

# Legislative Council

Thursday, 23 August 1984

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### *Sitting Times*

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, before I proceed to the next item, I just mention that I have discussed with Government Ministers the prospect of our not adjourning at 3.45 p.m. for afternoon tea today, and the Government may move to adjourn the House so that members may attend a function which I understand is being held at approximately 4.30 p.m.

## SALES TAX: WINE

### *Urgency Motion*

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. Clive Griffiths): I have received the following letter—

Dear Mr President,

In accordance with Standing Order 63, I wish to advise you of my desire to move for the adjournment of the House until Monday, 24 December 1984, at 4.30 pm, for the purpose of requesting the State Government to make urgent representation to the Prime Minister for the deletion of the new tax to be applied to the Wine Industry introduced in Tuesday's Federal Budget—

Because this tax will—

- (a) Jeopardise the livelihood of hundreds of small grapegrowers and winemakers in this State;
- (b) create undue hardship for grapegrowers and winemakers who have yet to recover from the ill-conceived and iniquitous fortified spirit tax recently abandoned by the Hawke Government;
- (c) create further unemployment;
- (d) and is a repudiation of electoral promises made prior to the last Federal and Mundaring by-election by Prime Minister Hawke.

Sincerely,

Hon. Neil Oliver, MLC,  
Member for West Province.

As members are aware, in order to comply with Standing Order No. 63, before this motion can be considered, it will be necessary for four members

to rise in their places indicating their support for it.

Four members having risen in their places,

**HON. NEIL OLIVER** (West) [2.38 p.m.]: I move—

That the Council at its rising adjourn until Monday, 24 December 1984, at 4.30 p.m.

Last year I made strong representations to the State Government on the likelihood of the imposition of some form of tax on the grape-growing and wine industry in this State. Some three months prior to making that representation in this House, the former Leader of the Opposition sent a telex to the Prime Minister and some two months prior to the Federal Budget's being handed down, a telex was sent to the Treasurer (Hon. Paul Keating).

On that basis, I would have thought some consideration would have been given by the Federal Government to the grape-growing and wine industry in Australia.

On 18 August, I raised this matter during the adjournment debate, because I was becoming increasingly concerned that the Federal Government was not wavering in its conviction to impose a tax.

In this House on that date, I urged the Government to make representations to Mr Keating to ensure that no impositions were put on the grape and wine industry which is essentially an agricultural industry in Western Australia and throughout Australia. That plea completely fell on deaf ears to the extent that a most horrendous tax was placed upon the wine industry—the fortified spirit tax. We all know that that tax proved to be a total and utter disaster to the Government in its endeavours to obtain additional revenue. On that occasion I said, "This ill-conceived and iniquitous fortified spirit tax had to be abandoned by the Government, particularly after a promise by the Prime Minister that there would not be a tax." During the Mundaring by-election, the Prime Minister at a meeting at Herne Hill made a promise to over 300 people present, including me, that a tax would not be imposed on wine and that he would use every one of his best endeavours to remove that tax. With the undertaking he gave at that meeting he said that due to the constraints of the Budget, and because he had just taken over the reins of Government and therefore he was uncertain about deficits, etc., he did not know whether it was possible to do anything about it. This iniquitous fortified spirit tax gained nothing for revenue into the Federal coffers. Nothing was done. In fact, the situation reached such a state that one of Mr Hawke's own Ministers visited the Swan Val-

ley and criticised the Federal Government for this tax. I do not have a copy of it, but an article was printed about it in an issue of the *Stock and Land* newspaper. The Minister for Primary Industry said that the decision to tax fortified wine was wrong and that it was out of his control when the Budget was being framed. He said he fought against the tax, but could not get it reduced any lower than \$1.50 a litre of alcohol processed. Furthermore, it was reported in the *National Farmer* that—

major wine makers say they can no longer afford to make the volumes of port and sherry they used to, more than 30 workers have been laid off.

So even after representations by the Leader of the Opposition in this State to the Prime Minister and to the Treasurer, and my pleading with the State Government to make representations on behalf of the industry, nothing was done. When I stood to move this motion today I thought, "Where will this get me?" I have great news. My phones are running hot. The member for Mundaring and the member for Helena—I do not know what the member for Helena has to do with it—are today racing around the electorates ringing up on the phones in addition to travelling around and trying to dissociate themselves from the Federal Government over this issue. So therefore I am quite certain that my motion will be accepted by the Government because of the manner in which other members of the Government, members who represent the areas affected by this tax, are acting. I imagine they are in agreement with the Government's intentions. The member for Mundaring and the member for Helena are obviously in agreement with the State and Federal Governments. We know where Mr Burke stands on this matter. Mr Burke goes along with nifty Neville and the Prime Minister, but Mr John Bannon will not, because on the subject of the fortified wine and spirit tax, Mr Bannon told Mr Hawke that he would lose between two and three seats at the next Federal election. I can assure members that the removal of the fortified spirit tax had nothing whatsoever to do with the industry, with the fact that no revenue had been raised, or with the fact that the cost of raising the tax exceeded the amount of revenue raised. It had nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that distilleries were closing down across the country. It had nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that surplus dried fruits increased by 100 per cent since February 1983. It had virtually nothing to do with the industry.

It had to do with Prime Minister Hawke suddenly realising the possibility of the loss of some

seats. Therefore the wine industry of South Australia has a larger clout, if I could call it that, or possibly Mr John Bannon has a larger clout than Premier Burke because Premier Burke goes along with everything that Prime Minister Hawke says. He in fact invited Prime Minister Hawke into the Swan Valley and the Shire of Mundaring to make these incredible statements that there would not be a wine tax, yet today this tax is about to be enshrined in the Statutes.

I do not wish to continue these remarks. I know the House has a lot of business to deal with. I make the point that if the Burke Government is fair dinkum about the matter, it should not start wriggling off the hook and sending members around their electorates to ring up on the phones; it should come out quite clearly and say where it stands, not just make statements calling for inquiries or a re-examination of the industry. I have already spoken about that. We have had enough inquiries. We have had enough of those. This is the way the Labor Party governs. It takes matters away from the Parliament. Let us have some inquiries. Let us have a commission. Let us really get down to the truth of it, and that is, that the wine makers, particularly those in the Swan Valley—I use the Swan Valley because it is my own electorate, but my statement is equally applicable to the areas represented by Hon. Vic Ferry, Hon. A. A. Lewis, and Hon. Tom Knight—will be affected. The wine makers of this State are vital and important to agricultural industries in their own right, just as—and this is the Premier's great white horse—is the tourist industry.

