it is doing.

I do not suppose many members will recall, but at the start of this year there was some publicity accorded to a decision of the High Court in which it was indicated that as a result of that decision property transfers that were made as part of future divorce settlements would be subject to State stamp duty. At the time the Opposition indicated that it believed it was not appropriate for the State Government to take advantage of that High Court decision to raise revenue; that it appeared to us to be an unworthy way of receiving revenue in Western Australia. We indicated at that time that we would be introducing legislation that would seek to block off the avenue the High Court had opened up.

To quote from an article published in *The West Australian*—

The State Opposition Leader, Mr Burke, announced last night that the Opposition would move in Parliament to block the levying of stamp duty on transfers of assets between spouses in the break-up of a marriage.

Thereafter we indicated that we thought the persistence of this avenue of revenue raising was best termed "miserable". The next day the Premier said that it was absolutely incorrect to think that the High Court's decision would mean that transfers of the type that had been referred to would be subject to stamp duty and he indicated that the previous nominal rate of \$5 would be the appropriate one affecting transfers of this nature in the future.

I suppose we were welcome to take the Premier at his word, only to find now that the Government is introducing legislation to do what we said needed to be done. The Premier said then—

Therefore, the statement by the Opposition Leader, Mr Burke, that the Opposition would move in Parliament to block the levying of stamp duties on transfers of assets between spouses in the break-up of a marriage is a hollow one.

Mr O'Connor: What was the date of that article?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That was 2 January. Now we find that we are doing it.

Mr Bertram: That is not unusual.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: We indicated at the time, not in a political way, but in a straightforward and constructive manner, that this change would be necessary.

Mr Hassell: So did the Government, so your claim was hollow. You know it was hollow. It was just a stunt, like most of your statements.

Mr Tonkin: Why have you brought the Bill in then?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: On 2 January *The West Australian* reported—

The Premier, Sir Charles Court, confirmed yesterday that divorcees in WA would not be affected by last week's High Court ruling—

Mr O'Connor: Have they been?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: To continue—

on the application of stamp duty to property transfers involved in divorce settlements.

The Premier interjected to ask, "Have they been?". I am not in a position to say that the settlements have been processed.

Mr O'Connor: You have not read this then.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: This is the point—

Mr Hassell: They haven't been, of course, because the Government moved immediately to make sure they were not.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: We have had a delay of this many months—the Minister for Police and Prisons might leave the Chamber, but the Premier remains—and we have had these delays because what we said was the case was the case; that is all.

Mr Bertram: That is simple enough. He can follow that.

Mr Tonkin: He is just incompetent.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Premier said that transfers involved in divorce settlements would not be affected by the High Court decision. I am sure the Premier believed that was the case, but it was found, according to the second reading speech, that his assessment was wrong, and so the transfers were delayed.

Mr Pearce: Delayed from January, in fact.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: While we had said the change was necessary to the law to do something that the Government agreed should be done, the Premier said, "No, it is not necessary." He was found to be incorrect. Delays were necessary in the transfer of property associated with settlements and today we are considering the change that the Opposition said was necessary when the High Court decision was handed down. This is typical of the way in which this Government appears to be operating. I am not saying that on 2 January the present Premier was involved, but I am saying that this Government has taken eight months to get into gear and to bring into this Chamber a change that is agreed upon by all parties—presuming that the National Party accepts the desirability of the change—as a necessary and desirable one.

While we consider this change today, it is interesting to note that the Premier already has foreshadowed yet another change to the Act. The House has the right to ask why it is that the change is not being introduced at the same time as this one.

We accept that had the fourth change involved major delays, we could not logically complain about the Government's bringing forward this piece of legislation and then complain that the fourth change is not included in it, but it seems to us that a different idea occurs to this Government each week and it legislates according to the weekly ideas it gets. There does not appear to us to be any consistency or direction in the way in which the Government is proceeding. It is sitting on its hands.

In this case we have a situation in which the Government is being forced to contradict what the Premier said on 2 January. As far as the Opposition is concerned, we accept the intention of the Government to impose the \$5 nominal fee on transfers of property that result from divorce settlements to any person who is a party to the marriage or a dependant child of the parties to the marriage.

We accept too that by this Bill the Government is in effect closing a loophole that exists in the present legislation. We accept the changes that this Bill makes in respect of the maintenance agreements and orders which now will become subject to the nominal rate of duty; that is, the rate of \$5.

As far as the Opposition is concerned, the changes that are now being made are changes that we knew would be necessary when the High Court decision was announced. It was known to

be necessary right around the country. We say only that it is a shame that the Premier on 2 January was not aware that it would be necessary, and that it has taken so long for the changes to be made.

I suppose we could argue that no-one has been adversely affected because there have been no cases in which stamp duty has been levied, but it is not a sign of good or efficient Government to have transfers awaiting processing, nor to have any contention surrounding the law that is applicable in cases such as this.

The Opposition supports the Bill.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [4.59 p.m.]: In speaking on the Bill, one would doubt very much that the Leader of the Opposition was supporting it. In criticising the Government he is criticising the Opposition in its own inefficiency.

Mr Evans: He is criticising your administration.

Mr I. F. Taylor: And justifiably so.

Mr O'CONNOR: It is strange how members opposite never want to hear the other side of the story and how time after time they hit in this way and try to drown us out so we cannot be heard properly in this Chamber.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Excuses, excuses!

Mr O'CONNOR: I listened to the Leader of the Opposition without making any interjections.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: I know something I would like to use on the member for Gosnells and it is not a megaphone!

Several members interjected.

Mr Pearce: We are prepared to legislate to accommodate these kinky practices.

Mr O'CONNOR: The Opposition has criticised the Government for inefficiency. If it thought that the legislation should have been presented to the House earlier why did it not take action by bringing a motion to this effect to the House? Opposition members sit there and criticise the Government because it is doing something about it.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to some remarks made by the previous Premier in January. Unfortunately, I cannot comment on those remarks because I did not hear them. The Bill is in accord with the promises made by the Government to make sure that those people concerned are not affected. If it had not taken this action it would have been a reflection on a number of people for whom we had previously

legislated. The amount of \$5 is sufficient and I am grateful for the support that the Opposition has given to 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.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [5.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balcatta—Leader of the Opposition) [5.04 p.m.]: I do not want to delay the House, but let me explain the matter very simply to the Treasurer. When we said that this change was necessary, the Treasurer said it was not and that a situation would arise in which a nominal fee would be charged on these transfers.

Mr O'Connor: That was the previous Treasurer.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That is correct. We accept the word of the Government that it will continue to assess those transfers. Do not blame the Opposition for not bringing in legislation because if the Treasurer states something is being done by his Government and that it will act in a certain way, we accept that. The fault does not lie with the Opposition; and without wanting to protest too much, I say it lies with the Treasurer who told the public that the situation would be corrected when, in fact, it could not be corrected because of the High Court decision. If the Treasurer criticises the Opposition, we accept it, but do not ask us to trust the Government because if it had given that undertaking, we would have accepted it and proceeded on that basis.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Treasurer) [5.06 p.m.]: The undertakings given by the previous Premier were adhered to and those people concerned were not inconvenienced at all. At the time he gave the undertakings I did not hear a bleat from the Opposition at all. However, the Opposition is now bleating because the Government has implemented the legislation that is required without members of the Opposition having said anything themselves on it. The bleating has a hollow ring.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BULK HANDLING AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 August.

MR EVANS (Warren) [5.07 p.m.]: Most members in this House are aware of the structure of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd., its origin, and the manner in which it was set up as a co-operative. To that end it is charged with the responsibility of handling the storage of all wheat and barley in Western Australia, and is the sole handler in Western Australia. The purpose of the Bill is to enable CBH to allow a bulk handling limit of 40 per cent of the capital. The chairman of CBH has verified this action. At present the limit is 20 per cent and it has had some rather interesting technical consequences. CBH is required to issue or transfer to each grower in the industry one fully paid up share to the nominal value of \$2 out of the foundation toll collections of that particular grower.

Should a grower not supply grain for two consecutive years—unless there is some extraordinary situation which prevents him from so doing—he ceases to become a member of the corporation and his membership lapses, and his share is purchased back by the company at its face value. Such shares acquired in this way are held by CBH and it is a matter of their being held in trust; whether or not they are physically placed in a security vault does not really matter. The essential thing is that the chairman makes a particular point that the voting power attached to that share which each single holder is able to exercise, no longer pertains and until such time as the share is relocated by transfer to a new grower it remains in that position.

The situation at the present time is a reflection, to some extent, on farming. More than 20 per cent of the capital has been acquired by CBH. The Minister, in his explanatory second reading notes, gave a fairly good outline of the overall position and he referred to the situation as it has existed. However, there are certain aspects of which members of this House should be aware.

The first point to which I refer is the actual number of shares that CBH is holding. I have placed two questions on the notice paper in an endeavour to clarify some aspects. As time will not permit the Minister to answer these questions I am sure he will be able to clarify the points I raise.

The Legislative Assembly is being asked to validate actions of CBH which may be contrary to the legislation which has been set up; that is, it is holding in excess of 20 per cent of the capital. Therefore, it should be pointed out to what extent this has occurred.

There is no suggestion of any improper motive being attached in any way. The articles of association will preclude this in any event. It would be desirable if that point, together with the other factual details on the shareholding—the total number that CBH holds and has issued and the number it has purchased—were made known. Members would be interested to have the total situation clarified.

Over the years CBH has done a great service to the grain growers of Western Australia. At Kwinana it has constructed one of the best loading terminals in Australia, which is to its credit. All parties in this House have supported and backed CBH to that end, for the very good reason that it is facilitating one of the big exporter earners upon which Western Australia depends.

Over recent times criticism has been made of the actual operation of CBH and I suspect that this stems basically from the overall concern about the building programme and the capitalisation which has occurred in recent times.

A further question I ask of the Minister is: What are the present comparative charges of CBH and other grain handling authorities in Australia? I am not able to quote these figures precisely, but it would be a further matter of interest to see how CBH compares with some of the other authorities.

It well could be that the expressions of concern are manifest and are justified if the overall charges are in excess, to a fair degree, of a comparable organisation elsewhere. *The Mercury* edition of 5 August 1982, makes reference to a proposition which is currently being examined by the producers' organisation; that is, that \$13 million could be saved annually by grain producers.

The manner in which grain growing has altered through management and new techniques in recent years, has offset the cost of production. Of course, there will be a limitation to this, but those savings are necessary if the grain industry is to remain viable.

Other aspects of savings as suggested in the article include the operation of handling and transportation and the concepts involved. One idea which had been floated involved the changing of the present system, under which

CBH imposes tolls on growers, to one under which the same amount of money is paid, despite the fact the tolls would be returned at the end of a 10-year term. This tends to be eroded by inflation. The article continues to detail the extent to which this occurs because of inflation and effluxion of time. However, these are matters which need to be examined.

I think it is most desirable that there is some avenue of reviewing the total operation of grain transportation and storage in every State, including Western Australia, and I would be interested if the Minister could make some comment on that score. It is true that over the years the administration of CBH by its producer members has been quite successful. However, it is quite possible that, with innovations, a review of operations, especially of costings, could be in order. On that point, I would appreciate information in respect of the present level of shares held by CBH, and ask whether the Minister has any observation to make on the operations side, particularly in the light of the proposal put forward by the Primary Industry Association.

This Bill probably is the most satisfactory method of resolving the problem with which CBH is confronted. I am sure everyone would like to avoid the very complicated situation of changing the articles of association of the company, which would be the only alternative to this legislation.

With those few words, the Opposition raises no objection to this Bill.

