

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 24 March 1983

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

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

The Clerk announced the return of the writ for the electorate of Geraldton.

Mr Carr took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, and signed the Roll.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees elected by that House.

BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill.
2. Acts Amendment (Prevention of Excessive Prices) Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Days and Hours

On motion by Mr Tonkin (Leader of the House), resolved—

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays at 4.30 p.m., Wednesdays at 2.15 p.m., and on Thursdays at 10.45 a.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Precedence: Tuesdays and Thursdays

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [10.57 a.m.]: I move—

That on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all Motions and Orders of the Day.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Leader of the Opposition) [10.58 a.m.]: I do not rise to oppose the motion, but to ask the Government to give an indication of when the next sitting of the Parliament is likely to be undertaken. We have a number of people wanting to go away for breaks during this period.

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [10.59 a.m.]: I would think it would be late July.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Appointment

The following sessional committees were appointed on motion by Mr Tonkin (Leader of the House)—

- (1) Library Committee—Mr Speaker, Mrs Henderson, and Mr Tubby.
- (2) Standing Orders Committee—Mr Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr Jamieson, Mr Thompson, and Mr Watt.
- (3) House Committee—Mr Speaker, Mr Barnett, Mrs Beggs, Mr Old, and Mr Trethowan.
- (4) Printing Committee—Mr Speaker, Mrs Buchanan, and Mr Williams.
- (5) Public Accounts Committee—Mr I. F. Taylor, Mr D. L. Smith, Mrs Henderson, Mr Watt, and Mr Crane.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION FUND

Trustees

On motion by Mr Tonkin (Leader of the House), resolved—

That pursuant to the provisions of the Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1970, the Legislative Assembly hereby appoints the Member for Murchison-Eyre (Mr Coyne) and the Member for Perth (Mr T. J. Burke) to be Trustees of the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund as from this day.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [11.31 a.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising do adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.32 a.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

McKay Street

1. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) As the McKay Street Primary School is to be closed at the end of the 1983 school year to make way for the establishment of a police academy, will he please advise if, at the time of the announcement of such closure, the department promised parents of children remaining at the school that they would not be disadvantaged by their reduced numbers?
- (2) Is he aware that the school principal is now responsible for teaching the three upper year classes, as well as his normal administrative duties?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), what steps are being taken, or are proposed, to appoint additional staff to the school to avoid the children in those classes being disadvantaged?
- (4) Can he give me an undertaking that this matter will be investigated immediately, with a view to providing additional staff?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The promise was made that children remaining at the school would not be disadvantaged.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Administrative relief has been increased from 0.2 time to 0.4 time per week and the music specialist has been increased from 0.1 to 0.2 time per week; that is, one and a half days per week of additional teacher support has been given to the school.
- (4) Additional staff has been provided.

ECONOMY

Policy: Statement of Accord

2. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

Does the State Government support the statement of accord by the Australian Labor Party and the ACTU regarding economic policy and other matters, published in February 1983?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The State Government will ensure that the needs of all Western Australians are catered for, and the Government places a heavy emphasis on the need for job se-

curity and on creating new permanent jobs.

HONOURS

Recommendations

3. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

Will he make recommendations to Her Majesty the Queen for honours to be awarded?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Yes, in accordance with the constitution of the Order of Australia.

ROAD: CURTIN AVE

Widening

4. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it correct that survey pegs have been placed along the road verges of Curtin Avenue between Leighton and Jarrad Streets?
- (2) Is it correct that these pegs have been laid to indicate planned or intended widening of Curtin Avenue by the local authority using Commonwealth road funds?
- (3) Is the proposal in accordance with the metropolitan region scheme plans for a north-south road?
- (4) If not, is the proposal lawful, given that Curtin Avenue is no longer a "blue" road?
- (5) Is it the view of the department that further upgrading of Curtin Avenue should occur outside the north-south road reservation?
- (6) Would it not be preferable for road development to occur in the north-south road reservation, which is generally further away from residences along Curtin Avenue?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) to (6) Survey pegs have been placed in Curtin Avenue in the Town of Cottesloe in preparation for works to be undertaken by council using funds from the inner metropolitan councils' urban road account. These pegs are offset and, therefore, do not indicate the limit of the actual road widening.

The metropolitan region scheme only depicts designated regional roads such as the provision for a future major north-south road. It is essentially a matter for the council to decide if it wishes to upgrade any of its own road system. These roadworks proposed by the Cottesloe Town Council in Curtin Avenue are desirable irrespective of any decision on the long-term construction of the major north-south road. They are relatively low cost works compared with that which would be involved in the north-south road reservation.

WAGES: PAUSE

Savings: Expenditure

5. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Employment, Planning and Administrative Services:

- (1) (a) Has he obtained formal approval from the Commonwealth of projects for expenditure of the wage pause savings money;
- (b) if so, when?
- (2) If so, what projects have been approved and what is the expenditure to be on each one?
- (3) If not, what projects have been submitted for approval and what is the proposed expenditure on each one?
- (4) What number of direct jobs is expected to be provided by each project approved or proposed?
- (5) What administrative arrangements are to apply or are proposed to apply to the supervision of projects by the Commonwealth?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Following negotiations on the change of State Government, the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations indicated that it was prepared to recommend approval on 3 March 1983. However, because of the intervention of the Federal election and the understandable inability of the department to reach the then Minister, the matter has been held up pending the incoming Minister's consideration. Approval is required from both the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Finance and is expected shortly.

(2) Answered by (1).

- (3) (i) Development of sporting and recreation facilities \$3.8 million.
- (ii) Jervoise Bay breakwater \$2.9 million.
- (iii) Reforestation and other works \$1.78 million.
- (iv) Accelerated computer data take-up \$0.304 million.
- (v) Kings Park recreation facilities \$0.2 million.
- (vi) Rottnest Island reforestation \$0.066 million.
- (vii) Community projects to be determined from submissions received \$5.175 million.
- (viii) Unallocated \$3.355 million, but intended to be used on State departmental works programmes including restoration of the railway stations on Fremantle-Perth passenger rail service and the restoration of the old fire brigade headquarters in Perth as a museum.
- (4) Not yet determined; however, under the guidelines which we have accepted, but which the previous Government refused to accept, it will be ensured that the projects represent the maximum possible labour involvement.
- (5) A committee will be established to examine project proposals and to monitor the programmes. The Perth Regional Director of the Federal Department of Employment and Industrial Relations will be a member.

POLICE: PROSTITUTION

Containment and Control

6. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has he discussed or is he considering in any way the decriminalisation of prostitution or any change to the law relating to prostitution?
- (2) Will the police policy of containment and control continue?
- (3) Will he direct the police to change their enforcement policy in this area of law?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) I have had preliminary discussions with the Commissioner of Police on the general question of the law relating to prostitution and the policing of that law and no decisions have been made.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

HEALTH: NURSING HOMES

Staffing Levels

7. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the progress in the preparation of new regulations controlling staffing levels in private nursing homes?
- (2) (a) Does he propose to introduce new regulations imposing minimum staffing levels in private nursing homes;
(b) if so, when?
- (3) (a) If such regulations are contemplated, will there be consultation between the Minister and the Private Nursing Homes Association before the content and substance of the regulations are finalised;
(b) if so, when?
- (4) Is he aware that pilot studies undertaken in connection with the consideration of this subject indicate that ideal staffing levels would impose a substantial additional daily bed cost in providing nursing home care and that this cost would necessarily be passed on in the form of increased charges which would have to be met either by the occupants of nursing home beds or increased Commonwealth subsidies?
- (5) Have approaches been made to the Commonwealth to ascertain whether the increased subsidies necessary to cover additional costs are likely to be paid?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) Work has been almost completed on both the nursing staff establishment and the domestic staff component.
- (2) (a) Yes;
(b) as soon as the preparatory work is completed and discussed with interested parties.
- (3) (a) If necessary, I will be happy to do so;
(b) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes, I believe so, but I also believe staffing levels in many instances are well below what is desirable in the patients' best interests. I am determined to improve the quality of care provided in our nursing homes.
- (5) No, but officers of the Commonwealth Department of Health have been involved in all discussions as interested parties.

STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

Expenditure Cutbacks

8. Mr MENSAROS, to the Premier:

In view of his statement in the political notes in *The West Australian* newspaper of 17 March 1983, which was, "We have taken action to cut back on spending to fulfil our objective of balanced budgets", could he tell the House what action he has taken and what spending is being cut back?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

All Ministers have been instructed to obtain from each of the departments or other Government agencies for which they are responsible, proposals to reduce expenditure for the balance of this financial year in an effort to eliminate the deficit which this Government inherited on taking office. Meaningful savings are being sought in areas which will have minimum impact on the community.

Because of the care needed in identifying appropriate items of expenditure to be cut, all responses have not yet been received nor the information collated for consideration by the Government.

PREVENTION OF EXCESSIVE PRICES BILL

Staff Increase

9. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is there any increase in staff of the Bureau of Consumer Affairs or any other Government department or instrumentality (whether permanent public servants or ministerial appointments) expected as a direct or indirect result of the provisions of the Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill, 1983, and in particular of its clause 5(2) (c)?
- (2) Could he state the estimated cost for a full year of such staff increase?
- (3) Would he undertake to report to Parliament every quarter about the increase in staff and the resulting cost calculated for a full year?
- (4) Could he say which "other persons" he is going to appoint to the prices advisory committees according to the provisions of clause 8(3)(c) of the Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill 1983?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A firm cost has not been established as yet.
- (3) No.
- (4) The persons appointed to these committees will depend upon the appropriate expertise required, according to the particular goods or services under review.

WATER RESOURCES

Pemberton

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

- (1) Is he aware of the reported damage caused to the Pemberton trout hatchery which was attributed to the bad quality of the public water supply?
- (2) Are there any plans under study and/or preparation to update the Pemberton water supply?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware of the reported damage and that it has been attributed to the quality of the public water supply. However, the fact is that the Pemberton water supply, which is drawn from the Pemberton dam, is passed through a water treatment plant and the public supply is perfectly wholesome and good and meets the requirements of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The trout hatchery draws its supply independently direct from the Lefroy Brook weir.
- (2) There are no plans to update the Pemberton water supply. Investigations have commenced for the construction of a new dam for Manjimup. If this proceeds, additional storage may be provided to cater for the needs of the trout hatchery at Pemberton.

WATER RESOURCES: PROJECTS

Financing

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

- (1) Will the water resources projects to be financed by the Commonwealth on a full grant basis—which were announced about six weeks ago—go ahead under the new Commonwealth and State Governments?

- (2) If so, can he please name these projects and the respective grants of the Commonwealth for each, both in aggregate amount for each project and as they are expected to be allocated yearly?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) No information is yet available regarding this matter.

SEWERAGE

Wages Pause: Programmes

12. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Employment, Planning and Administrative Services:

- (1) Are backlog sewerage schemes included in the Commonwealth wages pause programme?
- (2) If so, can he please describe these schemes and state for each one—
 - (a) whether plans and specifications are already prepared or in what stage they are;
 - (b) the estimated cost;
 - (c) whether the statutory formalities (gazetting, objections, etc.) have been completed or what stage they have reached;
 - (d) whether the work will be done by contractors or in-house day labour;
 - (e) the date of tenders closing and/or commencement of work by day labour;
 - (f) the anticipated completion time of works?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) and (2) In the list of projects originally submitted to the Federal Government for funding from the wages pause savings, an amount of \$2.7 million, was proposed for allocation to the provision of backlog sewerage.

However, recent negotiations with the previous and current Federal Governments have indicated that approval for projects such as backlog sewerage is unlikely to be forthcoming.

The Government has submitted a revised list of projects to the Federal Government which does not include a specific amount to be allocated to sewerage works.

WATER RESOURCES: NATIONAL SCHEME

Commonwealth Contribution

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

Would he please detail the expected Commonwealth dollar for dollar contribution (according to the yearly amounts to be expected for various projects) under the national water resources programme, the duration of which has recently been extended?

Mr TONKIN replied:

Under the national water resources programme the Commonwealth allocates financial assistance to the States only on an annual basis following submission of a programme from the States each year. No level of funding for future years has been indicated by the Commonwealth.

HOSPITAL: ROYAL PERTH

North Block: Construction

14. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the construction of the north block of the Royal Perth Hospital proceed?
- (2) If so, what progress has been made in assessing tenders received for this project?
- (3) What is the type of financing going to be for works to be performed prior to normal capital budget funding?
- (4) If answer to (1) is "No", could he please give reasons that the project will not proceed?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) to (4) This matter is the subject of close consideration by the Government and no decision has yet been taken.

WATER RESOURCES: METROPOLITAN WATER AUTHORITY

Vehicle Fleet

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

Does his recent complimentary statement about savings on the ongoing cost of the motor vehicle fleet of the Metropolitan Water Authority mean that he is satisfied with the efficient working and administration of the reorganised Metropolitan Water Authority, despite

the fact that his leader did not withdraw his long-standing demand for a "shake up from top to bottom of the authority"?

Mr TONKIN replied:

It is this Government's policy to create a State water authority for Western Australia with a target date set for 1 July 1985. This authority will ensure that the State's valuable water resources both country and metropolitan are managed in the most efficient and effective manner.

WATER RESOURCES

Single Authority: Steering Committee

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

Could he please inform the House about the terms of reference of the recently announced steering committee—headed by himself—to look at ways of setting up a single water authority by 1 July 1985?

Mr TONKIN replied:

The policy of the Government is to combine the major water authorities in the State in a single authority. The task of the steering committee is to prepare a submission with recommendations to the Government with the purpose of achieving this objective as soon as possible.

WATER RESOURCES

Single Authority: Project Group

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

- (1) Could he please give information about the names of people comprising the recently announced project group which is to report to the steering committee to look at ways of setting up a single water authority?
- (2) Has this project group been given terms of reference and, if so, can he inform the House about these terms?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) The composition of the project group is still under consideration and it is not possible at present to provide the names of the people who comprise it or the terms of reference.

WATER RESOURCES

Single Authority: Western Australian Water Resources Council

18. MR MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is he aware that one of the reasons for setting up the statutory Western Australian Water Resources Council has been to seek its advice regarding a single water authority for Western Australia?
- (2) What is going to be the role of the Western Australian Water Resources Council in the deliberations about ways of setting up such an authority?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) The functions of the Western Australian Water Resources Council are spelt out in section 14 of the Act. These do not refer to the specific matter raised in the question. Should it seem desirable to me to seek the advice of the council on the setting up of a single water authority, I shall seek that advice. The council may of its own motion also tender advice.

SEWERAGE AND WATER RESOURCES

Rates: Pay-for-use Principle

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

- (1) Is the working party of industrial, commercial, and small business representatives to continue its activities to examine and recommend about most equitable water, sewerage, etc. charges based increasingly on the pay for service, pay for use principle?
- (2) If so, is he, as Minister, going to chair the meetings of the working party as his predecessor did?
- (3) If answer to (1) is "No", what are his reasons to disband the working party?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (3) I am currently examining the work to date of the Metropolitan Water Authority and the working party. When I have completed my examination I will make a decision.

WATER RESOURCES

Single Authority: Steering Committee

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

- (1) Why does the recently announced steering committee to look at ways of

setting up a single water authority not include other than Government departmental and instrumentality officers?

- (2) Who are the members of the steering committee?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) In the initial stages at least of consideration of the setting up of a single water authority the composition of the steering committee seems to me to be adequate. Should it become apparent later that others should be included on the committee I shall invite them to join it.
- (2) The members of the steering committee are—

The Hon. A. R. Tonkin,

MLA—Chairman

The Hon. K. F. McIver, MLA

Dr D. Zink

Mr H. J. Glover

Mr K. J. Kelsall

Mr F. Pinczuk

Mr K. T. Cadee

Mr R. M. Hillman

Mr R. A. Gregory

Mr W. E. M. Bateman

Mr L. E. S. McCarrey

Mr K. M. McKenna

MINING: URANIUM

Exploration, Processing, and Export

21. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

Is the Government going to give encouragement to uranium exploration, and after exploration, to exploitation, processing, and exporting of uranium?