It is a very important adjunct to the tourist industry, as the Premier has said on many occasions. The Burke and Hawke Labor Governments have expressed support for tourism, and the best demonstration for that support would have been to leave the grape and wine industry alone in this Budget and shelve any wine tax proposals.

When the Minister replies to me, I do not want to hear him wriggling off the hook by saying that the effects of this tax are not very great and that the Government has found out it will not have much effect at the moment. I cannot accept that as an answer. I would agree with him in relation to the effects today and for the next three months, or for the current vintage year. But I am talking about next year and the tax on the wholesale price.

Is it a tax at the cellar door or a tax on bulk wine, or what? What is required of the vignerons of this State? What forms are they required to fill in to comply with this tax? These are the questions I want answered. I do not want to know about the present because the vignerons of Western

Australia are not interested in that; they are interested in their future.

Last year they dragged out the vines that produced fortified spirits, and they will take five to ten years to replace, so I hope the Minister will not say anything about the fortified spirit tax being refunded.

Unless the Government gives some firm assurance about the direction in which the industry is going, it should stop using its public relations machinery to put forward a fictitious proposal in a perfidious and cynical attempt to destroy small family businesses at the expense of large brewery monopolies based in Sydney and Melbourne. I want to know where this Government stands in relation to the small family concerns and the breweries such as Carlton and United and Tooheys. I also want to know where the State Government stands in this whole matter.

**HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH** (South) [2.53 p.m.]: I support the motion moved by Hon. Neil Oliver. I point out the consequences of this tax and the manner of its implementation. A winegrower in my electorate, Mrs Betty Pearce, of Forrest Hill, is the secretary of the Wine and Brandy Producers Association. I understand she has already had a phone call from an officer of a Federal department informing her she is responsible for collecting tax from wine sold from her vineyard, and that it must be forwarded to the department at the end of September.

This is rather amazing. There are no written instructions, let alone forms, just a phone call telling her she is now to become a tax collector. An Act of Parliament has not yet been passed. I wonder where we are going when this is the manner in which a Budget is implemented.

No doubt exists that the small family vineyards are not in a position to take on this task. It will have a serious effect on their industry anyway. If a 10 per cent tax is to be imposed at the wholesale level, it will be the equivalent of 15 per cent at the retail level, and could well add \$1 per bottle to the cost of our local wines. I understand import duties will be lowered and that will have a similar effect. It could result in imported wine being \$1 a bottle cheaper, so the prices are moving \$2 closer to each other.

I do not have to remind this House there is a wine lake in Europe. The EEC has greatly exceeded the amount of wine it can sell. I hear they have swimming pools full of wine over there because they have run out of storage.

Hon. Peter Dowding: What a way to go!

Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: At one stage it used to be cow's milk, but I gather it is wine now.

This will have an adverse affect on our winegrowing areas. This tax seems to have been introduced without much thought, and I wholeheartedly support Hon. Neil Oliver in his condemnation of the Federal Government over this impost.

**HON. TOM KNIGHT** (South) [2.56 p.m.]: I support the remarks of the two previous speakers because I represent the great southern area where some 23 new wineries have been established in the last seven or eight years.

This is a devastating blow to those people who will find that the lowering of the tax on imported wines will make it that much harder for them to distribute and sell the wines they are producing. The old story has so often been in business "Get big or get out". So many of the wineries in my area are family income-raising wineries, and that means they work on a small scale. This move will devastate their income and distribution because the cost will put their wine out of the reach of the average Australian who has been buying and appreciating the new Western Australian wines.

In my area in particular over the last few months some gold and silver medals, and a lot of bronze medals, have been won by wineries, and yet imported wines could be cheaper than those produced in that area. The size of some of the Eastern States wineries which compete with imported wines is such that they are dropping their prices. We now find we can buy Eastern States wines cheaper than those produced in Western Australia. These wines are transported across Australia and delivered to the door, in some cases on mail order, cheaper than one can buy wine of similar quality at the Western Australian wineries.

This is an imposition on those people in the industry at a time when we are looking at the creation of jobs and export markets. I believe the wines we are producing in Western Australia are of international standard. This will be a disastrous move, as the two previous speakers have said, and it deserves severe condemnation.

**HON. V. J. FERRY** (South-West) [2.59 p.m.]: I wish to place on record my condemnation of the action of the Federal Government in imposing a 10 per cent tax on wine and spirits. I speak especially for the fledgling wineries and vineyards in my province, and particularly those in the Capel, Busselton, and Margaret River shires. Exceptionally good wines are produced there and the Jimmy Watson Trophy was won by Cape Mentelle Vineyards for the second time a few weeks ago. That indicates the quality of the wines being produced.

This type of tax does nothing to help those excellent wineries, most of which are quite small, because it inhibits employment and their expansion, and stifles their consolidation.

In the south-west corner of the State there are approximately 30 commercial vineyards and they have created a new avenue of employment. It has brought people to the south-west corner, especially to the Margaret River district. People have decided to take up residence there because it has a nice climate and more people are visiting the area because of new industry bringing tourists through on a more regular basis. It is very appropriate that the Busselton and Margaret River shires have had this injection of a new industry, especially after the disastrous crash of the cattle industry in the early 1970s, a crash which particularly affected the Margaret River district. It experienced a downturn and the people in it suffered enormous financial loss.

The wine industry has helped to stabilise the commercial interests of the area and has brought new heart to the people in the community. It has stimulated an interest in tourism. I understand that more than 50 per cent of the people visiting the south-west corner of the State go there with the prime objective of visiting the wineries. That has been verified by the tourist bureaus in the area.

It is quite ironical that the Labor Government would bring in this tax, because only a few weeks ago the Acting Premier (Mr Bryce), was in Margaret River. He was there to open the most modern and highly rated motel in Western Australia, a motel with a four-star rating. He made special reference to tourism in the region. It is an area which offers tourists not only the caves, the scenery, the timber industry, the nice climate, beaches, and the fishing, but also the wine industry. What does this Federal Government do? It hauls the rug out from under the community again. It speaks with a forked tongue; it speaks of helping the area, and then takes the money away with the other hand. Both the Federal and State Labor Governments have double standards. It is a capitulation—the imposition of this tax by the Prime Minister (Mr Hawke) and his Treasurer (Mr Keating). From this Budget the Hawke-Keating Government will collect more money from the people of Australia than has any other previous Government and yet it decides it will impose a 10 per cent tax on wine and cider to stifle the smaller industries, especially in this State.