MR COWAN (Merredin) [5.17 p.m.]: None of the grain producers to whom I have spoken in the constituency I represent has any objection to this Bill. All it will do is enable Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. legally to purchase more of the shares which are being given up by farmers who are no longer in the grain producing industry. That in itself indicates one of the trends in agriculture today: Too many farmers are leaving the industry. At present, no Government can do anything about that situation; however, it is a pity to see the necessity for such legislation.

The Bill contains only two clauses, and it is quite clear from clause 2(a) that, for some time at least, the company has been operating outside the law in that it has purchased in excess of 20 per cent of the issued shares. Indeed, if the company had not been operating illegally, there would have been no necessity for the inclusion of paragraph (a).

Despite the comments of the member for Warren in regard to some of the operations at CBH, most producers believe that the company

almost always has operated in their best interests. While they believe we should retain some system which provides for the monitoring of CBH, they have no great complaints about the company.

As no objection has been expressed to the Bill by the grain producers I represent, and as I have no objection to its provisions, I support the measure before the House.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.19 p.m.]: I thank members for their support of the Bill. As the member for Warren rightly pointed out, this legislation has been necessitated by a set of circumstances which occurred over a period. Normally, under the articles of association of co-operatives, the registered co-operative may redeem only up to five per cent of the shareholding of the company. However, when the Bulk Handling Act was first enacted, this limitation was set at 20 per cent because of the type of operation in which CBH would be engaged; that necessitated only one share being issued to each shareholder.

Each shareholder is issued with a share at the time of the deduction of the toll. As the member for Warren pointed out, if a grower does not deliver grain for two years, and if there are no extenuating circumstances, his share is redeemed and is available to be sold to another wheat grower or grain producer who delivers to CBH.

Unfortunately, as the member for Merredin pointed out, the rural industry presently is in a decline; this has necessitated the company's taking back shares and not being able to place them with the purchasers of the properties from which they were redeemed because, in most circumstances, those people already have been shareholders of CBH and the Act provides that they may hold only one \$2 share.

The member for Warren asked me to give some indication of the number of shares held by CBH. I apologise; off the top of my head, I am unable to provide this information. However, I undertake to do so at the third reading stage of the Bill. My understanding is that the statutory limit has been exceeded, but not by any great amount. Nevertheless, it has become necessary to amend the Act to allow CBH to operate legally.

It is interesting to note that my office received some mild criticism of the proposal to increase the percentage maximum to 40 per cent; apparently, some people were under the misapprehension that redeemed shares had a voting power. That is not the case; the only shares which have a voting power are those held by shareholders; so, there is no way the board of CBH can utilise the voting power of those shares.

The member for Warren mentioned the scheme recently put forward by the Primary Industry Association which recommended we change the structure of CBH by implementing a different type of deduction. While I believe the case put forward by the PIA has some merit, at this stage I do not believe it is acceptable to CBH. However, it is something which should be discussed at an annual general meeting because it would involve a complete change in the existing method of operation of the company. I do see the scheme as having limited application inasmuch as it would be of greater benefit to a grower who was paying a fairly high rate of taxation than it would be to one who was paying a low rate or, in the case of many growers, no tax at all. However, I do not believe any organisation—CBH included—has any right to say that what it is doing should be beyond amendment. The growers have a right to put forward suggestions, and I am quite sure the proposal of the PIA will be considered seriously by the shareholders.

I was pleased to hear the member for Warren extol the activities of CBH because there is no doubt it is a very efficient organisation. The company has jealously guarded its operations, perhaps to the extent that, at times, it has got into a little hot water with its Eastern States counterparts and, at times, with the Australian Wheat Board. However, it always has acted in the best interests of growers in this State; that in itself is paramount in an organisation financed and run by producers.

The member for Warren asked me about the level of charges. I cannot quote an exact comparison of charges as between the States. However, last year the charges imposed in Western Australia compared very favourably with those applying in other States. In fact, after consultation with the PIA, a levelling off of charges between grains occurred, and I believe that move was well received.

We must always bear in mind one point: As the member for Warren mentioned, CBH has at Kwinana the finest installation in the southern hemisphere; indeed, CBH claims it is the finest in the world, and it may be right. Obviously, the servicing of the debt structure for that facility must be reflected in the charges which the company must raise. While Eastern States growers may enjoy a short-term advantage in handling charges, this definitely will be only in the short term because very soon they will need to rebuild port structures and, obviously, they will want to do them well. I have mentioned to the House before that the various States have approached the Commonwealth to make available

loan moneys to enable the States to install these new facilities. This is something I am watching very closely, because if any such concessions are to be made available to the Eastern States, Western Australia certainly should be reimbursed to some degree, or the same type of finance should be made available to CBH in recognition of the fact that the company was far sighted enough to venture into this project when it did, bearing in mind that it would cost a great deal more money to duplicate that facility at today's costs.

I thank members for their support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Blaikie) in the Chair; Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 13 amended—

Mr COWAN: This is the functional clause of the Bill. As I pointed out during the second reading stage, paragraph (a) would not be necessary had CBH not been acting illegally in purchasing in excess of 20 per cent of the shares of the co-operative.

Paragraph (b) will enable CBH to purchase up to 40 per cent of the available shares. I question the necessity to place any limit on CBH. After all, redeemed shares have no voting power, and are held by CBH only until they can be reissued to another grower. It seems to be a completely superfluous provision. Indeed, at the rate the agricultural industry regrettably is declining, it is possible that in 10 or 15 years' time this Chamber will be debating a provision lifting the limit to 60 per cent.

Mr OLD: That is a very good question. Let me say that 40 per cent was suggested because it was felt to be a fairly safe level. I take the point made by the member for Merredin that as the shares held are non-voting shares it does not really matter. However, some concern was expressed by the Primary Industry Association that it would not like to see the level of redemption exceed 40 per cent. I agree that it does not really matter, and even if the number of grain growers decreased considerably, it could rise to 60 or 70 per cent and it still would not affect the operation of the company although, of course, it would be a tragedy for the industry. So the figure of 40 per cent was included because it was considered to be

a safe percentage, as was 20 per cent in the first instance.

Mr COWAN: Why is 40 per cent considered to be a safe percentage? CBH must issue a share to each grower, and it must ask for the share back if a grower has not produced or delivered grain for the prescribed period. I cannot say whether that level is safe or unsafe, but why is a percentage figure required? CBH is controlled. It must issue shares and it must take them back. Why should we be concerned about the percentage of shares that CBH can hold at any one time? That has no importance at all, particularly as they are non-voting shares. Other parts of the Act require CBH to issue the shares and to seek their return if necessary.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

ACT AMENDMENT (AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS) AND REPEAL BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 August.

MR EVANS (Warren) [5.33 p.m.]: This measure contains seven main amendments, and I suppose it could best be described as an administration or an industry streamlining measure. In the first place it will repeal the Fruit Cases Act—an Act which was introduced in 1919. Despite a lack of understanding of its intent on the part of some, the Fruit Cases Act served to establish the volume and the size of the containers used for export, and particularly for the export of apples. The fruit case industry was an important part of the timber industry for many years.

The second aspect of the Bill deals with the provision of descriptions and dimensions of containers for both fruit and vegetables which are to be prescribed under the Agricultural Products Act. This is a departure from the present situation as fruit and vegetables will be provided for under the one piece of legislation, and it will thus be of benefit in this day and age when speed and the facility of handling are fairly important.

I found some difficulty in regard to the reference to the word "code", and I understand others have had difficulty in ascertaining precisely what is intended. However, it appears that the word "code" in this context is synonymous with the word "regulation" and the code refers to the standards which set out the specifications of the

various containers for fruit and vegetables, and, to that end, the code will simplify this aspect of the industry.

In the future it will be necessary to list not only the name and address of the orchardist, grower, or packing house, but also the type of fruit being marketed, and its grade and size. It has been suggested that the procedures involved in handling produce will be simplified.

While quality control is mandatory for fruit, it has not been introduced yet for vegetables. I question whether quality control ever could be introduced easily for vegetables, but this may become apparent with the passage of time. Quality control is a vexatious problem with regard to fruit, and I hope that we will depart from the past practice of using quality control to regulate the amount of a particular fruit available to the market. That has happened in the past, and I refer to apples as a case in point. The restriction on the quality of apples has been reduced to a fairly acceptable size in some years when apples have been scarce and if that situation continues, perhaps the Act could be looked at once again to ensure that quality control is not used as a reasonably effective way of dealing with an oversupply situation.

The measure allows also for the detention of substandard produce so that such produce can be removed properly from the market area. The penalties for offences under this provision will be brought into line with current-day values. Penalties are usually updated when legislation is amended, and it is necessary that penalties should keep abreast of current economic trends.

I referred to the packaging of vegetables, and the non-introduction of quality control. Probably the introduction of a code rather than regulations to specify the trade and packaging requirements for fruit and vegetables is the major departure from the present system. I notice that the measure does not refer to bulk containers. Surely we must make provision for them in the future, although evidently it is not felt to be warranted at this stage. The industry has not asked for prescribed containers for particular fruit. The choice of containers is to be left to the growers, but the containers must come from the list prescribed for the particular fruit they wish to market.

The measure is based largely on the suggestions of the WA fruit and vegetable advisory committee, in liaison with the Department of Agriculture, so we know that it is acceptable to the growers through their representatives. I forwarded a copy of the Bill to the Fruit Growers' Association and also to the two vegetable grower

organisations, but time has been short, and I have not as yet received a reply. I can only assume that the wishes of these organisations have been expressed through the industry advisory committee and that the measure is satisfactory to them.

I believe that in the long term the consumers will be better served with improved streamlined marketing and sales processes. The Opposition raises no objection to the measure.

MR NANOVICH (Whitford) [5.41 p.m.]: I wish to make a few comments on the Bill. It is a good piece of legislation, and long overdue. The WA fruit and vegetable industry advisory committee deliberated deeply on the matter and put forward its recommendations which have been accepted. For many years produce has been sold through the Metropolitan Markets and although many of the growers have identified themselves and the area in which the product was grown, this was not always the case. The consumer is entitled to know where the goods he is purchasing were produced, as well as the name of the producer.

For many years some of the containers used have detracted from the produce presented in them. This happened particularly in regard to tomatoes, some of which were packed in secondhand containers. Because of the fear of the spread of fruit fly, these containers could not be taken through the fruit-growing areas. Secondhand containers were acceptable only if the cases had been steamed. Produce which was not well presented did not attract a good price, but many growers failed to realise this. The purchaser of such produce had to repack it to forward it to country areas.

The legislation will bring about standard packaging, and whether the markets wish to sell by weight or by container, the producers and the purchasers will receive a fair deal.

Having been involved in the industry for many years, I had a good opportunity to observe the problems that arose in regard to the display of produce. Therefore, I am sure that the measure is a good move.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [5.44 p.m.]: I thank members for their support of the Bill. The fruit and vegetable industry is searching continually for means to improve the quality of the product that it sells. The advent of the fruit and vegetable advisory committee has contributed a great deal to the industry and to the operation of the markets. The setting up of the code standards, as the member for Warren said, is really another way to regulate

not only the size of the produce, but also the dimensions of the containers used.

The member for Warren asked whether difficulties would be experienced when including vegetables in coding. This will be a matter of consultation between the organisations representing the merchants and growers and the advisory council. They will decide how they wish to proceed and not only will descriptions be provided, but also illustrations will be made available.

I thank members for their support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Blaikie) in the Chair; Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title—

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again at a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture).

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

ACT AMENDMENT (AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS) AND REPEAL BILL

In Committee

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting. The Chairman of Committees (Mr Blaikie) in the Chair; Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title—

Progress was reported on clause 1.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 2 to 13 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill 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 Old (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

**CARNARVON BANANA INDUSTRY
(COMPENSATION TRUST FUND)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 August.

MR EVANS (Warren) [7.34 p.m.]: This legislation amends the Carnarvon Banana Industry (Compensation Trust Fund) Act and is relatively simple. On this occasion, full details have been provided by the Minister and have been expressed clearly.