Mr GRILL replied:

I am advised that most of the predictions made in the mid-seventies of future needs for uranium were wildly optimistic and far too high. For example, the predicted annual demand for uranium in 1980—made in 1973—was 267 000 tonnes, but the forecast of annual demand made in 1980 was 26 000 tonnes, an order of magnitude lower. Over-optimistic demand predictions have led to a market plagued by over-supply when there is a worldwide slump in consumption of the metal. These conditions are unlikely to ease before the end of the decade.

In the light of this, any proposal will be fully considered within the terms of our announced policy.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Willetton: Staffing

22. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

Would he please give me an assurance that staff numbers at Willetton Primary School will not be reduced for the balance of this academic year?

Mr PEARCE replied:

No. The position at Willetton Primary School is to be reviewed on 25 March 1983.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Willetton: Enrolments and Staffing

23. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Willetton Primary School, could he advise—

- (1) How many pupils are enrolled at the school at the current time, exclusive of the pre-primary centre?
- (2) How many students are enrolled in the pre-primary centre at the school?
- (3) What is the current staffing position at the school, exclusive of the pre-primary centre?
- (4) What is the current staffing position of the pre-primary centre at the school?
- (5) What is the current staffing formula used for a school of this size?
- (6) What is the Government's policy in relation to transferring of staff mid-term should numbers alter at schools?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) 709.
- (2) 76.
- (3) A principal and 26 teachers, plus one additional teacher for administrative relief.
- (4) Two teachers and two aides.

- (5) By the 1983 formula, which is substantially more favourable than in 1982, 709 pupils entitles the school to a primary staffing of a principal and 25 teachers, plus one additional teacher for administrative relief. The appropriate range is between 685 and 714 pupils.

- (6) It is an established policy that over-staffing due to an over-estimation of numbers will be adjusted up to 31 March.

SMALL BUSINESS

Incentive Programme

24. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Employment, Planning and Administrative Services:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in the *Daily News* of 24 February 1983, as saying that he would "Provide land at 'peppercorn rental' to small businesses—especially labour intensive businesses—which wanted to establish themselves"?
- (2) If so, can he provide me with the details of this incentive programme and to whom the incentive will apply?
- (3) If not, when will the detail be available?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes, although when speaking to the journalist I specifically mentioned land in country towns where the establishment of businesses could have a major impact on the economy of that town and where in many cases there was much surplus Government land available.
- (2) Details of the incentive scheme are still to be examined.
- (3) It will be one of the jobs of the State employment strategies task force when it is created to identify problem areas, avenues of assistance, and guidelines for implementation in conjunction with the Department of Employment and Administrative Services. The task force will be established shortly.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Local Companies: Preference

25. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Employment, Planning and Administrative Services:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in the *Daily News* of 24 February 1983, as

saying that he would "try to award more Government contracts to WA companies whose tenders were competitive with overseas companies"?

- (2) To what type of contract was he referring?
- (3) Has he any examples of where a Government contract was awarded to an overseas company ahead of a local company that was competitive with regard to price, quality, and delivery?
- (4) If so, would he provide these examples?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Government contracts in general.
- (3) No. The interview was conducted prior to the swearing-in of the new Government and such information was not available to me at the time.
- (4) Answered by (3) above.

- (h) prohibiting certain transactions;
- (i) conducting investigations;
- (j) obtaining returns from persons;
- (k) pursuing offenders through court action;
- (l) other matters;

could he please advise—

- (1) What will the new staffing for the office of the prices commissioner be?
- (2) What will be the estimated cost of running this office for the financial years ending 30 June 1983 and 30 June 1984?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) New staffing arrangements have not been finalised as yet.
- (2) A firm cost has not been established as yet.

PREVENTION OF EXCESSIVE PRICES BILL

Prices Commissioner: Staffing

26. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

Given that the Government's proposed amendments will call on the Government—through the prices commissioner—to be much more actively involved in—

- (a) fixing and declaring maximum prices or rates for goods and services;
- (b) fixing these rates differentially;
- (c) fixing these rates for various parts of the State;
- (d) listing conditions which may apply to these rates;
- (e) working with and servicing prices advisory committees;
- (f) publishing lists of controlled goods and services;
- (g) prosecuting offenders who—
 - (i) sell goods at prices higher than maximum price or supply services at rates higher than maximum rate;
 - (ii) deliver goods of lesser quality than that approved;
 - (iii) alter the mode of packing, or recipe of a controlled product;
 - (iv) refuse to sell goods or supply services at the fixed price;

WAGES PAUSE

Price Increases: Complaints

27. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

I refer the Minister to an article in the *Daily News* of 14 March where it states, "Consumers have flooded the bureau and Labor Party with complaints about excessive prices since the wages freeze was introduced in December." Could he advise—

- (1) How many complaints have been received by the prices monitoring committee (working under the Bureau of Consumer Affairs) since its inception, in the following categories—
 - (a) telephone complaints;
 - (b) written complaints;
 - (c) other referred complaints (e.g. *Daily News*)?
- (2) What was the general outcome of these complaints?
- (3) (a) Did the "prices watch" established by the previous Leader of the Opposition refer any complaints to the committee
 - (i) prior to 19 February 1983;
 - (ii) after 19 February 1983?
- (b) if not, why not?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) Up to 21 March 1983 the bureau has received:

- (a) 214 telephone complaints
- (b) 30 written complaints
- (c) 54 complaints referred by the *Daily News*.

- (2) Outcome of complaints:

Outside the jurisdiction of the	27
Salaries and Wages Freeze Act	
Investigations not considered warranted by the prices monitoring unit of the bureau	125
Prices justified by vendors or suppliers	105
Inequities continuing	41
Total	298

- (3) (a) (i) No.
(ii) No.

- (b) This is not an admissible question under Standing Orders.

ECONOMY

Policy: Statement of Accord

28. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Economic Development and Technology:

In the statement of accord by the Australian Labor Party and the Australian Council of Trade Unions regarding economic policy it states, "Taxation of companies will be reformed to ensure that companies pay their fair share of tax on income earned in Australia and overseas by such measures as eliminating corporate tax loopholes, abolishing the investment allowance as an across-the-board concession, and introducing a resource rent tax on the super profits of mining companies". Does he—

- (1) Support the proposal that recommends "abolishing the investment allowance as an across-the-board concession"?
- (2) Support the proposal that recommends "introducing a resource rent tax on the super profits of mining companies"?
- (3) If the answer to (1) and/or (2) is "Yes", could he explain why?
- (4) If the answer to (1) and/or (2) is "No", can he explain why not?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (4) The matters raised in the member's question are part of a comprehensive prices and incomes policy announced by the Prime Minister prior to the Federal election.

These and other issues will be discussed at the forthcoming national economic summit conference which I will be attending.

HOUSING: LAND

Leeming

29. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

I refer him to an article reported in *The Canning-Melville Times* of 9 February 1983, which reported, "State Housing Commission land in Leeming will be sold to local private developers by a State Labor Government, the Labor candidate for Murdoch, Eric Ripper, has announced. Mr Ripper said that he had contacted Mr Keith Wilson, Labor's Shadow Minister for Housing about the future of the land and he had confirmed that it would be sold." Could he advise—

- (1) Is this report correct?
- (2) (a) If so, when will the land be sold;
(b) by what method?
- (3) How much is the land estimated to realise?
- (4) Where will those units which were to be built in the Leeming estate now be built?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) to (4) The Government has appointed a consultant to examine the land holdings of the State Housing Commission with a view to realising an additional \$30 million to fund the construction of additional State Housing Commission accommodation and the land at Leeming is one of several parcels of land that will be examined.

EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOL

Canning Vale: Replacement

30. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

I refer the Minister to an open letter he wrote to the Canning Vale Primary School principal and reported in *The*

Canning-Melville Times of 19 January, and ask—

- (1) When will the present Government make a decision on whether the Canning Vale Primary School will be allowed to continue in its present location for a further 12 months beyond December 1983?
- (2) (a) Will a replacement school for the Canning Vale Primary School be built;
(b) if so, where will it be located?
- (3) When will this replacement school be ready for occupation and use by children in the area?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) to (3) In my letter to the Canning Vale principal last year I indicated that I thought it a pity that the present school with its attractive grounds should be destroyed. At present I am seeking an extension of the life of this school and will consider future schooling provisions for the area when this point is resolved.