Those Governments are spending millions on creating employment schemes, yet they are "hovelling" established and growing industries. It does not make sense. The Government is cuckoo.

The Burke Government knows it is a high taxing Government. It said it would not increase taxes and it did exactly that. It syphoned off money from the pockets of people of Western Australia in the form of tax into the Federal Treasury and the State Treasury, and decreased the profits of these firms. It is another example of Big Brother knowing what is best for the community, Big Brother collecting the wealth, and not allowing the people, through their commercial enterprises and own judgments, to live the way they want to live, and operate in a commercial sense in this State.

I condemn the Government for its actions.

**HON. PETER DOWDING** (North—Minister for Planning) [3.04 p.m.]: The Opposition members in this House have shown once again the tactic that they wish to adopt of raising issues where there is a consensus between it and the Government of Western Australia, but then adding icing to the cake, an icing which is not only incorrect, but entirely unpalatable to the Government of the day. If the Opposition in this House had chosen to do what its brethren in another place are doing, it may be that Western Australians pulling together, could be seen to be having a major voice, a united voice of opposition to the decision taken by the Federal Government. However, by surrounding the principal issue of incorrect assertions, innuendo, and personal criticism of members of the Government party—a criticism which is utterly incorrect—then I think it takes away the force of what it could hope to achieve. The Government in another place has taken the view that the decision to implement a tax on wine ought to be vigorously opposed.

Over an extended period of time the Government has made representations to the Federal Government about this issue. If Hon. Neil Oliver was speaking truthfully, he would know that when the Prime Minister came to the Swan Valley he indicated then that he was aware of opposition to a proposal for a wine tax that had been floated. He was aware of the industry's concern about it, and said that he would arrange for the Federal Minister for Primary Industry (Mr Kerin) to come to the Swan Valley and meet with winegrowers and other representatives of the industry in the Swan Valley. I am informed by Gavan Troy, the member for Mundaring, that is exactly what he did.

Hon. Neil Oliver: Fourteen months late.

**Hon. PETER DOWDING:** In those circumstances, to suggest that there was an unequivocal assurance given by the Prime Minister when it was not given is only to weaken the force of the argument about what we should together be pushing to

do; that is, to express our opposition to the implementation of this tax.

The State Government has had a history in its short period in office of support, and vigorous support, for the wine industry. Hon. Neil Oliver has mentioned, in a slightly ungenerous way, the very active efforts of both the member for Helena and the member for Mundaring to represent the interests of their constituents and of this industry.

The State Government has made financial and organisational support available to the wine industry. Indeed, as an example, in Albany in June of this year, a seminar on marketing and selling Western Australian wines was organised by the University of Western Australia's Extension Service. Representatives of the Department of Industrial Development and the Minister for Industrial Development attended and made a major contribution.

The Minister, shortly after he had taken over that particular role, made an extended visit to the vineyards in the south of the State, in order to personally acquaint himself with the issues of the industry. The Government has made numerous representations to the Federal Government about Mr Keating's advertised and well-publicised expression of opinion that there ought to be a tax on wine. There has been no secret about the Western Australian Government's opposition to that tax. It is not a case, as members opposite suggest, that there has been complete silence from the Government about it. The matter has been the subject of extensive contact with the Federal Government and indeed, overt comment by Government Ministers and Government members of Parliament. Immediately after Hon. Paul Keating's Budget was announced, the Western Australian Government telexed the Federal Government again to express its opposition.

Hon. Neil Oliver: When was that?

Hon. PETER DOWDING: The Budget was delivered on Tuesday.

Hon. Neil Oliver: But after the horse had bolted.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. P. H. Lockyer): Order! I remind Hon. Neil Oliver that he has the right of reply in this debate. There have been no interjections so far; it has been an orderly debate and I wish it to continue as such. I call on the Minister for Planning to direct his comments to the Chair.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: I said to the House that not only had the Government pursued actively prior to the Federal Government's Budget, a policy of informing the Federal Government of its position and lobbying in opposition to the im-

sition of this tax—that was carried out in the normal confidential discourse that occurs between the State and Federal Governments—but also action had overtly been taken by the Government Minister and the hardworking members representing the relevant areas.

Even after the Budget was announced, the Government expressed in the strongest terms its opposition to the tax. I will read to members the text of a telex which was sent to Hon. Paul Keating. It reads—

I am writing to express the Western Australian Government's opposition to the Commonwealth Government's decision to impose a sales tax of 10 percent on Australian alcoholic grape wines and the replacement of the pre-existing discriminatory 20 percent sales tax on imported alcoholic grape wine with additional *ad-valorem* customs duties equivalent to a discriminatory tax of 10 percent for the following reasons:

It goes on to list four of the very compelling reasons that the tax should never have been imposed. It incorporates the following reasons—

4. The importance of fostering a young and dynamic local industry and guarding it against expedient marketing practices of overseas producers must be taken into account.

The Western Australian Government has offered assistance to the Western Australian wine industry in the preparation of its submission to the enquiry and calls upon your Government to guarantee that Western Australia is given full representation on the enquiry into the structure of the industry.

Hon. G. E. Masters: What was the date of that telex?

Hon. PETER DOWDING: It was dated 22 August—the morning after the Budget was handed down.

The point I make is this: The Government accepts the substance of what has been said in criticism of the Federal Government's decision and I believe it appropriate to make a couple of points about why the decision is so wrong. Firstly, it is wrong because the industry in Western Australia is based on small, family wine-making businesses.

In the Perth region there are some 35 wineries, in the south-west some 21 wineries, and in the great southern region, six wineries. The total quantity of grapes crushed in 1982-83 was an increase on the quantity for the previous year and it came mainly from the newer vineyard areas. One could have reasonably expected that there would

be a further increase as the new plantings came into production. The local industry is not heavily involved in the production of wine for the flagon trade and no casks are produced. Most of the wineries specialise in producing the bottled product in a high or medium range. It is a highly labour intensive industry. The point has been made—

Hon. Tom Knight: How many wineries did you say there were in the great southern region?

Hon. PETER DOWDING: I said that there were six in the great southern region and 21 in the south-west.

Hon. Tom Knight: There are 23 brand names representing 23 wineries in the great southern region. You have got the wrong information.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: I do not know which figures Hon. Tom Knight relies on, but I am providing him with the information supplied to me by the department.

In terms of the philosophy of the tax, it is appropriate to say that there is a particular character to the industry in Western Australia. The 10 per cent increase will be discriminatory against the wine industry. Wine sold in the larger containers is cheaper per litre than the bottled product which is subject to a higher sales tax. It stands to reason that this tax will impact on the more highly priced wines.