The legislation was introduced in 1962 and has been used a number of times because Carnarvon is prone to flooding and cyclones. This form of assurance is a useful and important one, if not essential to the well-being of the industry. The figures of the trust fund have been detailed, as has the gathering of information from growers. It is interesting to note that the result of the ballot indicates that 51 growers were in favour of the legislation and 20 against. That is a 2:1 majority at least and no-one would claim it is not a democratic approach.

No thinking person would seek to disagree with the principle of the fund and the Opposition has no objection to its continuation for another seven years as proposed.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [7.36 p.m.]: I thank the member for Warren for his support. During his period as Minister for Agriculture, the member for Warren had some association with this trust fund and he realises its importance to the industry. It is interesting to note that the Carnarvon banana industry has reached the stage where it is providing the bulk of bananas required in Western Australia.

Although we still import a large amount from the Eastern States, we will become more reliant upon Carnarvon and Kununurra for our supply. While Kununurra does not come into the compensation scheme, I foresee the day when we will be entirely independent of Eastern States imports and this is desirable.

Several years ago there was agitation in the industry to do away with the trust fund and that would have meant that there would be no Government contribution. The thinking amongst some of the growers was that if it is good enough to make low interest loans available to the people in the south, in times of natural disaster, it is good

enough to have the compensation fund run purely on Government contributions.

It was pointed out that low interest loans are repayable, irrespective of the fact they are at low interest. I was pleased the industry did decide to go ahead with the fund and, as the member for Warren pointed out, the result of the ballot was positive. It was a democratic way to arrive at a decision of the growers. I am pleased we have the support of the Opposition on this measure because it is important to the industry.

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 Old (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MEAT INDUSTRY
AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)**

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 August.

MR EVANS (Warren) [7.40 p.m.]: The reason for this amendment is that the Lamb Marketing Board employs its own inspectors and they have devised a method whereby the health surveyors of the various local government authorities can be employed in the classification and branding of meat. Their requirements, as far as lamb is concerned, have broken down to the extent that the amendment of May this year required such inspectors to be classified under the Public Service Act. The problem has now arisen that either the Lamb Marketing Board inspectors and the health surveyors can be brought under the Public Service requirements or that requirement can be deleted from the Act. The latter course has been taken.

Hansard, at page 1579 of 11 May 1982, states—

The present system of branding is applied to the operations of the Lamb Marketing Board and its agents throughout the State. Difficulties will be encountered, and certainly need exists for awareness and

provision to cover the circumstances of the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board.

It was not thought there would be a problem with the provisions for additional classification and branding, as required, but the validity involved a conflict in the responsibilities and operations of the board and authority. This problem has been resolved in the most expeditious manner. To bring the employees within the ambit of the Public Service Board would have been a major undertaking which would not have been warranted, so this alternative option has been made available.

As the measure deals with the classification of meat in Western Australia, it is important to refer to another aspect; that is, the suggested grading of grain-fed beef. This could give rise to a false situation in the long term if it is not handled carefully. I know the producers in my area have milk-raised baby beef which is sound and is as good as that in any State. I might be a little biased.

They can foresee the possibility of the classification of a grain-fed animal receiving some distinction or accolade to which it is not fully entitled. For that reason the classification needs to be based on the quality of the meat as it is presented, not just on the history of production. That is one problem that could arise and the advisory committee will need to be aware of it. I have no doubt it is aware of it, but it will need to follow it through.

The question of whether a classification should be based on the feeding history of an animal as opposed to the quality of the meat as presented needs to be resolved. There is pressure from some sources. Obviously, lot feeders will have a stake in this, but I do not think it should be accepted too readily. It is apposite that this matter should be raised. It is not fully in debate, although it comes within the scope of the Act and the amendment. This amendment rectifies a situation that otherwise would be difficult to control, and no opposition is expressed from this side of the House.

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [7.47 p.m.]: I thank the member for Warren for his support. I take note of the comments he made in regard to grain-fed baby beef *vis-a-vis* milk-fed baby beef. I assure him a great deal of thought and debate will take place before the final specifications and the different types of brands to be used are made known.

Mr Evans: I would have expected that.

Mr OLD: I agree that some grain-fed beef can leave a lot to be desired. It depends a great deal

on how it has been fed, and for how long. The quality of the meat and the age of the beast are more important. The apprehension that the member for Warren has expressed will be recorded and a tremendous amount of consultation will take place before any strict guidelines are laid down.

I thank him for his support. It is a minor amendment, but a very important one as far as the Lamb Marketing Board is concerned.

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 Old (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 4 August.

MR CARR (Geraldton) [7.50 p.m.]: The second reading speech by the Minister outlines two major proposals. The first is that the power to set fees for motor vehicle transfers and for drivers' licences is being removed from the legislation and placed in regulations. The second is that charges will be increased following the gazetting of these regulations. These points give us two valid and sound reasons for opposing this legislation. There is another very sound reason, involving a rather more serious and dramatic measure contained in the legislation, but which was not mentioned in the Minister's second reading speech. I do not know whether this particular omission is inadvertent or deliberate, but I will come to that later.

We see the change in the power to set fees as part of the Government's policy to downgrade the role of Parliament and to upgrade the role of the Executive. When I speak to a class of school children they think that Parliament and the Government are the same thing. Many people in the community also believe that. We in this House know it is not true, but it is a matter of concern that the balance between the two is altering, in my opinion for the worse. It is altering so that Parliament has less say about fewer of the

things done by the Government. The Opposition objects to that, and I object most strongly.

This Assembly is gradually losing the last vestige of power—the power to make decisions about money matters. It is the traditional role of the lower House to grant approval for collection and expenditure of public money. That power is being eroded. The Minister said when introducing the legislation that it is the wish of the Treasury that it be able to move more of the powers to set fees out of legislation and into regulations so that it can go ahead with Budget projections. We see that as an erosion of the powers of this Assembly.

The Speaker only recently alluded to the dangers of this Assembly losing control of the power to handle money matters. He made that comment in relation to a ruling on the need for a message to accompany a Bill. I do not agree with the point he made, but I agree with the general concern that he expressed that the Assembly is in danger of losing more power over financial matters. Parliament should have the right to debate any changes in financial matters. It should have the power to debate changes in fees, charges, and rates and taxes levied by the State Government. It should have the power to decide these in advance of their being levied. I know the Minister may say later that the regulations will come before Parliament and Parliament has the right to disallow them. Technically, that is true, although in the 8½ years I have been a member I have never seen a disallowance motion carried.

Mr Sibson: They must have been all right.

Mr CARR: To bring something in by regulation is a retrospective action.

Mr Watt: What difference would there be if your side of politics was in Government?

Mr CARR: I am making the point that the general practice of upgrading the Executive and of downgrading Parliament is an unfortunate one, and I would oppose my party taking that action when in Government.

Mr Watt: Do you believe it would be any different?

Mr CARR: I would like to believe so and in Government I would pursue the point of view that I have outlined. The member will be able to have a good look at that in 12 months' time. The point I was making is that the distinction between legislation and regulation is the retrospective nature of the debate that would take place upon a change in fees. The increase in fees would be gazetted as part of the regulations, and the increase would come into effect. People would pay the increase and then Parliament would have the opportunity to debate whether or not those fees

should be increased. It would be most unlikely that a motion would be moved to disallow regulations because we would have the problem of refunding money people had paid.

It is a convention of the Westminster system that this House decides government on the basis of its ability to have the confidence of the House in financial management. That is something this House should not give up lightly.

The second reason for our opposing the legislation, apart from that general principle, is that we object to the increased fees. The increases are part of this Government's policy of high rates and charges. The vehicle licence transfer fee mentioned in the legislation will increase from \$3 to \$5. That is not a big sum of money, but it is a 66 per cent increase. The motor driver's licence will increase from \$10 to \$11, which at first glance may seem a small increase. But last year, Parliament increased that fee from \$7 to \$10. Since 1979 there has been an increase of \$4; that is, about 60 per cent in three years. Those increases are far in excess of the inflation rate in this State over that period. We object to that.

The Government finds itself pressed on the matter of charges and the need to raise funds because of its blind acceptance in 1975-76 of the Fraser Government's ill-advised new federalism policy.

Mr Clarko: It was never tried.

Mr CARR: We will talk about why it was not tried. The new federalism policy which was trumpeted around Australia in 1975 by Mr Fraser and Sir Charles Court contained two basic proposals—that the State Government would be given more responsibility in certain matters in return for which the Federal Government would provide less Commonwealth funds.

Mr Pearce: It was a swindle.

Mr CARR: The extra money needed by the States to run the various services would be paid for by a State income tax. That is what Sir Charles Court and Mr Fraser proposed in 1975 and the Minister for Education says that it has not been tried. The reason is that every State Premier realised it would be political dynamite to introduce a State income tax.

Some of the Premiers were opposed from the beginning, but others took longer to learn and supported the proposals for a long time. This Government introduced legislation to allow a State income tax to be charged and it was the last State Government to learn that it is utterly stupid and political dynamite to raise a second income tax. As a result of that, the Government now says it needs more money and must impose higher

charges to run our police services and so on. Surely the Government does not expect us to say that we understand it made a stupid decision in 1975 and that we now support it in wanting to put off the problems that have arisen from its support of new federalism.

Mr Pearce: Ask the Minister for Education if he would support a State income tax.

Mr Clarko: I said to do away with Federal income tax and have a State income tax tomorrow.

Mr CARR: I have attempted so far to say, as clearly as I can, that the Opposition does not support this Bill because of the transfer of power from legislation to regulation. Secondly, we do not support the Bill because of the increases in charges inherent in it. I come now to a third provision to which I alluded earlier. This is rather more serious and rather more dramatic than the two measures to which I referred earlier.

I concede that the Government may have taken this step inadvertently. It may be a genuine accident; but if it is not, it is a pretty deceitful sort of measure because the Minister did not mention it in his second reading speech. This provision, in effect, eliminates pensioner concessions on drivers' licences. At present, most pensioners are able to obtain a concession of half the fee; but that provision is abolished by this legislation. As I said, I do not know whether that move was accidental; and I hope that the Minister will tell us something about it later.

I will outline how this provision works. The pensioner concessions are dealt with in section 47 of the Act. That is a section with which members and the Minister should be familiar, because that section has been amended three times in the last two years. It provides, in effect, that the fee which is otherwise payable under part IV of the second schedule by a pensioner shall be reduced by half on application made in the form approved by the authority. Clause 5(b) of this Bill repeals part IV of the second schedule; so if this legislation is passed by the Parliament tonight, the Road Traffic Act will no longer have part IV in it; and section 47 will mean nothing because it will refer to a schedule that does not exist.

As I said, this may be an accident. If it is accidental, it shows a degree of incompetence. After all, the Government has had months to prepare the legislation; but we picked up this matter in only six days since the Bill was introduced into the House. It is not surprising that we picked this up, because a number of members on this side recall the occasions on which the Act has been amended, and one of the

first questions we asked was, "How does it affect the pensioner concessions?" That is a question that the Minister obviously did not ask. Although he has been in the House on the last three occasions that section 47 was amended, he would not have asked that question.

Perhaps the deletion of part IV is an inadvertent matter that has been caused by incompetence. I hesitate to put the alternative; that is, that it must have been a deliberate act. I sincerely hope that it was not done deliberately. If it was done deliberately, it is a most deceitful measure.

Mr Pearce: Hoping to slip it through so we wouldn't notice.