TRAFFIC: ACCIDENTS

Karel Avenue-Parry Avenue Junction

31. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Since July 1982, how many accidents have occurred each month at the intersection of Parry Avenue and Karel Avenue in Willetton?
- (2) When will traffic control signals be installed at this intersection?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Reported accidents—

1982 July	1
August	0
September	2
October	0
November	0
December	2
1983 January	1
February	0

- (2) This intersection will be included on the list of sites for consideration of signal installation during 1983-84.

EMPLOYMENT AGENTS ACT

Babysitting Agencies

32. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Is it fact that under the Employment Agents Act babysitting agencies are required to register as employment agents?
- (2) If so, what is the application fee and annual fee required to be paid by babysitting agencies under the Act?
- (3) Is there any minimum earnings level below which babysitting agencies are exempt from the Act?
- (4) Since its inception, have any charges under the Employment Agents Act been made against babysitting agencies?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Application for grant of licence \$10
Grant of licence \$240
Application for renewal of licence \$5
Renewal of licence \$25
- (3) No.
- (4) No.

BUNBURY FOODS PTY. LTD.

Assets: Disposal

33. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Economic Development and Technology:

- (1) Is the receiver for Bunbury Foods Pty. Ltd. appointed by the Western Australian State Government proceeding with his efforts to dispose of the assets of the company?
- (2) Has the present Government placed any restrictions on the receiver as to how he should dispose of these assets?
- (3) If so, what are those conditions?
- (4) When is it anticipated that the sale will be completed?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) When the State Government and the other secured creditors have agreed upon the successful tenderer. It is expected that details of the tenders received by the receiver will be submitted to the secured creditors for consideration shortly.

LIQUOR

Licences: Statistics

34. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Employment, Planning and Administrative Services:

- (1) How many liquor licences in each category are current for the State electorate of Fremantle?
- (2) Which of these licences (exclusive of transfers) were issued in the last three years (i.e., since 1 February 1980)?
- (3) How many new licences (exclusive of transfers) have been issued, in each category, in Western Australia, during the same period?

Mr PARKER replied:

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| (1) Hotel | 12 |
| Historic inn | — |
| Tavern | 9 |
| Limited hotel | 1 |
| Canteen | 1 |
| Winehouse | 2 |
| Cabaret | 3 |
| Theatre | — |
| Packet | 2 |
| Restaurant | 7 |
| Club | 18 |
| Store | 9 |
| Wholesale | 10 |
| Brewers | — |
| Australian wine | 1 |
| Vignerons | — |
| Reception lodge | 1 |
| Unlicensed club permit | 9 |
- (2) Tavern licence—Cleopatra Tavern being a conversion from a hotel licence.
Wholesale licence—A & M Import Export
Packet licence—"Miss Portuguese", "Nordon"
Restaurant licence—Bannister Mill
Reception lodge licence—"Hibiscus Lodge".
Unlicensed club permit—Fremantle District cricket club
- | | |
|--------------|----|
| (3) Hotel | 4 |
| Historic inn | 1 |
| Tavern | 21 |
- (includes 7 tavern licences granted on conversion from another type of licence—i.e. six from hotels and one from a winehouse)
- | | |
|---------------|----|
| Limited hotel | 8 |
| Canteen | 13 |
| Winehouse | 3 |
| Cabaret | 3 |
| Theatre | 1 |

Packet	10
Restaurant	74
Club	14
Store	6
Wholesale	10
Brewers	—
Australian wine	—
Vignerons	2
Reception lodge	2
Unlicensed club permit	80

TOURISM

Travel Centres: Eastern States

35. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What plans has the Government for the upgrading of the Department of Tourism's travel centres in the Eastern States of Australia?
- (2) If there is to be an upgrading, will consideration be given to relocating the Queensland Travel Centre to a street level location?
- (3) Are any other centres to be relocated and, if so, which are these centres?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of these changes?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) All Eastern States travel centres have recently been inspected and a report has been prepared by the Public Works Department detailing upgrading works required to furniture and fittings.
- (2) Negotiations are currently proceeding to relocate the Brisbane Travel Centre to street level premises.
- (3) No.
- (4) Costs for (1) and (2) are currently being determined.

TOURISM

Penalty Rates

36. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Tourism:

The now Federal Minister for Tourism, the Hon. J. J. Brown, MP, was recently reported in a travel industry journal to have said, "I have put it to Mr Hawke and I have put it to the unions that we cannot expect this industry to grow and provide employment when it faces weekend penalty rates of up to two or three times the basic wage rate. It is just not on." I ask—

- (1) Is the Government in favour of taking action to reduce or do away with penalty rates?
- (2) If so, what action does he intend to take on behalf of the tourist industry to overcome what Mr Brown has called an "outrageous" imposition on that industry?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) Western Australia has listed this matter for discussion at the 1983 meeting of the Australian standing committee on tourism to be held over 24 and 25 March. The outcome of these discussions will determine future action.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Algae Harvesting Machines

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

- (1) For how many hours during a day and during a week are the recently purchased two algae harvesting machines (aquamarine aquatic weed control equipment) in use?
- (2) In view of the comparatively high capital cost of this equipment, is it considered that they shall be working at least during daylight every day, including weekends?
- (3) Where are the harvested algae disposed of?

Mr DAVIES replied:

- (1) The equipment consists of one harvester, one carrier and one onshore conveyor.

Because the harvester was launched within two days of delivery during the pre-election period, a full dry land servicing and commissioning operation was not carried out. Servicing has been carried out since the harvester was launched.

For various reasons, daily harvesting time is limited to six and a half hours.

Recent use of the machine was hampered by extremely low tides when it could not go in to off-load.

Since the launching, a second shore off-loading facility is being constructed and will be completed by Friday, 25 March 1983.

- (2) Yes, depending on availability of staff, servicing requirements, and conditions within the estuary.
- (3) The major portion of the harvested algae is being disposed of in a sand pit in Stock Road, Mandurah, where it is used for soil stabilisation purposes. It is available free to the public provided that cartage arrangements are equitable. Research work is continuing on the uses of algae as a stock food and a certain quantity of it has been processed.

DREDGING

Peel Inlet

38. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

When is it anticipated to do the dredging of the small craft navigational channels—

- (a) at the mouth of the Murray River in Peel Inlet;
- (b) at the mouth of the Serpentine River in Peel Inlet;
- (c) between Peel Inlet and Mandurah (the "sticks");
- (d) to the access of Yunderup Canals in Peel Inlet;
- (e) at parts of the Peel Inlet where it meets the Harvey Estuary?

Mr McIVER replied:

The statutory responsibilities for dredging in the Peel Inlet/Harvey estuary area rests with the Department of Marine and Harbours and the Waterways Commission under their respective Acts. However, on the information available it is understood that dredging—

- (a) at the mouth of the Murray River in Peel Inlet;
- (b) at the mouth of the Serpentine River in Peel Inlet; and
- (d) to the access of Yunderup Canals in Peel Inlet—

has been programmed to commence in the 1984-85 financial year, subject to the completion of dredging at Bunbury for the Waterways Commission.

- (c) The necessity to dredge the inlet channel between Peel Inlet and Mandurah is still under investigation as part of the Peel-Harvey estuarine system study. However, funds for the maintenance dredging of the "sticks" channel in the north-west part of Peel Inlet have been provisionally programmed for 1983-84.

- (e) There is no known maintenance dredging requirement for the junction of the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Renovation and Repainting

39. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Is he prepared to recommend for the 1983-84 Budget to include the renovating and repainting of the western end (old front) of Parliament House, to lend it at least the same appearance as the other external sides of the building have now?

Mr McIVER replied:

At this stage, it is proposed to include this work in the draft 1983-84 works programme.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Building Contractors: Categorising

40. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Works:

Is he going to proceed with the previously proposed categorising of building contractors to be able to tender for contracts of different value groups?

Mr McIVER replied:

A report on a proposed system of categorisation of building contractors is in the course of preparation and I am awaiting its submission to me.

STATE FINANCE

Financial Institutions Duty

41. Mr COURT, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to introduce a financial institutions duty during its present term of office?

- (2) If so, will it be introduced in the same format as that introduced in New South Wales and Victoria?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has given no consideration to the introduction of a financial institutions duty.