I understand that the Government in another place, will be accepting an Opposition amendment to a motion which has been moved on this subject. It is intended that the Government will continue to inform the Federal Government of the situation and press strongly for a review of its decision.

It is highly desirable that for a matter as sensitive as this that there be a bipartisan approach to the Federal Government and I am sorry that the Opposition choose not to take that approach.

Finally, might I add that in terms of misrepresenting the position of the State Government, no-one could have gone further astray that Hon. Vic Ferry. He was content to ignore the fact that Government taxes and charges announced for this year are really decreases, and not increases, and that indeed the Government has taken as a deliberate fiscal policy a determination not to increase taxes and charges. If the Opposition wishes to criticise a particular movement in a tax or charge, that is its right. If it wishes to criticise a particular fiscal operation, that is its right, but let there be no perpetuation of a myth which is so untrue as to be close to a deliberate deceit of the public and of Western Australia that there has been a dramatic increase in taxes and charges

announced by the State Government this year. The truth is to the contrary and—

Hon. P. G. Pendal: Twenty-three per cent!

Hon. PETER DOWDING: It is about time the Opposition recognised that it was a most responsible fiscal policy to pursue the winding back of expenditure in the State sector to ensure there would not be an increase in taxes and charges and, indeed, in real terms there has been a decrease in those areas which affect the ordinary man and woman in the street.

Several members interjected.

Hon. PETER DOWDING: I suggest to Mr Ferry that he adds up the figures for this year and he will see that there has been a decrease. If he cannot acknowledge that, he should button his mouth.

This is an issue about which the Government feels strongly. It has conveyed its feelings to the Federal Government and it takes the view that it was a most unfortunate decision of the Federal Treasurer; it is one which the Government will continue to oppose. The members who represent the areas concerned, particularly the Government members for Mundaring and for Helena, will continue to vigorously represent the industry in their area.

HON. NEIL OLIVER (West) [3.19 p.m.]: I do not think—

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon. Neil Oliver.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: I do not think I have ever heard such a wishy-washy speech from Hon. Peter Dowding. It had no substance; I have not heard a speech like that from him during the period he has been in this House. All it contained was a string of apologies for the failure of the Burke Government in representing the people of Western Australia and, in particular, an apology for its great public relations organisation which says the Government protects small family businesses.

This is the Government's first example. What a string of weak apologies were put forward by this Minister! It is a record I have never heard from him since he came to this House.

For the benefit of the House and for the benefit of all members, this motion was moved by me in my capacity as the member for West Province. After moving it, I was required to notify the Liberal-National Country Party Whip, in this House. The fact I did not advise her I was moving the motion was because I am not like Labor Government members who are an orchestrated group of people who have to work like puppets and move as the strings are pulled. I took this upon myself. I

actually mentioned it to Hon. Vic Ferry, as I know the area of concern is part of his electorate. I must apologise to the other members. I should have advised them and orchestrated them like puppets, in the same way that the Labor Party works. But that is not the way we work. For example, the only people aware of this motion were, I presume, the Clerk of the House—

Hon. Graham Edwards: What has this to do with the content of the motion?

Hon. Peter Dowding: It was well-prepared, then!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: The point I am making is what the Government has always said—I represent an area which happens to embrace the largest grape and wine producing area in Australia. I decided to do this of my own volition. I went to the Clerk and drafted an urgency motion to place before this House. The reply I received from the Minister was to the effect that the Opposition is in a weak situation.

Mr President, may I assure you that that it is not the Opposition here. It happens that Opposition members have risen to support me, but they have risen spontaneously. I apologise to them for the fact that they were not fully aware—or some were not—that this motion would be coming before the House.

In regard to the sending of the telex to the Federal Treasurer (Mr Keating) and to the Prime Minister about the imposition of the tax, I would like to know what the Federal Government is doing about the reduction of 100 per cent of the tax on imported wines into Western Australia. If State Government members are so concerned, why has the State Government not also made that representation?

Furthermore, what is the point in making representations after the horse has bolted?

Hon. Peter Dowding: What do you think we ought to do? Remain silent?

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: Mr Hawke visited WA because of the Mundaring by-election. He did not go anywhere but to Mundaring. He was two hours late, the elderly citizens had organised a reception for him, but he spent his time—

Hon. G. E. Masters: Making promises!

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: —making promises which he did not keep. Ultimately he said he would have the matter examined, but it took 14 months.

Hon. Peter Dowding: That is not what you said a few minutes ago. No jury would believe you, Mr Oliver, you have changed your tack.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: Those are the facts; they can be examined in the newspaper reports. There were over 300 people at that meeting, and I will get them to swear affidavits to that effect.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: You will be busy.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: I will not be as busy as the member for Mundaring and the member for Helena, because people ring me—I do not have to solicit their business. They know I represent them and they ring me. I do not have to wander around the back streets and find these people to ask their views or to tell them what has happened and what I am going to do about it.

The same thing happened when the fortified wine tax was introduced. Six months before the Federal Budget the Leader of the Opposition sent a telex to the Premier. Three months later a telex was sent to the Treasurer. When it was announced in the telex of 27 August 1983, what happened? The then candidate for the Mundaring electorate caught a plane to Canberra.

Hon. Peter Dowding: That is wrong.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: He went to speak with Mr Keating about this terrible tax he had introduced. Everbody knew it was happening. Here was a person representing an electorate. I do not wish to denigrate that person because he does not have the opportunity to reply in this House, but Mr Dowding brought this matter up.

Hon. Peter Dowding: You would be hard put to do so, because he is one of the best members. He makes you look like a limp piece of raddish.

Several members interjected.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: Mr Dowding can make all the comments he likes if he wants to denigrate members, as he is known to do, because he has only weak replies, but do not let him detract from the facts. He is supposed to deal with facts. I suppose in the courtroom he may stray, but he is brought back to the point.

All these representations we made were prior to the event. He said he will make representations after the event, and we must wait another 14 months for a reply. That would have to be a joke. The vineyards in the Swan Valley will not wait 14 months. If Mr Burke wants to take us that way he will find that he will get a rough time.

Hon. Graham Edwards: There was a shudder through the Opposition when you said that.

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: I can assure you, Mr President, the votes will be different in the next election as a result of all these promises which are

not being kept. I have a list of promises which have not been kept. I will not mention them, I will save them for another day. We have had experience of Labor promises. They are not carried through.