Mr CARR: The question of what is to be done with this legislation arises now that this matter has been revealed. If it is inadvertent, I suggest to the Minister that it would be appropriate to arrange for the Government Whip to move that the debate be adjourned. That would enable the Minister and his advisers to look at the legislation and to confirm in their own minds that it does what the Opposition says it does. They could come up with an amendment that could be brought back to this House tomorrow or on Thursday, so that the matter could be considered more appropriately. If the Minister will not do that, and if he wants to proceed with the Bill tonight, we will certainly express our displeasure.

We do not want the Minister to say that he will put the Bill through tonight and then do something about it in another place. We have heard all that before. It is our view that it is the job of the Assembly to assess the Bills before it, and not to let the legislation pass from this House until we are satisfied that it will do what is wanted, and that it is in the best interests of the State.

If the Minister wants to proceed with the Bill tonight, we have hastily drafted an amendment—a very simple amendment—which will cover the situation adequately and properly. I apologise that the amendment was not placed on the notice paper; but it was not drafted until after the notice paper was prepared.

Briefly, I indicate the amendment proposes to add a new clause 6 to the Bill, amending section 47 so that it will refer to the prescribed fee as set in the regulations to be promulgated. I am happy to give the Minister a copy of that amendment now.

I hope the Government will take the opportunity to postpone this Bill and look at the matter to see if it can come up with a more appropriate form of wording. If the repeal of part

IV of the schedule is accidental, the Government Whip should move that the debate be adjourned; if it is deliberate, we are certainly most unhappy that it should proceed.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Trethowan): The member for Stirling.

Mr Hassell: Mr Acting Speaker—

Mr Carr: Are you trying to close the debate?

Mr Hassell: I am not trying to close the debate. I will deal with the point you raised.

Mr Pearce: You have not got the call.

Mr Hassell: I am just answering your member's question.

Mr Pearce: Have a bit of respect for the Acting Speaker.

Mr Clarko: Are you running this place now?

Mr Carr: What sort of game is it when he tries to gag the debate?

Mr Pearce: Let us have a bit of courtesy from you fellows.

Mr Old: Listen to who is talking.

MR STEPHENS (Stirling) [8.08 p.m.]: The National Party is very concerned about this legislation because it is an indication of the further erosion of the power of the Parliament by government by regulation. This point has been canvassed by the member for Geraldton, but it concerns us also.

It is not now for us to raise this issue in the House. Members will recall that when the Government altered the road maintenance tax legislation, it made provision for a levy on fuel. The amount of that fuel levy was to be set by regulation. The National Party sought to amend the legislation to delete that provision so that any increases in the fuel levy would be made by the Parliament. Of course, it is history that the amendment was defeated. Since then, the fuel levy has been increased savagely over a short time. The levy is bringing to the Government an amount of revenue considerably in excess of the revenue brought into the Government's coffers by the old road maintenance tax.

Mr Parker: It is just a new form of State taxation.

Mr STEPHENS: If that is so, it is a good reason that the decision should be made by the Parliament, and not by regulation.

Mr Parker: Quite right!

Mr STEPHENS: During the speech of the member for Geraldton, the member for Albany interjected about regulations and the possibility of

disallowance. He asked whether we would have a different situation under a Labor Administration.

Mr Watt: It was not about disallowing regulations. It was about the concept of government—whether it would be by the Administration and bringing matters to the Parliament for debate before they made up their minds. That is what I was suggesting.

Mr STEPHENS: I thank the member for Albany for correcting me on that point. It does not make any difference to my main argument.

If after the next election the National Party has the numbers in this House, we will certainly see a difference because National Party members will restore to the Parliament the decision-making role that has been taken away from it by successive Governments. That is my main point; and I hope that members on both sides of the House will take cognisance of it. The people of Western Australia will be better served if this House makes consensus decisions rather than having the confrontation approach that we have at the moment. The Government believes that whatever it produces is right, not because of the value of the arguments in support of it, but merely because it is produced by the Government. Equally, anything that the Opposition mentions is wrong, purely and simply because it is raised by the Opposition.

Mr Parker: What will you do if the National Country Party, at its Federal conference in September or October, knocks the word "Country" from its title?

Mr STEPHENS: We will not have to do anything. We will still be the National Party. The member for Fremantle should ask the National Country Party that question. I have heard that they will start calling themselves the "country liberal party". But, what is in a name?

Mr Parker: At least it would have the virtue of honesty.

Mr STEPHENS: It would not make any difference; they would still be liberals.

The other point I would like to make in connection with this matter does not appear in the Bill but in the second reading speech of the Minister. I started by referring to the erosion of the power of the Parliament. We all know that we are subject to the dictatorship of the Executive. Most of us have suspected the increase in the power of the bureaucrats; but I had never actually seen it confirmed until I read the following in the Minister's second reading speech—

It is Treasury policy to remove fees from Statutes and have such contained in

regulations to allow for budgetary projections to take effect.

The Minister and the Government admit that what they are doing is Treasury policy. We do not know what the Government's policy is; but if the Government is acceding to Treasury policy, that is a blatant admission of the erosion of the power of not only the Parliament, but also the Executive; and the Government is doing what the Treasury wants.

Mr Pearce: The Liberal Party is running the National Country Party, and the Public Service is running the Liberal Party.

Mr STEPHENS: With those few comments, we oppose the legislation.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Minister for Police and Prisons) [8.12 p.m.]: It is hard to imagine that a proposal to increase a licence fee by \$1 from \$10 to \$11, and a proposal to increase the transfer fee by \$2 from \$3 to \$5, can in some way be related to a policy of new federalism. The idea that it has anything to do with policies of federalism seems to be somewhat of an over-dramatisation in which the member for Geraldton indulged, perhaps for purposes of pleasure. I cannot believe he was serious.

Mr Pearce: Deal with the abolition of the pensioner concession.

Mr HASSELL: If the member wants to debate new federalism, we will have to debate the policies of the Government parties because we know that the Labor Party has no federalism policy. It has a total centralism policy.

Mr Carr: You reckon I was off the mark!

Mr HASSELL: The Labor Party's policies are directed very clearly to the emasculation of the Senate, the abolition of the States, and the creation of a unicameral—

Mr Parker: That is a lie. The Labor Party does not have any policies whatsoever concerning the abolition of the States. That is a lie, and you know it.

Mr HASSELL:—Parliament in Canberra, with no restraint from the Senate, no restraint from the Governor General, and very little respect for the law.

Mr Tonkin: That is not true.

Mr Carr: You thought I over-dramatised it!

Mr HASSELL: If the member for Geraldton wants to debate federalism in relation to a couple of dollars in fees for licences, let us talk about the Government's policies on federalism, in which we believe, and let us not talk about the non-existent

policies of federalism which members opposite pursue.

When it is all boiled down, the issues are a bit different from federalism. Basically, we are talking about an increase from \$10 to \$11 in the fee—

Mr Tonkin: For pensioners, double.

Mr HASSELL:—for the licence. Surely that must be one of the smallest increases of all of the increases that have been necessary. There is an increase in the vehicle transfer fee from \$3 to \$5.

Mr Tonkin: It has doubled for pensioners.

Mr HASSELL: When that matter is considered in the context of the real cost of doing those things which have to be done, it can hardly be seen as dramatic or imposing any great burden or disadvantage on anyone.

Mr Tonkin: You are more than doubling the pensioners' impost.

Mr HASSELL: In reality I am sure the member for Geraldton knows that the actual administrative cost of even the most simple task these days is very high indeed. The cost of despatching letters and keeping records of all that which is required for the proper administration of the Road Traffic Act is considerable.

These fees of which the member for Geraldton complains go toward meeting those costs. In some cases they undoubtedly cover the costs, but the increases do not alleviate the burden of the administration required in a State-wide licensing system for drivers—the computer work and the manpower involved.

These increases are the minimum that can be put forward realistically at a time when we have to seek to cover costs and not increase the burden on the general taxpayer for these services. That is the argument about the monetary side; the Opposition is opposing the Bill because of the increase in fees.

Mr Tonkin: More than double for pensioners.

Mr HASSELL: If members opposite were realistic I could not imagine them opposing the Bill on those grounds.

Both the member for Geraldton and the member for Stirling mentioned the transfer of the power to increase the fees, in this case and in future, from the Act to the regulations. That is an issue on which differing views undoubtedly are held. All I can say to the member for Geraldton is that, in general, most fees and charges are prescribed by regulation and most taxes are imposed by Parliament. If members opposite think about the reality of this Parliament debating all the fees that are charged by the

Government across the State—fees for entering parks and a myriad of other matters—they would realise it is not reasonable for them all to be debated by the Parliament.

Mr Parker: Many have been until recently.

Mr HASSELL: We cannot have an absolute rule about this sort of thing. In general, fees and charges have been transferred—and this is another transfer proposal—from the legislative provisions to the regulatory provisions. In general, taxes are imposed by Parliament, and I certainly agree that they ought to be.

Mr Bateman: It is legislation by regulation.

Mr HASSELL: That is not so.

As the member for Geraldton said, the regulations are subject to disallowance; in that process the Parliament decides. I concede that; but we are talking about things which are strictly fees and not taxing measures. I do not see a real "in principle" objection to that in this case.

The matter seems to be reasonably covered by the fact that many more significant and impacting charges are created by regulation; charges for electricity, water and hospital facilities. None of those charges comes to the Parliament in the form of a Bill to be debated, because they are all recognised as charges or fees. That is a long-standing arrangement and it is not confined to this Government. It is not a new endeavour on which we have set out to undermine Parliament; it is the practicalities of running the Government. I am sure the member for Geraldton would understand those issues if he considered them apart from his desire simply to oppose the Bill.

The member for Gosnells was busy squealing about courtesy a while ago. It struck me as strange that if members opposite believed they had found a significant deficiency in the legislation which they felt adversely affected the pensioners of this State, they did not have the courtesy to draw it to our attention.

Several members interjected.

Mr Carr: We have only had it since last Wednesday.

Mr Wilson: You are the ultimate cynic.

Mr HASSELL: Of course, the Opposition did not want to be courteous. It was not a matter of not having time or anything of that nature.

Mr Parker: What a hypocrite.

Mr HASSELL: The member for Geraldton thought he had found a terrible and diabolical thing.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Mr HASSELL: The member for Geraldton thought he had found a terrible and diabolical thing which would allow him to have a go at the Government, so he did not bother to let us know there was something wrong with the Bill; he wanted to raise the point in the House. Of course, that is his right, but it is not courteous; yet courtesy is what the member for Gosnells was talking about.

Mr Pearce: We thought it was a deliberate act to do away with pensioner concessions. That is the way that you personally deal with pensioners.

Mr HASSELL: I am sure that is what the member for Gosnells thought; he would be incapable of thinking any other way. That is the twisted way he thinks about most issues.

Mr Pearce: I naturally come to the conclusion that you might be incompetent.

Mr HASSELL: Let me refer now to the substantive point raised by the member for Geraldton, a point he raised properly in this House. I put it clearly on the record that if the deficiency he suggests exists in the Bill is in fact there, I will be the first to take action to remove it. Even though it might not be necessary to say this among people who have normal interpretations and motivations, it is necessary to say for the benefit of the member for Gosnells, if no-one else, that we did not set out to deprive pensioners of their concession.

Mr Pearce: Through incompetence.

Mr HASSELL: This is so especially bearing in mind that I came here to make amendments as the member for Geraldton identified to improve that concession, to maintain it, and to ensure it continued. So the member for Gosnells should not imagine that we would, by surreptitious means, and heartlessly, take the concession away.

Mr Parker: Last year you reduced its value to the pensioners.

Mr HASSELL: There was an increase last year.

Mr Parker: Last year you reduced its value.

Mr HASSELL: The fee was increased last year and we maintained the concession at 50 per cent.