WAGES PAUSE

Price Increases: Complaints

42. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Since the proclamation of the Salaries and Wages Freeze Act 1982 giving the deputy commissioner the authority to monitor prices—

- (a) how many complaints has the bureau received alleging excessive price increases;
- (b) of these, how many have been proven to be excessive;
- (c) what action has been taken to remedy excessive price increases by the bureau and has this action been successful?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (a) 298.
- (b) The term "excessive" prices is not mentioned in the price monitoring sections of the Salaries and Wages Freeze Act 1982.
- (c) The Burke Labor Government has introduced the Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill to the House.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: NEDLANDS CITY COUNCIL

Stalls By-laws

43. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Local Government:

What is the delay in giving approval to the new stalls by-laws adopted by the City of Nedlands which have passed the objection period and have been awaiting final approval since 11 January 1983?

Mr CARR replied:

I have now recommended these by-laws for the approval of the Governor in Executive Council and expect them to be submitted to the next Executive Council meeting and to be published in the *Government Gazette* soon after.

STATE FINANCE: STAMP DUTY

Discount Securities

44. Mr COURT, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Government aware that the current stamp duty requirements on discount securities in Western Australia combined with the effects of New South Wales and Victorian financial legislation is causing a decline in the volume of primary issue paper in the Perth money market?
- (2) Is the Government prepared to remove this stamp duty in order to re-establish the money market growth impetus which existed prior to the introduction of financial institutions duties in the Eastern States?
- (3) Is the Government aware that since the introduction of financial institutions duty in the Eastern States the Rural and Industries Bank is now no longer able to issue negotiable certificates of deposit in the Eastern States because it will be seen to be avoiding State stamp duty and would this not mean that it is not able to compete for funds on an equal footing with other trading banks?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government, through its Treasury and State taxation officers, is closely monitoring the effects of the financial institutions duties recently introduced in New South Wales and Victoria, together with the associated abolition of certain stamp duties in those States.
However, at this stage, revenue collections have not reflected any underlying change in the volume of primary issue paper.
- (3) It has not been the practice of the Rural and Industries Bank to issue negotiable certificates of deposit in the Eastern States and this situation has not changed with the introduction of the financial institutions duties in New South Wales and Victoria.

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Integration with Railways of Australia

45. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

Knowing that the Tonkin Government was negotiating to sell the Western Aus-

tralian mail system to the Whitlam Commonwealth Government, as did the Dunstan South Australian Government, and as the ALP in Western Australia is committed to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government to integrate the Australian Railways in a single centralised system—

- (1) Will this sell off of Westrail take place in the next three years?
- (2) If "No", when will it take place?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) The basis of the member's question is illfounded as this Government has no connection with the Tonkin Government.

The present Government has no plans to dispose of the State railway to the Commonwealth or any other body.

RAILWAYS

Services: Re-opening

46. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

Remembering the ALP's previous objections to the closing and commitment to re-open the rail services between—

- (a) Boyup Brook-Kojonup-Katanning;
- (b) Wagin-Bowelling-Duranillan-Bunbury;
- (c) Mullewa-Meekatharra—

- (1) When does it intend to re-open these railway services?
- (2) What is the estimated cost to re-open these services?
- (3) Is it intended to take away the economic benefits from farmers and other transport users of road transport by forcing them to use these reinstated rail services?
- (4) The ALP being committed to progressively reintroduce refrigerated perishable goods services to country areas—
 - (a) is this to be by rail;
 - (b) when will the services be reintroduced;
 - (c) what is the estimated capital and running costs of reintroducing these services?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) to (4) The member should be aware that the railways quoted in (a) and (b) have not been presented to Parliament for closure.

I am unaware of any proposal to close the Wagin - Bowelling - Duranillan - Bunbury railway. Presumably the member is referring to the suspension of rail services between Bokal and Bowelling.

Notwithstanding this, no decisions have been made by the present Government on any of the matters referred to by the member. However, I will be examining all aspects of rail services with a view to re-opening sections of the railway where it would be viable to do so.

A study is being implemented on the Government's involvement in Total Western Transport Pty. Ltd. and I will be announcing the terms of reference shortly. The outcome of this study will have a bearing on Westrail services.

RAILWAYS

Midland Workshops: Upgrading

47. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

It has been stated by the ALP that it intends to carry out the complete construction of railway requirements at Midland workshops—

- (1) Does this mean that the suburban railcars for which tenders have closed, are to be rejected and are now to be built at the Midland workshops?
- (2) Will all new rail locomotives be built at Midland workshops?
- (3) Does the Government intend to continue with the present five year programme of upgrading the efficiency and working conditions at the Midland workshops?

Mr GRILL replied:

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

MARINE AND HARBOURS ACT

Amendment

48. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

When is it anticipated that the Western Australian Government will move to amend the WA Marine Act to incorporate the 1981 Marine and Ports Council of Australia Uniform Shipping Laws

Code which was adopted by the Commonwealth in May 1981?

Mr GRILL replied:

The WA Marine Act 1982 passed all stages of Parliament during the last parliamentary session. That Act, which makes provision for the adoption of the Marine and Ports Council of Australia Uniform Shipping Laws Code, is currently awaiting royal assent.

Regulations to be made under that Act are now being drafted to facilitate the adoption of the code, which is expected to come into force later this year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Carnarvon Earth Station

49. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Regional Development and the North-West:

- (1) Is he aware that the Overseas Telecommunications Commission has announced that current contracts held by the Carnarvon earth station will expire in 1985 and that there are no plans for further work, which could result in a loss of approximately 40 jobs, \$1 million in wages per year, and a major tourist attraction for the town of Carnarvon?
- (2) Does he support the findings of the report on future possibilities for the Carnarvon station commissioned by the previous State Government and prepared by Dr Brian O'Brien?
- (3) Will he act on the recommendations of the O'Brien report and make strong representations to the Federal Government to have the Carnarvon station upgraded in preference to Ceduna because of Carnarvon's more advantageous geographical location, so that the Carnarvon station can tender for contracts with Intelsat after 1985?
- (4) Will he also press the Federal Government to have the Carnarvon station included in future developments involving Telecom and AUSSAT?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware that OTC has announced that current contracts held by the Carnarvon earth station will expire in 1985. Although there are no immediate plans for further work, I am advised that OTC is actively seeking further work for the Carnarvon station.

- (2) My Government will certainly be seeking ways of keeping the Carnarvon station commissioned at as high a level of operation as possible.
- (3) and (4) Strong representations will be made to the Federal Government to upgrade the Carnarvon station. The geographic advantage is recognised and efforts will be made to have Carnarvon used for a range of work including involvement with Telecom and AUSSAT.

FUEL AND ENERGY: PETROL

Price: Retail

50. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) What was the most common retail price per litre for petrol in the metropolitan area on Saturday, 19 February 1983?
- (2) What was the most common retail price per litre for petrol in the metropolitan area on Saturday, 19 March 1983?
- (3) When will the State Government move to reduce the price of petrol by 3c per litre as promised during the recent election campaign?
- (4) Will the State Government amend its promise to reduce the price of petrol by 3c to 4½c per litre now that the new Federal Government has taken action that will reduce the price by 1½c per litre?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) No information is available as regards the most common retail price applicable on 19 February 1983. The most common retail price for fuel (self service and attended sites) was 42.9c per litre on 21 February 1983.
- (2) Similarly, the most common retail price for fuel was 44.9c per litre on 21 March 1983.
- (3) and (4) A full review of petrol marketing, pricing, and related matters is contemplated in Western Australia upon enactment of the prevention of excessive prices legislation. This will assist in determining the extent of the proposed reduction in the price of fuel in this State.

FUEL AND ENERGY: PETROL

Price: Disparities

51. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

When will the State Government move to remove the disparities between petrol prices at various country centres as promised during the election campaign?

Mr TONKIN replied:

This depends upon the enactment of the prevention of excessive prices legislation presently before the Upper House.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS: PILBARA

Prices Survey

52. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is he aware of a prices survey conducted in the Pilbara area at the request of the member for Pilbara (as reported in the *Pilbara Advertiser* on Thursday, 17 March 1983)?
- (2) Which prices in the Pilbara are considered excessive according to this survey?
- (3) Which prices or items does he intend to declare under the Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill 1983?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The matter is currently being studied.
- (3) Consideration will be given to nominating certain declared items upon enactment of the prevention of excessive prices legislation now before the Upper House.