Another matter which has not been raised should be mentioned, but I will be brief. In the wine industry, like any other industry, not only do the vignerons pay this new imposition, but they also pay what is called a stock valuation tax based on their stock at 30 June. You, Sir, would be aware that in the wine industry it is essential that the wine should mature. Because of the imposition of this tax, which is applied to stock as at midnight on 30 June—

Hon. Peter Dowding: If it is so important, why did you not mention it in your opening? Did you forget about it? Do you not have a grip on the industry?

Hon. NEIL OLIVER: I hold to a view that I believe urgency motions should be dealt with expeditiously.

The problem is that the Government does not understand the industry at all; it does not understand the ramifications that will follow the imposition of this tax. It has failed to think through its possible effects.

**[Resolved: That business be continued.]**

I hope the Government is successful in what it is wanting to do, and I am sure it will try to claim all the credit for any success. The point is that this stock valuation tax is a further added burden on the industry because people in the industry cannot afford to retain the wine and mature it over the period required. The small vignerons—not the large companies—are being required to sell their wines as close as possible to 30 June, remembering that the vintage year is taken from February–March. They are being forced to sell their young wines without allowing them to mature. If this is to be considered developing and strengthening the industry, I would really love to know what better way to destroy the industry!

Finally, having read some of the Budget papers and realised the disastrous effect the Budget will have on the small business people, I was prompted to move this urgency motion. The Federal Budget will work contrary to what is intended.

The Minister opposite did not dwell on the subject of employment in the wine industry, but I can assure members that the industry is a labour intensive one. Labour is totally involved in pruning the grapes, packing them, tending them generally; it really is a high-employment industry. Therefore, this Government has failed in its responsibilities.

In 1976, as a solitary intending member of Parliament, I did not have to fly to Canberra or seek headlines to achieve something favourable for the industry. At that time we had a 2.5 per cent tax on wine. All I did was to pick up the phone and ring the responsible Federal Minister. After I had explained the situation he said that he had not realised what was involved and admitted that it was an iniquitous tax, that he would attend to it, and have it repealed. It was repealed. However, this Government, with all its telex machines and advisers, cannot achieve the same thing. It has taken the Government 14 months, until the whole thing has collapsed and everything is in total disarray, before it says that it will have to move to try to correct an error.

The Government stands condemned of a sellout of small family concerns to the large monopolies in Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. The electorate will condemn the Government. I seek leave to withdraw the motion.

**Motion, by leave, withdrawn.**

## **PRESIDING OFFICERS: REFERENCES**

### *President's Statement*

**THE PRESIDENT:** I take this opportunity to comment on something which is becoming a feature of the proceedings in this place and which has disturbed me for some time; it is something indeed which I have mentioned to some members.

One of the time honoured and indeed sacrosanct features of our parliamentary system is that no member in presenting his case should make reference to Mr President, Mr Speaker, or indeed to any officer of the Parliament who has provided him with assistance when endeavouring to put across his point of view.

I suggest to honourable members that when they seek advice from any officer of Parliament, that officer gives that advice in the terms of informing the honourable member the full and proper way the proposition should be laid out in order to comply with the rules of this House.

There is never to be any suggestion, whether direct or implied, that any officer prepared a document for any member. If we are thinking and talking about the preservation of the parliamentary system as we know it, that is one of the most time honoured and respected features of it.

## **RACING RESTRICTION AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Planning), read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**HON. PETER DOWDING** (North—Minister for Planning) [3.38 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

For some time, both the Western Australian Trotting Association and the Western Australian Turf Club have proposed amendments to the Racing Restriction Act 1917 which would eliminate the restrictions imposed on the number of race or trot meetings held by either the club or the association in the metropolitan area.

Since 1979 the Western Australian Turf Club has conducted mid-week metropolitan meetings. These meetings are now an accepted part of the State's racing calendar, popular with owners, trainers, jockeys, and the racing public.

The Turf Club pays increased subsidies to provincial race clubs when meetings are held in the same week as a mid-week metropolitan meeting.

Recently, the Western Australian Trotting Association met with the management committee of the Western Australian Country Trotting Association to resolve major areas of concern to the country clubs. Agreement was reached on the following matters—

The number of metropolitan trotting meetings to be increased from the current 73 to a maximum of 90 meetings at Gloucester Park and Richmond Raceway for the 1984-85 season, followed by a review.

Increases in Western Australian Trotting Association and Fremantle Trotting Club contributions to the industry assistance fund for country trotting for the 1984-85 and 1985-86 seasons followed by a review.

The Western Australian Country Trotting association to assume the primary responsibility for allocation of various subsidies under mutually agreed policy guidelines.

In its 1983 report, the honorary Royal Commission to inquire into and report on racing and trotting in Western Australia, when referring to the Racing Restriction Act, stated in Parliament—

From the evidence before us we acknowledge that mid-week city racing will—

- (1) increase TAB and on course turnover thereby providing greater profitability for the racing and trotting industry;
- (2) increase attendance at race meetings;
- (3) have the support of the majority of owners and trainers and race patrons.

However, it is also clear that such a move is likely to have a detrimental effect on some

provincial clubs and could threaten the existence of others.

As the Western Australian Turf Club is currently conducting almost as many meetings as is permitted under the Racing Restriction Act, it will be necessary to amend it if any additional mid-week city meetings are to be held.

Furthermore, as it has the sole right to issue licences for race meetings, the Racing Restriction Act, if amended, should provide an avenue of appeal for country and provincial race clubs to the Minister where agreement between the various bodies cannot be reached.

Disputes may arise out of a club's dissatisfaction with—

- (i) a reduction in the number of meetings customarily held;
- (ii) a change in the days on which meetings are customarily held; or
- (iii) a change in the date on which a special or major event is customarily held.

The Bill now before the House will provide an avenue of appeal whereby clubs other than the principal bodies may refer disputes on the programming of race meetings to the Minister, who may then direct the principal body in such manner as he sees fit.

Experience has proved that the process of negotiation between the Turf Club and the Trotting Association with country and provincial clubs is a satisfactory method of achieving consensus in regard to the annual racing and trotting programmes conducted throughout the State.

The real issue raised by the amendment to the Racing Restriction Act is the effect that increased metropolitan meetings may have on racing and trotting meetings conducted by clubs other than the principal bodies located within reasonable proximity to the metropolitan area and at Fremantle by the Fremantle Trotting Club.

Therefore the amendment provides a power to the Minister to arbitrate when a dispute arises out of changes made to meetings customarily conducted outside the metropolitan area and trotting races held at Richmond Raceway by the Fremantle Trotting Club.