Mr Parker: Previously it was more than 50 per cent and you reduced it to 50 per cent.

Mr Carr: It used to be \$4 out of \$7.

Mr HASSELL: Again we have all kinds of wonderful interpretations put on things by the member for Fremantle and others. Let me go back to the point and say again for the benefit of

members opposite that we did not set out to deprive the pensioners of their concessions. Indeed, as we are responsible for having introduced the concessions we will be most anxious to maintain them and, if possible in the future, to extend them.

With the consent of the House I propose to have the Bill go before the Committee of the House and then I shall seek to report progress so that I may have the matter checked properly. With respect to the member for Geraldton I would prefer not to accept his amendment immediately until I have the matter properly checked and then later, if necessary, I will bring an amendment to the House to ensure that the impact which he sees as a possibility, and which on my quick reading of the Bill may well be real, is rectified. I do believe the increase in fees is minimal having regard to the realities of the expenditure involved.

I believe the transfer of fee-making power to regulations is not unreasonable in the circumstances although I have no argument with the general principle that taxing powers should be maintained by this House. As to the major point raised by the member for Geraldton, I will seek to have the passage of the Bill adjourned so that I can have the matter properly examined.

Mr Pearce: Are you giving us an unequivocal assurance—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 23

Mr Blaikie	Mr Rushton
Mr Clarko	Mr Shalders
Mr Court	Mr Sibson
Mr Coyne	Mr Sodeman
Mrs Craig	Mr Spriggs
Mr Grayden	Mr Trethowan
Mr Grewar	Mr Tubby
Mr Hassell	Mr Watt
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Williams
Mr Laurance	Mr Young
Mr O'Connor	Mr Nanovich
Mr Old	

(Teller)

Noes 18

Mr Bertram	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr Bridge	Mr Parker
Mr Carr	Mr Pearce
Mr Cowan	Mr Stephens
Mr Evans	Mr A. D. Taylor
Mr Grill	Mr I. F. Taylor
Mr Harman	Mr Tonkin
Mr Gordon Hill	Mr Wilson
Mr Jamieson	Mr Bateman

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr Crane	Mr Hodge
Mr Mensaros	Mr Barnett
Mr McPharlin	Mr Brian Burke
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Bryce
Dr Dadour	Mr Davies
Mr Herzfeld	Mr McIver
	Mr Terry Burke

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Watt) in the Chair; Mr Hassell (Minister for Police and Prisons) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title and citation—

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr Nanovich.

House adjourned at 8.30 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINING

Coolgardie Mines Office

943. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has he yet reviewed the Government's decision to close the Coolgardie mines office?
- (2) If so, with what result?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when will a final decision be made?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) The provision of all Government services provided through the Mining Registrar at Coolgardie is being considered.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Packsaddle Plains

944. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What is the overall cost of extending electricity to residents of Packsaddle Plains, near Kununurra?
- (2) What is the total number of blocks currently denied electricity?

- (3) Is it a fact that some Packsaddle residents have been asked to pay nearly \$12 000 to have electricity connected?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) \$147 695.
- (2) The scheme under negotiation at present is to supply 14 customers. Many other customers in the Packsaddle and Crossing Falls area have been offered a supply, but have not accepted.
- (3) The commission calculates an overall cost for a scheme, and the participants share the individual costs as they so agree. In the case of the Packsaddle scheme under negotiation, some members have agreed to provide \$9 610 and others \$7 333.
These amounts compare favourably with other agricultural customers in remote areas, bearing in mind that they are provided with energy at uniform tariffs which apply throughout the State.

TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES

Dealers: Licensing Board

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

How does the motor vehicle dealers licensing board satisfy itself that the following provisions of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act are met—

- (1) Section 15 (2) (b);
- (2) Section 15 (3) (b);
- (3) Section 20 (1) (e)?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Section 15 (2) (b)—

The partners must provide—

- 1.1. Itemised lists of all personal and any business assets and liabilities.
- 1.2. Details of any floor plan or other financial arrangements entered into with a finance company.
- 1.3. Advice as to whether any of the partners is an undischarged bankrupt or a person whose affairs are being administered under the laws relating to bankruptcy.

- (2) Section 15 (3) (b)—

The board has the following requirements—

- 2.1. Current financial statements for the company, particularly a balance sheet, to be produced.

- 2.2. If the paid up capital of the company is less than \$10 000, each director is asked to give a written guarantee that he will personally meet any warranty obligations which the company fails to honour.

The directors must also demonstrate a back up for their guarantees by providing an itemised list of their personal assets and liabilities.

- 2.3 Advice as to whether any of the persons nominated as being concerned in the management or conduct of the business of the body corporate has ever been an undischarged bankrupt or one whose affairs have been administered under the laws relating to bankruptcy.

- 2.4. Details of any floor plan or other financial arrangements entered into with a finance company.

- (3) Section 20 (1) (e)—

Before any disqualification is considered, the board must conduct a formal inquiry at which the licensee is entitled to be present to make any submissions or produce any evidence he wishes, to the board.

Any inquiry can be initiated by the board or by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs and would necessitate the availability and production of substantive evidence concerning any allegation of financial difficulties affecting the dealer's ability to meet his obligations under the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1973-1982.

DOOR TO DOOR (SALES) ACT

Prosecutions and Convictions

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

In each of the past 10 years, how many—

- (a) prosecutions have been launched;
- (b) convictions obtained;

with respect to the contravention of section 7A of the Door to Door Sales Act?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (a) Three, all in 1981;
- (b) three, all in 1981.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

Bassendean and Bayswater: Fluctuations

947. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What is the cause of the fluctuating power being provided to Bassendean and Bayswater, and which is causing a great deal of inconvenience and expense to the residents of these localities?
- (2) Is one of the causes the operation of an arc furnace at Vickers Hadwa?
- (3) What is the Government doing to alleviate the problem?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) I am advised that some supply problems were developing in the Bassendean and Bayswater area supplied from the Hadfields substation, and caused by the furnace operation at Vickers Hadwa. A new zone substation was commissioned at Beechboro on 14 July 1982, thereby relieving the load on Hadfields substation and removing the cause of the interference.

LAND

Bayswater

948. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) For what purpose is the vacant land bounded by Anzac Terrace, Grey Street, Rundal Street, and Lovell Way, Bayswater, been set aside?
- (2) When is it likely to be used for this purpose?
- (3) As its present condition is unsightly and therefore causing concern to residents, will the Government take action to remedy this matter?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) The land referred to by the member is identified as "School Site" Reserve No. 30595.
- (2) I understand that the Department of Education has made no firm plans at this stage.

- (3) I am advised that some garden refuse has been dumped on the reserve and some litter exists adjacent to the road reserves, mainly in Grey Street, but the reserve could not be considered unsightly. However, the matter will be taken up departmentally now that it has been drawn to my attention.

ROADS

Beechboro Road-Morley Drive Intersection

949. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the plans for the intersection of Morley Drive with Beechboro Road, Morley?
- (2) Is he aware of the considerable concern being expressed by users of the intersection, at its dangerous nature?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Provision for traffic signals at this location has been made in the 1982-82 programme. Current work schedules indicate that the installation will be completed by December 1982.

EDUCATION

Swimming Classes: Reduction

950. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that according to the published minutes of the 72nd Annual general meeting of the Royal Life Saving Society—Western Australian Branch held on Saturday, 4 July 1981, the then Minister for Education is quoted as saying in an address to the meeting that—"I can state quite unequivocally that there will be no reductions in school swimming programmes"?
- (2) Can he reconcile that statement with the Government's action in reducing in-term swimming lessons for school children from 11 lessons to seven lessons?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The statement was made in the context of a misunderstanding that the former Minister has fully explained to the Royal Life Saving Association and the development officer of the WA Amateur Swimming Association.

951. *This question was postponed.*

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION*Staff: Appointments*

952. Mr I. F. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development:

- (1) Is it correct that the recent rationalisation and redeployment of regional administration staff throughout the State has also resulted in the appointment of an officer to handle labour and industry and consumer affairs matters in each of the towns of Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, and Karratha?
- (2) If "Yes", why has no such officer been appointed to the Kalgoorlie regional administration office?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The volume of inquiries does not at this stage warrant such an appointment. The regional administrator will continue to provide the service in Kalgoorlie until a full-time appointment is justified.

MEAT*Exports: China and Japan*

953. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What was the amount and value of meat exported from Western Australia during the past five financial years to—

- (a) Japan; and
- (b) China—mainland?

Mr OLD replied:

- (a) and (b)

	Japan		China (mainland)	
	tonnes	\$	tonnes	\$
1977-78	14 707	12 646 000	Nil	
1978-79	9 628	12 600 000	3.1	12 000
1979-80	10 237	13 696 000	5.6	28 000
1980-81	6 282	11 292 000	7.7	31 000
1981-82	5 500	9 416 000	Nil	

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: PREMIER*Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers*

954. Mr STEPHENS, to the Premier:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;

- (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The information requested by the member is being collated and a considered reply will be provided in due course.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT*Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers*

955. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Refer to answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY*Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers*

956. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: ATTORNEY GENERAL*Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers*

957. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what

- are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
- what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR WORKS

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

958. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Works:

- With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question No. 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

959. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

960. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Health:

- With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what

are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?

(2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—

- what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
- what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR POLICE AND PRISONS

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

961. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

- With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

962. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

963. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Local Government:

- With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under her control, what

are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?

(2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—

- (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
- (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

(1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR LANDS

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

964. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

(1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

965. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

(1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: CHIEF SECRETARY

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

966. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr HASSELL replied:

(1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

967. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr CLARKO replied:

(1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Press Secretaries and Public Relations Officers

968. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) With respect to the Minister's portfolios and departments under his control, what are the respective number of Press secretaries and public relations officers?
- (2) For the year ended 30 June 1982—
 - (a) what was the total cost of salary and allowances respectively;
 - (b) what was the total cost of all support facilities respectively?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

(1) and (2) See answer to question 954.

RAILWAYS

"Prospector" Service

969. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that he has received a submission from the Shire of Swan requesting that the *Prospector* railcar stop at the Midland terminal to cater for people residing in the Midland region?
- (2) If "Yes", what was his response to the proposal?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No. However, I am aware the Commissioner for Railways received such a submission.
- (2) The commissioner's response to the shire's original submission indicated that the very high costs of modifying track work and signalling to provide a connection to the Midland platform could not be justified by any anticipated increase in patronage.

The shire repeated their request and was advised that Westrail was examining the possibility of a cheaper connection to the platform.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION

Agencies: Selection Criteria

970. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

What are the criteria used in making decisions on applications for a lottery agency?

Mr HASSELL replied:

An objective assessment is made by the Lotteries Commission having regard to the existing outlets within the particular locality concerned.

APPRENTICES

"Out of Trade"

971. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Will the Minister provide me with the number of "out of trade apprentices" for the various trades as at the end of June 1982?

Mr YOUNG replied:

At 30 June 1982, there were 223 apprentices under suspension in Western

Australia. Included in that total were 68 apprentices for whom alternative apprenticeship positions had been located.