INSURANCE: INVESTIGATORS

Regulation

53. Mr LAURANCE, to the Premier:

Does the Government intend to regulate insurance investigators following a reported request by the Trades and Labor Council for such action to be taken?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Such a request has not been made to the Government, although it is understood that the Trades and Labor Council has held discussions with the State Government Insurance Office and other bodies on this subject.

TRANSPORT: AIR

Trans-Australia Airlines

54. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the State Government intend to allow TAA to operate intrastate air services in Western Australia?
- (2) Will legislation be required for this to occur?
- (3) Does the State Government intend to hand over to the Commonwealth any of its powers in relation to aviation in order to assist TAA's entry to intrastate services in this State?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The member would be aware that a review of internal air services and policy was presented to the previous Government of which he was a member in June 1982. Subsequently, the Commissioner of Transport invited submissions from airline operators interested in providing competitive air services in Western Australia. A decision as to whether TAA will be allowed to operate intrastate air services in Western Australia will be made after consideration of all submissions.
- (2) Dependent upon the submissions referred to in (1), consideration will be given as to whether changes to present legislation are necessary.
- (3) After consideration of submissions referred to in (1), the Government will consider its appropriate course of action.

EDUCATION: PRE-SCHOOL

Four-year-olds: Number

55. Mr LAURANCE, to the Premier:

- (1) As he is reported as having said that funding for kindergarten education will be included in the Labor Government's first Budget, can he indicate how many four-year-olds will be catered for in 1984?
- (2) Is it intended that community kindergartens currently leased to the Education Department for pre-primary purposes will be returned to the relevant parties (i.e. local authority or community organisation) for use as kindergartens?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The Government is moving to implement its policy on the admission of four-year-olds to pre-schools as early as practicable.
- (2) No decision on this matter has yet been made.

TOURISM

Lake Argyle

56. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) How many applications were received for King locations 612, 613 at Lake Argyle for development as a tourist resort?
- (2) When did the Land Board meet to consider the applications?
- (3) Who was the successful applicant?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Wednesday, 16 March 1983.
- (3) Fraser Consultants Pty. Ltd.

LAND: BUILDING BLOCKS

Broome

57. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) How many applications were received for Broome lot 1781 for subdivision and development for residential purposes?
- (2) What area is contained in lot 1781?
- (3) How many blocks is it anticipated can be developed from this site?
- (4) When did the Land Board meet to consider the applications?
- (5) Who was the successful applicant?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) Eight.
- (2) 10.1489 hectares.
- (3) The developer has proposed subdivision of 61 lots.
- (4) Thursday, 17 March 1983.
- (5) Metwork Enterprises Pty. Ltd.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Ningaloo Marine Park

58. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for the Environment:

When is it anticipated that a management plan for the Ningaloo marine park will be finalised?

Mr DAVIES replied:

It is anticipated that guidelines for a management programme for Ningaloo marine park will be published by the end of June and made available for public comment after review by Government.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

Public Relations Officers

10. Mr O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government appointed any advisory service or consultant to the Premier or his department?
- (2) If so, are such advisers or consultants to be paid at a rate or rates higher or lower than those so precisely quoted by the Premier yesterday as those applicable to an adviser to the former Government?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) This refers to an issue raised by the Leader of the Opposition in a previous question asked without notice on Tuesday. At that time, I said the information relating to the broad issue was being collated, and it would be forwarded to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr O'Connor: I asked whether you had appointed someone else in this field.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Yes, and the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition previously related to staff appointments in different departments—

Mr O'Connor: Different altogether.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: —including mine.

Mr O'Connor: This refers to the Premier's Department and your public relations people.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The previous question referred to the Premier's Department as well. This refers to the Premier's Department and the complement of staff, consultants, and advisers.

Mr O'Connor: This refers specifically to the public relations people. Have you consulted any public relations people? If so, are they being paid the same, less, or more than the previous Government's consultants?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The information is being collated. To the best of my knowledge—

Mr O'Connor: Don't you know?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I am trying to answer the question, if the Leader of the Opposition will be quiet for a moment. To the best of my knowledge, we have abolished Mr Leggoe's position. We have also—

Mr O'Connor: We never had anyone in that position.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to hear the answer, he will have an opportunity to do so. We have abolished Mr Leggoe's position. Currently, in that particular area, I think we are running four staff members below the strength that the Leader of the Opposition maintained when he was in Government—a strength he required for obvious reasons. To the best of my knowledge, we have not appointed any consultants.

Let me continue to say what I started out to say: We are in the process of providing full information, in response to the question by the Leader of the Opposition, relating to the numbers in this and every other department. That information should be in the hands of the Leader of the Opposition within the next few days.

Mr O'Connor: As we had only five, including the staff of the Leader of the Opposition, and you abolished four, who is left?

ELECTORAL

Enrolments

11. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

- (1) What was the respective number of electors enrolled for each district of the Legislative Assembly as at the close of rolls for the election on 19 February last?
- (2) What is the present number of electors enrolled for each district of the Legislative Assembly?
- (3) What is the total number of electors enrolled in Western Australia for State elections at present?
- (4) What was the total number of electors enrolled in Western Australia for the Commonwealth election held on 5 March last?

Mr TONKIN replied:

The member for Welshpool handed me the question on Tuesday and the answer to it is as follows—

- (1) to (3) Number of electors enrolled in Legislative Assembly districts at close of rolls on 7 January 1983 and 14 March 1983—

DISTRICT	7 January 1983	14 March 1983
Albany	8 555	8 604
Armadale	16 887	17 032
Ascot	16 267	16 285
Avon	9 425	9 490
Balcatta	17 921	18 366
Balga	17 430	17 482
Bunbury	8 874	8 957
Canning	17 116	17 085
Clontarf	16 342	16 361
Cockburn	17 583	17 659
Collie	8 631	8 700
Cottesloe	17 017	17 039
Dale	9 834	9 937
Darling Range	8 949	8 970
East Melville	16 102	16 140
Esperance-Dundas	10 673	10 719
Floreat	18 609	18 622
Fremantle	15 720	15 840
Gascoyne	3 986	4 004
Geraldton	9 684	9 704
Gosnells	16 986	17 151
Greenough	8 631	8 656
Helena	17 185	17 299
Joondalup	17 646	18 307
Kalamunda	8 956	9 013
Kalgoorlie	9 141	9 235
Karrinyup	18 493	18 579
Katanning-Roe	9 107	9 330
Kimberley	12 511	12 853
Mandurah	9 323	9 415
Maylands	16 744	16 805
Melville	17 804	17 903
Merredin	9 133	9 207
Mitchell	9 769	9 867
Moore	9 307	9 382
Morley-Swan	18 439	18 598
Mt. Lawley	17 593	17 700
Mt. Marshall	8 971	9 142
Mundaring	9 227	9 403
Murchison-Eyre	3 213	3 255
Murdoch	18 616	19 002
Murray-Wellington	9 311	9 389
Narrogin	9 239	9 227
Nedlands	16 042	16 086
Nollamara	15 188	15 284
Perth	17 286	17 317
Pilbara	10 577	10 708
Rockingham	16 535	16 587
Scarborough	16 965	16 962
South Perth	17 060	17 029
Stirling	8 630	8 705
Subiaco	16 514	16 552
Vasse	9 205	9 264
Victoria Park	16 296	16 299
Warren	8 217	8 345
Welshpool	17 271	17 316
Whitford	17 489	17 627
	754 225	759 795

- (4) The number of electors enrolled in Western Australia for the Commonwealth election was 797 581 whereas the figure for the State election was 759 795. Therefore, it can be seen a large discrepancy exists between the Commonwealth and State figures.

ANIMALS: KANGAROOS

Shooting

12. Mr OLD, to the Premier:

An article appeared in today's *The West Australian* regarding the film *Goodbye*

Joey. Allegations were made in that article that that film was a fraud and bore no relationship to reality. Subsequently two of the people appearing in that film were charged and found guilty of cruelty.