It will reflect also the wishes of the honorary Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the suitability of the present laws relating to racing and trotting.

Both the Turf Club and the Trotting Association recognise the need to protect and foster racing and trotting in country areas.

The racing and trotting fraternity must have country racing opportunities to educate their horses and race them through the classes to a standard acceptable for metropolitan racing.

The Bill now before the House will give the Government of the day a degree of involvement in fixing metropolitan and country racing and trotting programmes which has not existed in the past.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. G. E. Masters (Leader of the Opposition).

### **EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon. Peter Dowding (Minister for Planning), read a first time.

#### *Second Reading*

**HON. PETER DOWDING** (North—Minister for Planning) [3.44 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The principal Act which this Bill proposes to amend relates to the conveyance of dangerous goods.

Regulations for the transport of dangerous goods became effective from 1 March of this year. These regulations are based on the recommendations of the Australian code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail.

To maintain these recommendations, it has been necessary to introduce this Bill which will provide for the special licensing of drivers who have been satisfactorily trained and are aware of the emergency procedures and special safety requirements for the transport of dangerous goods in bulk or in large quantities.

Secondly, the Bill will provide an averment clause, similar to that which is currently in other Statutes affecting the road transport industry, placing the onus on the driver of a vehicle conveying dangerous goods to refute an averment by an inspector that the vehicle is not licensed for the transport of dangerous goods. This averment provision will facilitate the administration of the Dangerous Goods (Road Transport) Regulations.

Thirdly, in order to alleviate difficulties faced by segments of the transport industry which are complying with the intent though not meeting the specific requirement of the regulations, this Bill will enable the chief inspector to grant exemption where considered necessary. A typical example would be a minor variation in the size or wording of signs prescribed for vehicles. Also, it will enable

assistance to be given to allow operations to continue while procedures are being upgraded to meet specific requirements of the regulations.

These amendments will enhance driver safety knowledge and will assist industry in meeting the safety requirements for the transport of dangerous goods.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. A. A. Lewis.

### **QUESTIONS**

Questions were taken at this stage.

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT: REGULATIONS**

#### *Disallowance: As to Motion*

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [3.53 p.m.]: I move—

That Order of the Day No. 1 be taken after Order of the Day No. 6.

#### *Point of Order*

**Hon. G. E. MASTERS**: Is it proper for me to make remarks on the motion itself? I wish to refer to the Standing Orders.

The **PRESIDENT**: It is a motion.

**Hon. G. E. MASTERS**: I draw the attention of the House to Standing Order No. 170 which reads as follows—

A Motion for the disallowance of a regulation shall take precedence of Government and Private business except in the case of Motions provided for in Standing Orders 49 (leave of absence), and 173 (condolence or thanks).

On my reading and interpretation of that Standing Order, I believe that a motion to disallow regulations would take precedence over the other business of the House. I know that the Government could suggest that we are proposing to take the work out of the hands of the Government by refusing to accept the move suggested by the Attorney General, but nevertheless it is not a Government matter; it is in the hands of the House. The motion was put forward by me, and therefore I am responsible for it.

The Standing Orders are quite clear that this matter must be dealt with now. Having said that, if I am wrong and the Standing Order does not provide what I think it provides, it is up to the Opposition to make a decision on this motion.

In making a decision on the motion, we want to know why there is a proposal to put the debate down the list on the Notice Paper. It has been on the Notice Paper for two or three days, and the Opposition has put its argument quite clearly. The Opposition received its own legal advice, and no doubt the Attorney General has received his legal advice; so there is no reason for the motion not to be dealt with now.

Our great concern is that while the motion is before the House the regulations have no effect. If we do not proceed with the motion today, it will be three weeks before it is dealt with. That being the case, it is my understanding that the Western Australian Development Corporation will have no regulations. However, it may well be that after the three weeks, the Attorney General's argument will not be sufficient to persuade the Opposition that it should not disallow the regulations, allowing another long period to elapse before the corporation has effective regulations.

If the Government and the Attorney General are genuine about dealing with this matter in a proper way and taking into account the arguments we have put forward, they should say, "Righto, we will withdraw the regulations from the Table of the House". In that case, the Opposition would be satisfied and we would have three weeks or more to discuss amendments. It is no good the Attorney General coming along and saying, "Look, I am considering the matter. I am having legal advice, and I will come forward with amendments later on". If amendments or changes are to be made to the regulations, the regulations should be withdrawn now and, in three weeks, the responsible Minister can table new regulations.

I am concerned at this proposal. Yesterday, I sat back because I believed the Attorney General had genuine reasons for putting the matter off for a day. However, when we talk about putting the matter off for three or four weeks, the proposal is not on, as far as I am concerned.

I have strong reservations about the motion. In fact, at the moment, I oppose the motion and I say that the matter ought to be dealt with now. However, I would also like an opinion on whether the Standing Order provides what I think it does; that the matter must be dealt with now rather than be put down the Notice Paper.

The Standing Order seems to say that a motion to disallow regulations takes precedence over the other business of the House. If that is the case—

The PRESIDENT: I do not know whether you are asking me to make a ruling on the matter. I thought that was what you started off to ask, and I kept thinking that you would get around to it. I do

not want to interrupt what you are saying because you are perfectly entitled to speak to the motion; but if you are asking me, as the President, to rule on the procedure adopted by the Acting Leader of the House, I could do so a lot more quickly than the way in which you have put it.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I would like an opinion from you, Sir, on this matter. By the same token, if the Standing Order does not do what I think it does, the Opposition still has good reason to question the Minister's proposal to move the matter further down the Notice Paper and, in effect, put it off for three weeks. That is my serious concern.

First of all, I am asking you for your opinion, Sir. However, I make it quite clear that the Opposition is deeply concerned that the debate on the disallowance of the regulations will not be dealt with for more than three weeks. It is quite improper for that sort of thing to happen, unless the Minister has very good reasons for it. If he has not good reasons, I suggest that our members must look seriously at the position, with a view to debating the substantive motion today.

#### *President's Ruling*

The PRESIDENT: The position is quite clear. Standing Order No. 170—I have given advice on this on many occasions—indicates that motions to disallow regulations take precedence over Government business each day.

I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that the very fact that it appears as No. 1 on the Notice Paper complies with Standing Order No. 170. Nevertheless, Standing Order No. 120 says that any motion connected with the conduct of the business of the Council may be moved by any Minister of the Crown at any time without notice. That motion provides the Acting Leader of the House with the facility for doing what he did; that is, move that Order of the Day No. 1 be moved after some other Order of the Day. It is up to the House whether or not it chooses to support that motion so moved.