The following table indicates those apprentices whose indentures had been suspended and for whom alternative apprenticeship positions had not been located at 30 June 1982—

Metal Trades		
Boilermaking	8	
Fitting	1	
Fitting and Turning	9	
1st Class Welding	2	
(Engineering)		
Fitting and 1st Class	6	
Machining		
Motor Mechanics	20	
Refrigeration Fitting	4	
Plant Mechanics	1	
(Agriculture)		
1st Class Welding	1	
(Boilermaking)		
Steel Construction	1	
(Boilermaking)		
Boilermaking Steel	1	
Construction and		
First Class Welding		
Boilermaking and	5	59
1st Class Welding		
	—	
Electrical Trades		
Electrical Fitting	10	
Electrical Installing	9	
Auto Electrical	2	
Fitting		
Radio and Television	1	22
Servicing		
	—	
Building Trades		
Carpentry and	10	
Joinery		
Plumbing	6	
Painting	1	
Tilelaying	1	18
	—	
Vehicle Building		
Trades		
Bodymaking	1	
Trimming	1	
Vehicle Painting	4	
Panel Beating	4	10
	—	
Food Trades		
Butchering	1	
Slaughtering	2	
Baking	1	
Pastrycooking	2	
Cooking	3	9
	—	
Other Trades		
Locksmithing	1	
Watch and Clock	1	
Repairing		
Optical Mechanics	2	
Cabinetmaking	8	
Woodmachining	5	
French Polishing	1	
Gents Hairdressing	1	
Ladies Hairdressing	14	
Shipwrighting	1	
Bespoke and	1	
Surgical Bootmaking		
Boatbuilding	1	
Horticulture	1	37
	—	
TOTAL		155
		—

SMALL BUSINESS

*Retail Trading Hours and Wholesale Prices:
Review*

972. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Premier:

Is it the Government's intention to review retail trading hours and wholesale prices in Western Australia, as suggested by the Liberal Party State Conference recently?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

There has been no demonstrated need by consumers or the industry for extensions of retail trading hours and therefore the Government does not intend to extend current trading hours.

The Western Australian Government has also no intention to determine wholesale prices in Western Australia.

EDUCATION

Subsidies

973. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the amount of subsidy paid for each student attending a private school pre-primary, primary, and secondary, for the year 1981?
- (2) What is the interim figure for 1982?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) and (2)

	Independent Pre-Schools	Primary	Secondary
1981 - Total	\$160.53	\$249.00	\$429.00
1982 - 1st Moicity	\$80.26	\$136.00	\$219.50

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Art Gallery: Country Tours

974. Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Will the Minister please detail all country tours undertaken by the WA Art Gallery during the last four years?
- (2) What country tours are proposed during the 1982-83 financial year?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The Art Gallery of Western Australia staged art exhibitions in country centres as follows—

- 1979: 29 centres—Geraldton visited twice;
- 1980: 13 centres—Kalgoorlie visited twice;
- 1981: 14 centres;
- 1982: country touring suspended.

- (2) Planning for country tours in 1982-83 awaits a decision on the Estimates.

CONSERVATION AND THE
ENVIRONMENT*"Greenough Landscape Protection Area"*

975. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) What consideration has the Government given to the report entitled "Greenough Landscape Protection Area"?
- (2) What action, if any, is proposed arising out of the report?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) I understand the report was funded by the Commonwealth Government on the recommendation of the Australian Heritage Commission from funds made available to the National Trust of Australia (WA) under the national estate programme 1979-80. Neither I nor the Minister for Cultural Affairs has received a copy of the report and cannot therefore comment on it.
- (2) See (1) above.

EDUCATION

Government Action: Requests

976. Mr CARR, to the Premier:

Is the Premier able to give the House an unequivocal assurance that it is the policy of his Government to treat all requests for Government action, such as the upgrading of schools, on the basis of merit and need, irrespective of who makes representations seeking action?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

All requests for the upgrading of schools receive full attention. No decision is taken until there has been a full assessment of the educational needs of the area in relation to the present facilities and any proposed building programme is subject to overall State priorities and availability of loan funds.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOLS

Driver Education: Replacement

977. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

Will he please inform me on the progress being made towards the introduction of a replacement for the driver education scheme?

Mr HASSELL replied:

Introduction of a replacement for the driver education scheme is still under review.

POLICE: FIREARMS ACT

Amendment

978. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Police and Prisons:

When does the Government propose to introduce legislation to amend the Firearms Act, arising out of the report by Mr O. Dixon?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The Dixon report is still being studied to determine what legislative changes, if any, should be made.

DAIRYING: MILK

Geraldton

979. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What carrier transports milk to Geraldton?
- (2) What is the freight rate paid for carting milk to Geraldton?
- (3) Was this rate agreed to by tender, and if so when was the last time tenders were called?
- (4) If tenders were not called, how was a carrier chosen, and how was a freight rate set?
- (5) What is the duration of the present contract?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Milk is transported to Geraldton by the OD Transport Group of Companies.
 - (2) to (5) Arrangements for transporting milk to Geraldton are made between the dairy produce factory supplying the packaged milk—namely, Masters Dairy—and the carrier transporting the milk.
- Financial details of such arrangements are confidential to the parties concerned.

HOUSING

Room Heaters

980. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In what types of accommodation does the State Housing Commission—
 - (a) supply room heaters;
 - (b) not supply room heaters?

(2) What type of room heaters are supplied in—

- (a) established units;
- (b) new units?

(3) When was the policy not to supply room heaters to certain units of accommodation introduced and for what reason was it introduced?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

(1) and (2) Room heaters are provided to new pensioner units and are repaired and replaced in all pensioner units as needed.

Gas heaters are provided to these pensioner units where there are gas mains and electric heaters elsewhere.

Room heaters are not provided to other new rental accommodation.

Room heaters provided by the commission in established occupied accommodation, are repaired and replaced as needed. There are various types of heaters in these units.

(3) This policy was implemented in 1976, for reasons of economy and to allow opportunity of choice of heater to the occupants.

MINISTER OF THE CROWN: MINISTER FOR RECREATION

Newspaper Advertisements: Photograph, and Ministerial Statements

981. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Has the Minister's department been issued with an instruction to incorporate his photograph in all newspaper advertisements of programmes sponsored by the department?
- (2) If "Yes", what specifications have been given regarding the incorporation of the Minister's photograph and ministerial statements in such advertisements?

Mr HASSELL replied:

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

ROAD

Dianella Drive

982. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) When is it anticipated that Dianella Drive will be completed for use?
- (2) What will be the total cost of the construction of this road to the State Housing Commission?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Mid-September 1982.
- (2) \$1 027 000 approximately.

YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Newspaper Advertisement: Public Lectures

983. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Did the Minister's department place an advertisement featuring his photograph in *The West Australian* of Friday, 25 June 1982, which referred to two public lectures by a visiting researcher in sports medicine?
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that these lectures had been organised by the Department of Human Movement and Recreation Studies at the University of Western Australia?
- (3) Is the Minister aware if offence has been taken by people in the field of recreation because of an advertisement featuring a programme which neither the Minister nor his department has had any hand in organising?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. Both lectures are being organised by the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation, in conjunction with ACHPER—Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation—the Sports Medicine Federation and the Department of Human Movement and Recreation Studies.
- (3) Concern was expressed by parties in that the initial advertisement by the department failed to give full recognition to all. Subsequent advertisements and handbills give the full recognition.

HOUSING: LAND

Dianella, Mirrabooka, and Yirrigan

984. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Can he confirm that the State Housing Commission has recently prepared a further concept plan for undeveloped land reserves in Dianella, Mirrabooka, and Yirrigan?
- (2) If "Yes", can he also confirm that this new plan proposes that regional open space reserves in these areas be amended in accordance with the subdivisional design of the concept plan?
- (3) Will this result in an approximate 50 per cent reduction in the regional open space reserves in these localities?
- (4) What is the justification for this seemingly drastic reduction in regional open space reserves incorporated in the concept plan?
- (5) Will he provide me with a copy of the new concept plan?
- (6) If not, why not, in view of the right of established residents in adjoining localities to have access to such information in order to be able to offer comment on the proposals?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) The State Housing Commission has not recently prepared a further concept plan over the undeveloped lands described.
- (2) to (6) Answered by (1).

RECREATION: REGIONAL RECREATION CENTRES

Carine and Mirrabooka

985. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Recreation:

- (1) Why did the Minister refuse the City of Stirling's application for a grant towards the development of a regional recreation centre at Mirrabooka?
- (2) Did the Minister approve a grant towards recreation facilities at Carine in the same local authority area in spite of the fact the authority had indicated a greater priority for the Mirrabooka development?
- (3) Does this decision mean that the Minister no longer intends to accept priorities laid down by local authorities for recreational development within their own boundaries?

- (4) What was the total amount of grants allocated for recreational developments within his own electorate of North Metropolitan Province and what proportion did this represent of total grants made in the most recent allocation?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) The City of Stirling's application was not recommended by the community sporting and recreation facilities fund committee and this was supported by the Minister on the basis that insufficient funds were available. The application was for a grant of \$600 000 towards the cost of the Mirrabooka regional sporting and recreation centre.
- (2) The Carine project was given second priority by the City of Stirling and \$21 500 was granted towards the cost of stage 1 of a community sport and recreation complex on the Carine regional open space reserve.
- (3) Proper regard will always be taken of priorities set by local authorities.
- (4) Grants within North Metropolitan Province amounted to \$221 575, representing 11 per cent of the total allocation.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

Cages: Concrete Floors

986. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the policy at the South Perth Zoo with regard to animals being kept in cages with concrete floors?
- (2) Is this situation regarded as acceptable?
- (3) If not, what action is proposed to rectify the situation?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) The board's stated policy is to provide compassionate means of enclosure consistent with correct husbandry. Concrete floors are necessary for newly arrived animals, for night quarters and for feeding areas. Elsewhere new enclosures avoid unnecessary use of concrete as, for example, in the great ape precinct.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.

STATE FINANCE

Treasury Cash Balances

987. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What were the earnings on the investment of Treasury cash balances for each of the years ended 30 June 1980, 1981 and 1982?
- (2) Of the years ended 30 June 1981 and 1982 respectively, how much was unspent at 30 June 1982?
- (3) What was the total earnings of the investment of Treasury cash balances unspent as at 30 June 1982?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Gross earnings before allocation of proceeds to participating accounts were as follows—
 1979-1980—\$24 325 324.02
 1980-81—\$27 528 546.76
 1981-82—\$51 442 918.25
- (2) Unexpended balances at 30 June 1982 comprised—
 (a) from 1980-81 earnings,
 \$8 424 792.46;
 (b) from 1981-82 earnings,
 \$30 958 694.27.

The amount shown under (a) represented the sum, previously allocated to Consolidated Revenue in 1981-82, which, due to the improved performance over budget, was not required for this purpose and has now been paid to the General Loan Fund to augment funds for capital works.

The amount shown under (b) represents the net earnings during 1981-82 now available to the Government and forms part of the revenue to be taken into account in the Budget now being framed.

- (3) The balance in the account at 30 June 1982 was \$39 383 486.73 which is the sum of the amounts shown in (2).

WATER RESOURCES, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE

Belmont City Council: Timetable

988. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) As there appears to be no clear indication in the Metropolitan Water

Authority recent publication on future planning for water supplies, sewerage, and drainage proposals, as to the completion of the sewerage reticulation in the residential areas, in the eastern part of the Belmont City Council, can some indication be given for the timetabling of such work?

- (2) How much of the industrial area between Kewdale Road and Leach Highway north of Welshpool Road is at present served by sewerage reticulation?
- (3) When was this work completed?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) In the Metropolitan Water Authority's current five-year development plan, the following sewerage reticulation works, which are located in residential areas of the eastern part of Belmont City Council, are programmed for construction—subject to availability of funds and present priorities being maintained—

Area	Commencement Date
Reticulation Area 3A Belmont	1983-84
Reticulation Area 1M Belmont	1985-86

Both projects are expected to take three years to complete. The remaining areas have not yet been scheduled and no indication of time can be given.

- (2) Approximately 10 per cent.
- (3) About 1970.