In view of the importance to this State of the control of kangaroos, I should like an assurance from the Government that it will continue to support the culling of kangaroos. The kangaroo shooting industry in Western Australia has a reputation for taking a responsible attitude to the matter. Many of the people involved in the industry are conservationists and unless the culling of kangaroos continues, the agricultural and pastoral industries will be affected seriously. I seek an assurance from the Premier that he will undertake to help us protect those industries.

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The subject matter of the question asked by the member for Katanning-Roe has been under consideration by the Minister for Agriculture. The Government is well aware of the points raised by the member and it appreciates their significance and importance. Within the next two weeks the Minister for Agriculture will be in a position to make a more definitive statement in response to the article to which the member referred.

Mr O'Connor: You are a Government which will look into matters all the time.

RAILWAY: FREMANTLE-PERTH

Re-opening

13. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

The Minister may be aware that reports have shown that a very large majority of the people petitioning for the retention of the Fremantle-Perth suburban rail service did not use the service regularly. He should be aware also of reports that the reintroduction of the rail service will mean reduced frequency of public transport services to patrons who now use the transport system; increased costs to taxpayers; extensive increases in fuel used; increased running costs; and in-

creased capital costs. The Minister has been given notice of the question and I ask him to clarify the contradiction between the commitment of the ALP—the present Government—to being an efficient economic manager and its commitment to reintroduce the Fremantle-Perth rail service. I ask—

- (1) Does the Government intend to reintroduce the Fremantle-Perth suburban rail service before 30 June 1983?
- (2) What has stopped the Government from reopening the service by now?
- (3) What investigations has the Co-ordinator General of Transport been directed to complete?
- (4) Will the Government support the previous Government's commitment with continuance of Westrail's research of the viability of introducing light rail vehicles onto our suburban rail system?

Mr GRILL replied:

I note that the previous Minister's long, rambling, and verbose answers to questions are now being replaced by long, rambling, and verbose questions. The answer to the question is as follows—

- (1) The date of the reintroduction of the Fremantle-Perth passenger service is the subject of a report being prepared urgently by the Co-ordinator General of Transport at my request.
- (2) and (3) Contrary to the past record of the Opposition on these matters, the Government does not take precipitate action. A large number of details need to be finalised in order to provide the best possible rail service at the earliest possible practical date. The Co-ordinator General of Transport will be canvassing those issues in his report.
- (4) The Government supports all research directed towards making the suburban rail system as viable as possible.

HEALTH: TOBACCO

Smoking: Deaths

14. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

Will the Minister take steps to confirm or deny that no less than 1 300 West

Australians continue to die each year as a direct consequence of having smoked cigarettes?

Mr HODGE replied:

I understand that is the approximate figure, but I shall have my departmental officers verify it. The Government takes this matter very seriously. It considers it is probably the most important and vital health issue facing the people of this State. No other single cause kills as many Western Australians as does tobacco smoking and we will be giving the matter a high priority and taking the action it deserves.

LAND: AGRICULTURAL

Release

15. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

- (1) What will be the Government's policy in relation to rural land release?
- (2) Will the Government continue with the 1983 programme of rural land release, as indicated by the former Government, which included areas for farm build-up purposes in the northern wheatbelt?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes", can the Minister indicate when such releases are likely to proceed?

Mr McIVER replied:

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

- (1) A review of the current policy and programme is being undertaken and an announcement will be made as soon as possible.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1). I also advise the member that the first meeting to set the guidelines for the review of the land release policy will be conducted in my office at 10.00 a.m. on Monday.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Job Bank

16. Mrs BEGGS, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Does the Government propose to continue the former Government's so-called "Job Bank" programme?

(2) If "Yes", what is the current status of funding for the programme?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

I thank the member for Whitford for adequate notice of the question.

Mr Clarko: It is a Dorothy Dix question.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Of course it is and it is one which will be particularly unpalatable to members opposite.

Mr Clarko: I just wondered whether some of your members who have criticised the asking of Dorothy Dix questions have now changed their minds.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Government does not criticise Dorothy Dix questions; it merely acknowledges them. The answer to the question is as follows—

(1) The Government will continue to give priority to the capital works projects in order to maximise employment opportunities in the industry and regions involved.

However, there does not appear to be any real advantage in persisting with the name "Job Bank".

(2) The Government has examined the projects included in the so-called Job Bank scheme and can find nothing to support claims that the previous Government was making any special effort other than to undertake expensive and misleading advertising.

The rearrangement of expenditure priorities involving work valued at \$6 million to \$7 million following the Treasury review last November is to be expected in these difficult times.

But it was nothing less than gross abuse of taxpayers' funds to advertise, at public expense, the claim that the spending of such money represented the creation of additional work when it had been already planned and committed for expenditure.

Mr Clarko: That is not true.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: We shall go through them step by step and see whether in fact it was true.

Mr Clarko: It was not true in relation to the Perth Technical College.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: We have a few paragraphs on that matter for the benefit of the member for Karrinyup.

Mr Clarko: We will be happy to debate that with you.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: To continue—

In most cases there was no significant acceleration of the projects involved in the scheme.

Indeed, an examination of existing departmental records has revealed that the Treasury was not involved in the overall development of Job Bank.

This is apparent through the types of financial arrangements proposed by the former Government without normal Treasury control.

For example, it was proposed to fund the \$70 million north block extension to Royal Perth Hospital under a deferred payment scheme.

Treasury investigations indicate that, in December, those organisations with experience in the field of project management and with facilities to partially finance the project on a deferred finance basis were invited to register.

Tender documents were then drawn up by the Public Works Department and the invited firms then prepared tender bids.

Tenders closed in January, but the structure of all proposed financing arrangements was contrary to the requirements of the Loan Council, as each had the Minister for Works nominated as the borrower.

Under the financial agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, the State—or Minister of the Crown—cannot borrow in its own right.

In the case of the \$11 million second stage of the Perth Technical College, the project will have to be funded entirely from normal General Loan Fund sources, in the absence of any special assistance from the Commonwealth.

While the previous Government mentioned that bridging finance would be used, the term seems to have been used loosely.

This project is a Crown responsibility and under the Financial Agreement Act and the gentlemen's agreement, unless a semi-Government agency is involved, deferred payment-buyer credit arrangements cannot be entered into by a Minister of the Crown without the amount involved each year being regarded as part of our normal Loan Council borrowing allocation for the year.

As our allocation in 1982-83 had already been fully committed in this year's capital works programme, an arrangement which contained such a requirement was clearly impossible to accept.

Mr Clarko: That is not correct.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: To continue—

The first stage of the Bunbury courthouse and Government centre project forms part of the 1982-83 capital works programme.

However, Treasury is unaware of any special financial arrangements for this project involving the private sector. Unless special financial assistance is forthcoming from the Commonwealth, the total estimated outlays will have to be met from normal General Loan Fund sources.

Mr O'Connor: Over a period of time.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The former Premier's trumpeting of the involvement of bridging finance from the private sector in a special way under the Job Bank scheme is proving to have been a deception played on the public, because in all these cases the term "bridging finance" has been used very loosely to try to encompass a situation in which no private money is involved whatsoever. To continue—

The pre-tender estimate for the project is \$6.05 million. The advent of Job Bank came too late to significantly affect its timetable although the calling of tenders has been advanced. Reference was made in the Job Bank publicity that the project would be undertaken with bridging finance. Again this term appears to have been used loosely in that a funding source

other than State Treasury could not be identified.

Mr Clarko: So you are stopping all these jobs.

Mr Tonkin: What a stupid comment.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If the Leader of the Opposition is so smart, let him name the private finance organisation involved.

Mr O'Connor: Funding was available at the time for a number of the projects.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Where was the money to come from? The Leader of the Opposition is pointing to the former Minister for Employment.

Mr Hassell: The contracts were being called on the basis of deferred payment. The Treasury knows this.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The former Minister for Employment is in cloud-cuckoo land.

Point of Order

Mr O'CONNOR: Mr Speaker, if the Premier gives a long-winded answer such as he is and debates the subject, will you extend question time to give us the opportunity to ask questions without notice?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Questions (without notice) Resumed

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If the former Minister for Employment is telling us that deferred payment amounts to bridging finance, it is no wonder a deficit of more than \$25 million was being run up in this State without the then Premier even telling the public.