All Standing Orders must be read in conjunction with one another. For example, Standing Order No. 118 says that Ministers may arrange the sequence of Orders of the Day on the Notice Paper as they think fit. However, it continues that the mover of any Order of the Day may move after notice that such Order of the Day shall be changed to another position on the Notice Paper. The Standing Orders provide the facility to manoeuvre the Notice Paper around, but only if a majority of the House agrees that it be done.

In answer to your question, the Attorney General is quite proper in what he has done and it is a

matter of whether the House wants to agree with it.

As I gave the Leader of the Opposition the opportunity to speak to the motion, I will give this opportunity to other members.

*Debate (as to motion) Resumed*

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [4.02 p.m.]: I assure the Leader of the Opposition that there is nothing ominous or evasive about the short delay which would follow from the House's accepting this motion. Members opposite will recall that in moving the motion to disallow regulations, the Leader of the Opposition launched an attack with two branches; the first was directed at certain comments and correspondence by the Premier, and the second related to substantive questions going to the content of the regulations.

It goes without saying that before seeking to respond to the first part of the Leader of the Opposition's comments, I would want to consult with the Premier. As is well known, the Premier is not returning to duties until tomorrow. As soon as possible thereafter I shall contact him for that purpose.

So far as the regulations themselves are concerned, the Leader of the Opposition raised quite technical questions and though it would have been possible at short notice to rush through some professional advice on it, I did not see that this was a case where urgency to that degree was required. I may misunderstand the nature of the Opposition's criticism of the regulations. However, my understanding of them was not that the regulations in their present form did some harm, but that they did not go far enough; that is, in imposing regulations on the directors of the Western Australian Development Corporation they did not impose all the obligations which are applied under the Companies Code to the directors of public companies.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest to the Attorney General that he is now debating the motion. I understand what he is trying to do but he is probably being a little over enthusiastic.

**Hon. J. M. BERINSON**: I will not take it further, Mr President. I was merely seeking to explain that a proper answer does deserve some care. The fact that we are going into a three week recess at this stage is fortuitous. In the normal course of events one week would have been involved.

I also indicate that no possible detriment can arise from this delay. I am quite happy to undertake that the full debate on the motion to disallow

the regulations can be scheduled for the first day of our return after the recess.

**Question put and passed.**

**ACTS AMENDMENT (INSOLVENT ESTATES) BILL**

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 14 August.

**HON. G. E. MASTERS** (West—Leader of the Opposition) [4.05 p.m.]: The Bill is the implementation of the last three recommendations by the Law Reform Commission and relates to the administration of deceased persons' estates. It concerns procedures to be observed in administering an insolvent estate and as I understand it—I can be corrected on this point—the Bill sets aside the present and the existing choices available to the administrator of an estate. Those choices are: that matters can be settled out of court in an informal administrative way; administration under the Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act can be used; or administrative procedures pursuant to an order of the Supreme Court can be adopted.

I understand the Bill sets aside those choices for an administrator.

Also, the provisions of the Bill prescribed in the proposed fifth schedule of the Act make it obligatory for the administrator to proceed according to the Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act. There seemed to be some differences here and perhaps the Attorney General can clear this matter up.

It seems that claims on unliquidated estates are allowed and the Crown loses its Crown Law priority. I ask the Minister handling the Bill to explain that matter.

In addition, the administrator will not be at liberty to decide higher priorities and the personal representative enjoys the protection if he made payments in good faith.

I do not see any objection to the Bill, but I would like these points confirmed, particularly the area where the Crown seems to lose its Crown Law priority.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. Mark Nevill.

**HERD IMPROVEMENT SERVICES BILL**

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 21 August.

**HON. C. J. BELL** (Lower West) [4.08 p.m.]: This Bill is the result of long discussions with the farmer organisations in Western Australia with reference to the herd improvement system that operates within this State. The Herd Improvement Service has two functions: the first is the artificial

breeding of livestock; and the second is the herd recording function of dairy cattle. They are two quite separate functions, but they play a complementary role in herd improvement.

The first function, of course, relates to the use of artificial breeding techniques to spread to the greatest possible extent superior genetic material available within the dairy industry and the beef industry.

The corporation will be empowered to deal with all livestock, but those are the two areas which currently have a place in the herd improvement scheme.

The Bill will enable the establishment of a corporation which will not be an arm of Government as such. It will be a separate corporation and it will operate as a separate entity.

I took a major part in the early stages of the establishment of this scheme and the framework within which it has been structured on behalf of the producing sector of the industry.

The corporation's staff will not be public servants. The reason is that, because of the seasonal nature of the services provided by the corporation, it will be able to use contract and casual employment to a much greater extent than it could had it been tied to the Public Service Board and the criteria used by that board for the employment of staff. This will have a substantial impact on the corporation's costs because at certain times the corporation will be required to employ a number of personnel to meet peak seasonal demand and to provide other contractual arrangements of short duration. The employment of people on a straight-out contract or casual daily rate will have substantial benefits for the corporation.

I shall outline some of the benefits which will accrue as a result of the herd improvement scheme. In order to do that I will quote a number of figures from a chart which I shall then seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard*.

In 1973-74 the average production per cow in Western Australia—I refer here to all cows including those which have and have not been herd recorded—was 2 742 litres per cow. In 1983-84 that figure had risen to 3 386 litres per cow. That is a significant figure and it represents an approximate annual increase in productivity of two per cent. All of us would agree that, if every industry in Australia could maintain a two per cent per annum increase in productivity, there would be far fewer pressures on many people and industries.

For the benefit of those who are unaware, herd recording is a system under which, once a month, certain equipment is brought onto the farm to enable every cow's production to be recorded. The equipment records the cow's daily milk production and the sample of milk taken during the recording

process is sent to a central laboratory for testing and analysis. That analysis indicates the percentages of butterfat and protein, and the somatic cell count of the milk. That indicates the cow's daily milk, butterfat, and protein production. The somatic cell count indicates the health of the cow, because if a cow has a disease—mastitis being the most common—that shows up in the analysis. Western Australia has been at the forefront in that area of analysis in Australia.

In 1973-74, the production of herd recorded cows was 3 807 kilograms of milk per annum. We can compare that figure to the previously mentioned figure of 2 742 litres of milk per annum for all cows. It is clear that is a substantial increase. Indeed, the result is even better than it appears initially, because the figure of 2 742 litres is the average production of all cows including those which were recorded; so it is clear the cows which were not recorded were vastly inferior to those which were.