LAND: AGRICULTURAL

Release: Working Group

989. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Who are the members of the working group on land release?
- (2) What are their qualifications and whom do they represent?
- (3) What areas of Crown land are being considered by the group for release for agriculture?
- (4) Who is responsible for determining that the area of Crown land in the Mukinbudin Shire situated north-east of Bonnie Rock was marginal?
- (5) Has any statistical evidence been gathered to substantiate such a classification?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) and (2) Mr J. R. McFadden, Assistant Surveyor General, Department of Lands & Surveys—Chairman

Dr A. A. Burbidge, Chief Research Officer, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Mr T. C. Stoneman, Principal Research Officer, Department of Agriculture

Mr N. Orr, Senior Environmental Officer, Department of Conservation & the Environment.

The group co-opts members from other departments and authorities for more specialised advice when considered necessary.

- (3) In general the working group is considering lands identified by the RAIC report, but not necessarily those specific lands. Investigations and inquiries as to land suitability have proceeded logically within existing agricultural or adjacent areas.
- (4) In the final analysis I make such determinations based on the advice of the working group and the Environmental Protection Authority.
- (5) Yes.

TOWN PLANNING: DEPARTMENT

Staff: Country Appointment

990. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) How many officers of the Town Planning Department have been appointed on a full-time basis to country regions?
- (2) What are those regions?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) One.
- (2) South-west region.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Perth Airport: Relocation

991. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister for Transport:

Did he recently give a public and unequivocal assurance that the Perth Airport would be relocated by the turn of the century?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

No.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Skilled Labour: Shortage

992. Mr GORDON HILL, to the Minister representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is it a fact that the 1982 State manpower planning study predicts a shortage of skilled labour in Western Australia, peaking in 1985?
- (2) Is it also a fact that a considerable number of apprentices have been suspended during 1982 due to the inability of their employers to continue to meet the cost of their trade training?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what assistance has the Government given to those employers to maintain the apprentices in training to help overcome any possible shortage of skilled labour in the future?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There have been 89 apprentices suspended during 1982 as a result of applications from their employers under section 37A of the Industrial Training Act relating to both cessation of business or financial difficulties.
- (3) The Government has not provided financial assistance to those employers referred to in (2) who, due to cessation of business or financial difficulties are unable to provide sufficient employment and training for their apprentices.

However, when redundancies occur in firms, officers of the Department of Labour and Industry and the Commonwealth Employment Service are available to assist those employees who need to be relocated in employment. An example of this is to be seen in the recent case of Australian Iron and Steel when the company and the Government were successful in relocating 57 apprentices with other employers.

In addition, officers of the Department of Labour and Industry confer with the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations in the administration of the Commonwealth Government's special assistance programme. This programme provides that if the employer of an apprentice is experiencing work shortage or financial difficulty, he may qualify for financial assistance to retain such apprentice in employment. Alternatively, another employer can be offered subsidy under the programme as an incentive to take on an apprentice who has been suspended because of his employer's work shortage or financial difficulty. Many employers have indicated, however, that the main cause of suspension is lack of work and therefore in these circumstances a subsidy is of little benefit.

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Albany

993. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that for several years the replacement of inferior accommodation at Albany Senior High School has been delayed pending the construction of a second high school in Albany?
- (2) As the new high school is now nearing completion and the upgrading work is being planned for the old school, can he say if the funds proposed in the 1982-83 Budget will be adequate for the work which has been identified as being necessary?
- (3) If he is unable, for reasons of Budget confidentiality, to reveal details proposed for 1982-83, would he give an assurance that every effort will be made to commit further funds next financial year to complete the upgrading programme and avoid further delay?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) Upgrading work proposed for the Albany Senior High School follows on from the building of the new high school. The first opportunity to undertake this work is in 1983 when a substantial decrease in numbers will have occurred because the new school will have years eight and nine attending.

A further drop in enrolments is expected at the Albany Senior High School in 1984 as the North Albany High School progresses to a year eight to 10 pattern of admissions.

- (2) and (3) Improvements planned will give the Albany Senior High School permanent accommodation for its projected long-term stable enrolments. Costings will be based on the proposals to achieve this position, which includes the necessary work.

It is expected that the programme of works will be funded over two financial years and the project will be undertaken as one continuous job once tenders are let.

MINING

Tenements

994. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many mining tenements were pegged for each of the months of 1981?
- (2) How many mining tenements were pegged for each of the months of 1982 up to the present date?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The number of applications for mining tenements and temporary reserves made for each of the months of 1981 was as follows—

January—1935
February—1508
March—2830
April—2364
May—2616
June—2858
July—2387
August—1970
September—1665
October—154
November—1434
December—1715.

- (2) The number of applications for mining tenements made for each of the months January to June 1982 was as follows—

January—100
February—86
March—157
April—182
May—204
June—358

Statistics are not readily available for the period beyond 30 June 1982.

In comparing the figures, however, the differences between mining tenements under the 1904 Act, and the 1978 Act, must be taken into consideration.

For example, one 1 000 hectare mining lease under the new Act is equal to about 100 goldmining leases under the old Act. In addition, exploration licences covering 200 square kilometres may now be applied for over private and reserved land, whereas, under the old legislation, temporary reserves could not be created over such land.

HOUSING

Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority: Newman

995. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Can he confirm that the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority or any other Government housing authority is currently constructing houses in Newman?
- (2) If "Yes", how many houses are being constructed?
- (3) What is the contract price of these houses?
- (4) Who will be eligible to rent these houses and what rents will be charged?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Four houses are currently under construction in Newman for the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority.
- (3) \$219 968.
- (4) Employers as approved by the authority at rent of \$103 per week.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Newman

996. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the State Housing Commission's assessment of the need for the provision of rental accommodation in Newman?
- (2) What plans does the commission have for the construction of rental accommodation in Newman?
- (3) How many units and of what type are to be built and when will construction begin?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) The commission has 15 applications for rental assistance in Newman.
- (2) and (3) It is intended to construct six three-bedroomed units—three are going to tender shortly and the construction of the others depends on availability of suitable land.

HOUSING: RENTAL

Applicants: Metropolitan and Wait-turn

997. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

How many applicants for State Housing Commission rental accommodation are currently listed—

- (a) emergent; and
- (b) wait-turn; for
 - (i) two-bedroomed accommodation;
 - (ii) three-bedroomed accommodation;
 - (iii) four-bedroomed accommodation;
 - (iv) pensioner unit accommodation,

in each of the three regional offices in the metropolitan area?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

(a) and (b)

Commonwealth-State Rental Victoria Park	Pensioner	2 Br	3 Br	4 Br	Total
Wait Turn	191	501	443	61	1 196
Emergent	5	24	32	4	65
Mirrabeeka					
Wait Turn	289	987	490	118	1 884
Emergent	43	21	23	4	91
Fremantle					
Wait Turn	195	596	449	26	1 266
Emergent	49	20	8	4	81
	772	2 149	1 445	217	4 583

Aboriginal Grant Housing

Victoria Park					
Wait Turn	1	8	11	2	22
Emergent	—	—	1	—	1
Mirrabeeka					
Wait Turn	6	85	50	21	162
Emergent	—	2	3	2	7
Fremantle					
Wait Turn	—	8	6	2	16
Emergent	—	—	1	—	1
	7	105	72	27	209

HOUSING: RENTAL

Applicants: Metropolitan and Country Areas

998. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

How many applicants are currently on the State Housing Commission's waiting list for rental assistance in—

- (a) the metropolitan area;
- (b) other areas of the State?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (a) 4 986;
- (b) 2 621.

These figures include applications for Aboriginal grant housing as well as Commonwealth-State rental.

HOUSING: DIANELLA

Television and Film Studios: Traffic Study

999. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the State Housing Commission completed the traffic study relative to the proposed rezoning of land in Dianella for the development of a media complex?
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated that this study will be completed?
- (3) For what specific reasons were established residents in the adjoining areas of Dianella, Nollamara, and Yokine, excluded from participating in the study, especially as additional traffic likely to be generated by the proposed development could well have a direct impingement on these residential areas?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Their views were known from public meetings and statements by the member. The opportunity for public comment will occur when the report is made public, as part of the statutory rezoning process of the City of Stirling.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

State Manpower Planning Committee: Estimates

350. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

Does the Government agree with the latest estimates by the manpower planning committee and, if it does not, what are the Government's estimates and what is the basis for the disagreement?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I am not in a position to give Government estimates at this stage. I repeat that the manpower planning committee has been operating in this State for a number of years and other States have applauded the work it has done.

The committee is made up of representatives of the Department of Labour and Industry, The Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Inc.), and unions. In the past the manpower planning committee has made assessments of future work force requirements. One or two years ago the committee made certain estimates based on projected developmental work which would occur at this time. As a result of those assessments, the Commonwealth and State Governments allocated large sums of money to train people in various trades. Recently those figures were reassessed and the results have been published in the last day or so. As the Department of Labour and industry has a representative on the manpower planning committee, I assume it supports the committee's statistics, bearing in mind that the figures may alter from time to time depending on changing needs. However, the Government and the committee attempt to assess likely future work force requirements so that we can ensure an adequate number of people are trained in this State and to avoid the necessity of bringing tradesmen from other States and overseas.

FUEL AND ENERGY: NUCLEAR

Monazite: Export

351. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the allegation in tonight's *Daily News* that thorium extracted from monazite is being used to fuel nuclear reactors?
- (2) Is he aware of any backdoor methods of exportation of this nuclear material?
- (3) How can Australia be assured that its safeguard provisions are upheld?
- (4) Does the safety agreement between France and Australia cover the export of monazite?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

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

- (1) to (4) I have seen the article in tonight's *Daily News*. Monazite has been exported to France for many years, as I indicated in this House on 4 May in answer to a question asked by the member for Melville. In the course of processing, most of the thorium contained in monazite is discarded as part of the waste products. However, some use is made of it in the manufacture of such materials as fluorescent screens, ferro alloys, refractories, and gas mantles. Some thorium is used for research into the development of thorium nuclear fuels, but a thorium fuel cycle has not been developed. Thorium itself is considered to have an extremely low proliferation risk.

The member referred to the safety agreements which exist between France and Australia. I have been in touch with the Commonwealth department concerned to confirm that the terms of the Australia-France nuclear safeguard agreement cover thorium, as do agreements between the IAEA—that is, the International Atomic Energy Association—and its member states including Australia, pursuant to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The safeguard agreement with France includes a commitment from the French that all nuclear material of Australian origin be used only for peaceful purposes. All our bilateral safeguard agreements require detailed administrative arrangements to be put into place setting out procedures for fulfilling the terms of the agreements. Such arrangements are in place with France.

The member asked also whether the Government has any knowledge of any backdoor sales, as suggested by the article in the *Daily News*. Clearly the answer is, "No". As I indicated previously, this situation has obtained for a long time and the safeguards in the normal commercial arrangements do not coincide with the allegations in the article.

When inquiries were made of the relevant Commonwealth Minister about this matter, I found that Mr Fraser Guild approached the Commonwealth Government yesterday with a list of questions to which he was given detailed answers. A copy of those answers was made available to me and none of them was used in the article.

All the allegations contained in the article in the *Daily News* were referred to or nullified by the answers Mr Guild received from the appropriate Commonwealth Minister's office. However, Mr Guild did not refer to any of those answers in his article and one could suggest he continued with his irresponsible insinuation while advancing a view totally in opposition to the correct position.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

State Manpower Planning Committee: Estimates

352. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

I refer the Premier to the comments attributed to him in this morning's *The West Australian* in which he claimed that the 1980 estimates by the manpower planning committee were not Government figures and were not from a Government source. If that is so, will the Premier indicate why he and his colleagues used those figures to mislead the public of Western Australia prior to and at the time of the last State election?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I would have thought that even the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would be able to understand that the manpower planning committee is made up of representatives from the unions, the Confederation of WA Industry (Inc.), and the Government. The assessments which it makes can alter from time to time, as I pointed out earlier.