Mr Clarko: One per cent.

Mr MacKinnon: How was the deferred payment to be funded if not by bridging finance?

Mr Tonkin: Shut up!

The SPEAKER: The member for Murdoch should remain silent.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The term appears to have been used very loosely in that the funding source other than the State Treasury could not be identified. To continue—

Had there been greater scope to accelerate the project, it may have been necessary to consider meeting some expenditure from Treasury

cash resources in 1982-83 and then funding them out of the General Loan Fund next year.

So, when we talk about bridging finance we realise that the Treasury was being put in the position, because there was no bridging finance, of funding the cost of the proposal out of cash resources.

Mr O'Connor: That is completely wrong.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: That is the bridging finance spoken of by the previous Government. To continue—

As for the State Energy Commission projects, it is now common knowledge that the commission is not subject to regulation by the Australian Loan Council. We can find no evidence that the projects included in Job Bank were anything more than the normal commercial operations of the commission, funded in the normal way from funds available normally to the commission.

Advice received on the status of the projects indicates that the timing of the \$100 million extension of the State power grid to Kalgoorlie is unlikely to be significantly different from what would have been the case in the absence of Job Bank.

The commission has advised that, of the four contracts associated with the gas line extensions in the metropolitan area, one had been already let and the balance were out to tender at the time Job Bank was announced.

The new SEC headquarters project is expected to run close to schedule with completion in December 1984. The target date prior to the advent of Job Bank was also December 1984.

In total, the only project in the \$207 million programme that appears to have been brought forward is the \$5.7 million on the East Perth control centre for the Dampier-Wagerup pipeline. The project is expected to be completed by six months to a year ahead of schedule.

Nevertheless, it is impossible to justify the expenditure of over \$30 000 of taxpayers' funds adver-

tising the Job Bank scheme, especially when only 2 per cent of the expenditure involved an accelerated project.

Mr Court: Is this question time?

Mr Blaikie: You are making a mockery of the Parliament.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Look at them squirming. It was all right for the Opposition when in Government to abuse the trust of the public by spending money on this sort of deception, but when the light of day is shed on what members opposite were doing during their time in office, they do not want to hear about it.

Mr MacKinnon: Have respect for the Parliament.

Mr Clarko: You should issue a Press statement.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It may interest the former Minister for Education to know that instead of issuing a Press statement I will issue one "as well".

Mr Clarko: So why are you wasting the time of the House now?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: To continue—

Therefore, in order to restore normal Treasury control over the financial arrangements, I have ordered a complete review of the funding of all relevant projects.

The review is being conducted with top priority to reformulating financial arrangements to ensure that employment-generating capital works proceed immediately on the basis of normal Treasury practice and sound financial management.

FUEL AND ENERGY: PETROL

Price Reduction

17. Mr LAURANCE, to the Premier:

(1) Is he aware of an article which appeared in the *Northam Advertiser* of 27 January this year under the heading

"Posers for Premier" in which the reference was to the previous Premier? The posers were set by the member for Avon, now the Minister for Lands and Surveys, who at the time was the ALP spokesman for transport. One of the posers was, "Is the Liberal Government going to do the same as Labor, which has promised to reduce the wholesale and retail price of petrol by 3c a litre?"

- (2) In answer to a question on notice today the Minister for Consumer Affairs indicated that on 21 February, the Monday following the State election, the most common price of fuel in the metropolitan area was 42.9c a litre and that one month later on Monday, 21 March the most common price of fuel was 44.9c a litre, an increase of 2c. I therefore ask whether he will still maintain his promise to reduce the pre-election price of fuel by 3c a litre and also amend his promise to take into account the 2c by which the price has risen and a further 1.5c which will account for the reduction proposed by the new Federal Government and reduce the price of fuel in this State by 6.5c a litre?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) I am not aware of the article from which the member quoted so copiously.
- (2) As for the answer supplied by the Minister for Consumer Affairs, I guess he has answered fully. However, I reinforce the Government's commitment to ensure that petrol prices are brought down in this State and our commitment to eliminate as far as possible the difference in prices charged in the country and in the city.

I suggest to the Opposition that, instead of two years and 11 months before the next election trying to follow tricky little paths like this, it co-operates with the Government in its attempts to bring down petrol prices or at least to ensure that country people do not pay through the nose for petrol, as they do now. Members opposite should understand that any opposition to that proposal will simply be interpreted as their view that the present level of petrol prices in country areas is a level country people should be required to pay.

Mr Clarko: What you said was mendacious.

JETTY

Bunbury

18. Mr P. J. SMITH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of repairing the fire damage to the structure known as the 'wooden jetty' in Bunbury Harbour—
- (a) that occurred some months ago resulting in the closure of the jetty to the public; and
- (b) that occurred on the morning of Monday, 21 March 1983?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of making what remains of the wooden jetty at Bunbury safe for the public so it can once again be used—
- (a) for recreational fishing; and
- (b) as a small boat berth suitable for yachts and fishing boats?

Mr GRILL replied:

No official estimates have been made. However, order of magnitude estimates are—

- (1) (a) \$100 000;
(b) \$150 000.
- (2) (a) \$75 000;
(b) not estimated, as an outer harbour fishing industry facility is presently under construction by the Government for use by fishing boats and yachts.

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

Public Relations Officers

19. Mr O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

In answer to my previous question about public relations officers in the Premier's Department, the Premier indicated that he had dispensed with four positions already and that one involved Mr Leggoe. Is that correct?

Mr Brian Burke: I said I had abolished Mr Leggoe's position.

Mr O'CONNOR: And four had gone.

Mr Brian Burke: To the best of my recollection, we are four down on what we had previously.

Mr O'CONNOR: In the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, I see that the

total number of public relations officers in the Premier's Department was five, including one in the Leader of the Opposition's office. If the Premier has dispensed with four, he has none. Is that correct, or is his answer just untruthful?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

I really do not understand what the Leader of the Opposition is trying to get at. If he wants to continue to try to get at it in the graceless fashion he has just shown, he can expect the sort of rejoinders that parallel his lack of manners. To the best of my recollection the public relations staff of the Government is four down on what it was previously.

Mr O'Connor: The Premier's Department.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Mr Leggoe's position has been abolished. I think that would be a matter for some rejoicing on the part of the Opposition. If it is just to be a cause for some smart alec questions—

Mr O'Connor: You gave an untruthful answer.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: —the Leader of the Opposition will find us as tricky as he is trying to be. Just so that the Leader of the Opposition understands—

Mr O'Connor: You will not intimidate me.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I would be very keen to keep the Leader of the Opposition in his position for the next 10 years. I do not want to intimidate anyone, but I am telling him the truth about the situation in the belief that he wants the information. As he knows, by virtue of the way in which we have co-operated with the requests he has made about his own public relations staff, the truth is, to the best of my recollection, that four public relations officers have left and have not been replaced. In addition, Mr Leggoe's position has been abolished. That is the answer I gave originally; that is the answer I maintain. In respect of the much more detailed question asked on Tuesday by the Leader of the Opposition, I inform him now that a written answer, setting out all the information he requires, will be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

"BUNBURY 2000"

Funding

20. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Regional Development and the North-West:

- (1) Is the "Bunbury 2000" plan dependent in whole or in part on any form of Commonwealth funding?
- (2) If "Yes", to what extent?
- (3) Has any approach been made to the Commonwealth?
- (4) If "Yes", what is the nature of that approach?

Mr Brian Burke: Are you opposed to "Bunbury 2000"?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The programme is not dependent upon Commonwealth funding.

Mr O'Connor: That is different from what you said last night.

Mr GRILL: To continue—

- (2) Nonetheless, Commonwealth funding is important in a number of areas, and a reasonable level of Commonwealth funding will accelerate many projects.
- (3) and (4) Approaches will be made by the Premier and through the Treasury in due course.

ROAD: CURTIN AVENUE

Widening

21. Mr PARKER: I wish to give some further amplification to the question I answered to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, question on notice 5 of 1983. In the answer I gave him I indicated that at that stage final approval had not been received from the Commonwealth Ministers. I am now able to advise the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the House that both the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Finance in the Commonwealth Government have given approval to the propositions that we put forward, and written confirmation of that approval is expected later today.