Mr Parker: You did not tell the public that, did you?

Mr Bryce: You did not tell the public that. It is all part of the "snow job".

Mr O'CONNOR: I will not ask for a withdrawal of that comment by the

Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Anyone who knows anything about the operation of this committee realises assessments of this nature are made from time to time.

Mr Parker: Why don't you use them?

Mr O'CONNOR: I ask the member for Fremantle why he does not keep quiet for a minute and let me answer the question! These assessments are made by the committee to enable manpower planning for the future and that is why the Confederation of WA Industry (Inc.) and the unions are represented on it. We try to look into the future, assess the likely trends, and ensure the work force can cope with the situation.

Mr Parker: You use it for political purposes.

Mr O'CONNOR: If we are using the committee for political purposes to try to provide employment for people in this State, that is fair enough!

Several members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: If the Opposition disagrees with that, it should say so.

Mr Parker: It is not true though.

Mr Grill: We are worried about your manipulation of the figures.

Mr O'CONNOR: It is amazing! Members opposite ask a question, but they do not want to listen to the answer.

Mr Parker: You have not given us an answer.

Mr O'CONNOR: I have not given an answer, because members opposite keep interjecting.

Mr Parker: You won't give one, because it is embarrassing!

Mr O'CONNOR: I am giving a factual answer. In view of the current economic situation not only in Australia, but also internationally, the manpower planning committee has reassessed the position and advised accordingly. It would be irresponsible if it did not do so. If next year or the year after, four or five large companies indicate they intend to commence operations in this State, the figures would need to be reassessed further to ensure the necessary tradesmen were available in this State to meet the demand.

However, at this stage we have reassessed this State's future manpower requirements and we shall continue to

adopt that approach as the situation demands.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Port Gregory Coral

353. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Has the Minister seen the article in *The Geraldton Guardian* of Friday, 6 August 1982, reporting Port Gregory's coral taken by divers?
- (2) Port Gregory's brilliantly coloured coral is under threat. Would the Minister consider requesting a survey of the coral deposit adjacent to Port Gregory with a view to having it gazetted as a reserve to protect this valuable tourist asset?
- (3) If "Yes", are there any steps that could be taken to give immediate protection until a decision is made?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) I am concerned at the allegations of exploitation by skin divers of the Port Gregory coral and have requested an urgent report on the matter from the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. If the report indicates that action is warranted to protect this important local tourist asset, such action will be taken either by initiation of the processes required to have the area declared an aquatic reserve or by other appropriate means under the Fisheries Act.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Projects: "Locally Sourced"

354. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Industrial, Commercial and Regional Development:

Can the Minister give the House an assurance that all the work on major Western Australian development projects which his Government describes as "locally sourced" is actually done in Western Australia?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

I gather from the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition that he is alluding to the comment he made previously that some of those statistics may include steel imported from

interstate or overseas which has been processed in workshops in this State, with the result that in arriving at the contractual price, for percentage purposes, it has been classed as work completed in Western Australia. It does not refer to whether or not the work could be done here, but rather, for the purposes of statistical analysis, it is classed as work completed here.

Mr Brian Burke: You have taken the wrong implication. I am talking about the position of local firms within the definition of "locally sourced". Can you give an assurance that "locally sourced" work is done here?

Mr MacKINNON: The definition of "locally sourced" means that if it is work completed in Western Australia, irrespective of the ownership of the company, it is classified as a Western Australian statistic.

Mr Brian Burke: You give us that assurance, do you?

Mr MacKINNON: Yes, I do. If the Leader of the Opposition has any reason to doubt that is the case, he should let me know and I shall verify the matter.

Mr Brian Burke: I will let you know!

Several members interjected.

ROAD: LEACH HIGHWAY

Fencing

355. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Transport:

As a new fence has been erected on both sides of Leach Highway between Shelley Bridge and Benningfield Road, will the Minister advise—

- (1) Why was the fence erected?
- (2) Was it done with the agreement of the City of Canning?
- (3) What was the total cost of erecting the fence?
- (4) Were residents living adjacent to Leach Highway advised that this fence would be erected?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The Main Roads Department recently completed fencing of various sections of the Leach Highway controlled access reserve between Webb Street, Rossmoyne, and Barbican Street,

Shelley. The answers to the questions are as follows—

- (1) The fence is to enhance the safety of the road for both pedestrians and motorists.
- (2) No specific agreement was sought for this work. However, the council has not objected previously to fencing of controlled-access reserves.
- (3) The cost of the recent work was \$18 273.
- (4) No.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: PROJECTS

Tradesmen

356. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

With reference to his public statements reported in this morning's edition of *The West Australian*, statements attributing the large cutbacks in the number of tradesmen estimated to be needed for resource development projects in Australia to the failure of major resource projects to go ahead, will he nominate which of the projects will not go ahead?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

If the member would like to give notice of the question I will give him an appropriate answer to it.

Mr Bryce: Don't you read your own Press statements?

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes, I do.

LAND: AGRICULTURAL

Release: Working Group

357. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Lands:

With reference to question on notice 989 which he answered today, part 5 of which asked whether any statistical evidence had been gathered to substantiate whether land in the Mukinbudin Shire is classified as marginal, is he prepared to make that statistical evidence available, either to me or to the Mukinbudin Shire Council?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

I will be happy to discuss the matter with the member. I am sure a suitable arrangement could be reached.

HOUSING: BUILDING SOCIETIES

Borrowings

358. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Which building societies asked the Government to amend the Building Societies Act to permit building societies to borrow offshore, and why?
- (2) Why did the Government fail to consult with the Permanent Building Societies Association before bringing the legislation forward?
- (3) Is it Government policy that matters affecting the operations of building societies and particularly their borrowing powers are decided without consultation with the societies themselves?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

- (1) No particular building society made the request of the Government.
- (2) The Government was advised on this matter by the building societies advisory committee, which is the normal avenue of advice to the Government on such matters.
- (3) I cannot recollect exactly the terms of part (3), so I ask that he put it on notice.

LAND

Bicton Quarantine Station

359. Mr TRETOWAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has the Government completed its purchase from the Commonwealth of the land used currently for the Bicton Quarantine Station?
- (2) When will the Commonwealth relinquish possession of the site and where will the station be relocated?
- (3) For what future purpose is the site proposed to be used?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) The Government has completed its purchase. The last payment was made in June and the purchase price was \$1.085 million.

- (2) The Commonwealth will not relinquish possession for some time. An agreement is currently running that the Commonwealth will use the site for at least another 12 months, and will pay a nominal rental to the State.

No determination has been made yet by the Commonwealth as to where the station will be located, but discussions are continuing at officer level to try to determine a suitable place for the re-establishment of such a facility.

- (3) I understand most of the land presently is zoned urban under the metropolitan region planning scheme. A small section is designated as a foreshore reserve, and in the present Melville town planning scheme the land is zoned for special purposes. I understand that zoning is repeated by the council in its proposed scheme.

"STATE REPORT"

Publication Dates

360. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Has an alteration been made to the publication dates of his previous weekly *State Report*? Copies have been arriving at my office, but only infrequently, and sometimes 10 to 14 days apart. As they are much more humorous than the daily Press, I do miss them.

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I did not realise the member was able to read them, so I will ensure that in future he gets a copy of each report.

HOUSING: BUILDING SOCIETIES

Borrowings

361. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Housing:

Further to the question asked by the member for Dianella, if any particular building society asked the Minister to amend the legislation to which the member for Dianella referred, and since I understand the request for amendment did not originate from the building societies advisory committee, can the Minister indicate what attracted the Government to introduce this legislation last week?

Mr SHALDERS replied:

The recommendation came to me via the Registrar of Building Societies following

discussions and a recommendation by the building societies advisory committee.

Mr Parker: They had it sent to them by you. They had the proposed legislation sent to them by you for them to comment on.

LAND

Noranda Primary School

362. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Shire of Bayswater asked for excision of a part of the land adjacent to the Noranda Primary School for the purpose of building changerooms which could be used by the students of the school and by the community at large?
- (2) Have departmental officers refused to meet with the Shire of Bayswater and the parents and citizens' association to discuss this project?
- (3) If so, why has the refusal been given?
- (4) If the answer to (2) is in the negative, why has no meeting taken place?
- (5) Will he table a plan of the existing buildings, the proposed buildings and the playing areas, and any other details, at the Noranda Primary School, including any proposed special school at or near the site?

Mr CLARKO replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Departmental officers already have met with representatives of the Shire of Bayswater and agreed on a workable concept. In the near future parent representatives will be asked to attend an on-site inspection with Education Department and shire officers to discuss the proposals.
- (3) and (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The new scheme requires some adjustments to the overall use of the site and when the site plan is redrawn to show these changes a copy can be made available to the member.

ROAD

Princess Royal Drive

363. Mr WATT, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Will he advise of the current situation in respect of the urgency which has arisen

surrounding the need to provide an alternative access to the premises of Thomas Borthwick & Sons (Australasia) Ltd. via Princess Royal Drive?

- (2) What progress is being made with the associated question of the realignment of Princess Royal Drive following the redefinition of the boundary of the premises of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Firstly, I want to acknowledge the member for Albany's representation regarding this issue which is of particular concern to the people living in Brunswick Road, Albany. I inform him that the urgency is noted and acknowledged relating to the construction of the extension.

In the last few days I discovered that Borthwicks is not opening until 22 September, so it does afford an opportunity for this road to be advanced and constructed to give relief. The intention was that there would be a meeting between Borthwicks and the port authority today. I have received word that they have had a meeting at the conclusion of which it was agreed that the road should be constructed and the lease granted to Borthwicks. In the next day or so I expect to receive a statement from the port authority relating to the arrangements and seeking my approval. I assure the member for Albany that I will give it urgent attention. I expect to turn it around, if not by the end of this week, by the week after.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Bunbury and the Pilbara: Preliminary Agreements

364. Mr GRILL, to the Premier:

Regarding the preliminary agreements by the Government in respect of the possible sponge iron ore plant in the Pilbara and the possible power station and alumina smelter near Bunbury, will the Premier make copies of these documents available to the Opposition and the public, for what they are worth?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I would have thought that the member for Yilgarn-Dundas would know that these documents were released the week I returned from Italy. If the member has not received a copy, I would be quite happy to provide him with one.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Projects: "Locally Sourced"

365. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

Referring to what is generally accepted as the desirability of ensuring that resource development projects go to Western Australian companies, can the Premier indicate to the House whether he is prepared to illustrate the situation in which two stages of the Dampier to Perth pipeline will now not go through the normal tender process to which other parts of that construction were subject and will instead, it seems, be awarded to those two joint venturer contractors who will complete the first stage?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

In reply to the Leader of the Opposition, the contract has not been awarded at this stage. It has not been before Cabinet. Until such time as it does come to us, I will not give any undertakings.

"STATE REPORT"

Publication Dates

366. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

I will repeat my earlier question which the Premier apparently did not understand.

Mr Pearce: You really lacked wit by your previous answer.

Mr DAVIES: It is very difficult to ask the Premier a question when he grins like that.

Mr Clarko: You asked a smart aleck question.

Mr DAVIES: Has there been an alteration in the frequency of publication of *State Report*?

Mr Old: That was not the question.

Mr DAVIES: That was the question, smartie!

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No.

BANKS

"Easy Bank" and "Ready Bank" Transactions

367. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier able to advise us whether "Easy Bank" and "Ready Bank" transactions—does he know what they are?

Mr O'Connor: Yes, go ahead.

Mr DAVIES: To continue—

- (2) Can he advise us whether they attract any State tax?
(3) If not, is the Government thinking of imposing a transaction tax on them?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) I do know whether they attract tax. Nothing is before the Government at this stage on those issues.