Clearly, once the high production cows in a herd are identified, one can seek to improve the herd by selecting those with the genetic capacity for higher production.

Just to go back to the 3 807 kilogram of milk for herd recorded cows in 1973-74, that figure can be compared with a figure of 4 528 kilograms of milk for 1983-84 for herd recorded cows which, in turn, can be compared with the figure of 3 386 which is the average annual production of all cows in 1983-84. It can be seen the annual production is increasing rather than diminishing.

To save the time of the House, I ask that that table be incorporated in *Hansard*.

#### *Incorporation of Material*

*By leave of the House, the following material was incorporated—*

#### NUMBER OF COWS COMPLETING TEST AND AVERAGE YIELD

No. of Cows Dairy Area '000	W.A. Production of milk ml	Average per Cow	Year	No. of Cow Lactations	Milk kg	Fat %	Fat Kg
			1933-34	4 308	1 882	4.4	82
			1941-42	7 081	2 250	4.5	102
			*1946-50	14 334	2 043	4.4	89
			*1951-55	14 929	2 134	4.3	92
			*1956-60	13 276	2 533	4.2	107
			*1961-65	17 854	2 732	4.2	115
			*1966-70	18 631	3 103	4.1	127
			1971-72	19 595	3 647	4.0	144
			1972-73	19 387	3 674	3.9	142
			1973-74	17 310	3 807	3.9	147
89.7	246	2742	1974-75	18 263	3 923	3.9	151
92.0	232	2521	1975-76	17 555	3 880	3.8	148
81.8	214	2612	1976-77	14 588	3 971	3.8	151
72.6	212	2920	1977-78	11 897	3 827	3.8	145
70.9	213	3004	1978-79	13 733	3 869	3.8	147
70.5	217	3078	1979-80	15 541	4 093	3.8	160
69.7	216	3099	1980-81	17 782	4 328	3.9	168
69.6	214	3074	1981-82	19 123	4 298	3.9	167
69.1	222	3213	1982-83	20 573	4 294	3.8	165
68.5	232	3386	1983-84	20 718	4 528	3.8	173

\*5 Year average

Hon. C. J. BELL: The other side of the herd improvement scheme is artificial breeding. I have a graph here which I shall endeavour to explain. In 1983-84 artificially bred cows produced 4 878 kilograms of milk compared with a figure of 4 409 kilograms for cows which were bred naturally.

I have a chart which plots the production figures over ten years and I seek leave to have that incorporated in *Hansard* for the benefit of members who may wish to understand the progressive advantages of herd recording and artificial breeding.

#### Debate Resumed

#### Incorporation of Material

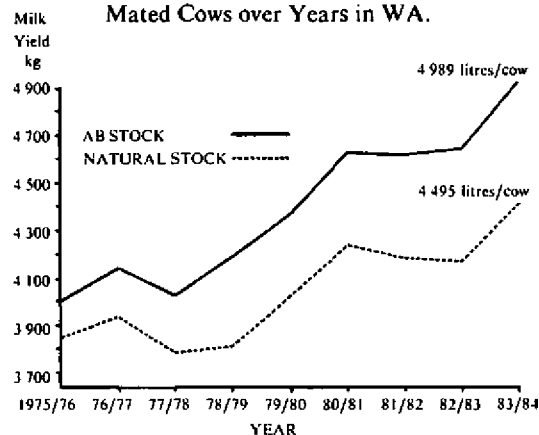
*By leave of the House, the following material was incorporated—*

#### Performances of A B Stock

The number of artificially bred cows for the season totalled 5 281. They produced 4 878 kg milk compared to 4 409 kg for the naturally mated cows.

The trend of production over the years is seen in the following graph.

Milk Production Trends of A B and Natural Mated Cows over Years in WA.



#### Debate Resumed

Hon. C. J. BELL: As part of a major thrust in the development of the national dairy herd, this scheme is designed so that the benefits of technology flow through the industry. As this occurs, farmers will benefit. It will also be of major benefit to consumers, because obviously, as production increases, so too will the comparative costs of dairy products fall.

We are very fortunate in that in the last two years the Australian dairy herd improvement scheme has been in operation. It uses a system called the "best linear unbiased predictor" to identify the genetically superior animals in the

Australian herd and those which are available from all over the world.

The benefits of that are now being felt in the Australian dairy herd. The Herd Improvement Service Bill will assist Western Australia to become tied into and to benefit from the scheme.

It has been indicated in the proposal that the Herd Improvement Service will be amalgamated with the two current services; they are, the Artificial Breeding Board and the herd recording programme operated by the Department of Agriculture. This amalgamation will mean an annual saving of \$140 000. However, there is no guarantee that that will be the situation.

The Government pays \$90 000 per annum into the herd recording programme and has agreed that it will write off the accumulated losses of the Artificial Breeding Board, less the realisation of assets which are surplus to the requirements of the new Herd Improvement Service.

The Government has indicated that with the implementation of that proposal, the service will become totally self-supporting. Every member in this House would hope that is so.

I believe we ought to be aware of what is occurring in other States to ensure that Western Australia's dairy farmers are not placed at a disadvantage in the marketplace. I have taken out a resumé of the position in each of the States and noted the input of State Governments.

In South Australia the Government does not anticipate providing any money for artificial breeding in 1984-85. However, it does intend to provide \$65 500 for herd recording. In Victoria, the Artificial Breeding Board is supported to the tune of \$100 000. However, a question mark is to be placed on that, because that figure refers only to operation and costs. It does not identify other facilities which are available to the artificial breeding co-operative.

The Victorian Government does not put any money into herd improvement; it is generally run by local co-operatives. However, this year some support will be provided to them by way of a compulsory Government levy on milk, and about 40 to 50 per cent of the herds in Western Australia will be involved. In the other States, the figure is something like 30 to 40 per cent.

We must consider not only the cost to the farmer, but also the obligation placed on him to perform certain functions which may be inconvenient and incur extra labour, and which will increase costs.

In Queensland in 1984-85, the Government will provide \$600 000, or 38 per cent of the total cost

of the artificial breeding in that State. It will provide \$1 million for herd recording. The latest figures for Tasmania were for 1983-84 and for those years \$700 000 was provided to the Herd Improvement Organisation which is involved with herd improvement, herd recording, and artificial breeding.

The 1983-84 figures for New South Wales show that the Artificial Breeding Board is self-supporting, and that the Government input for herd recording was \$300 000.

Those figures indicate that other State Governments provide a substantial input into the dairy industry to assist with the use and development of technology which is made available for herd recording and artificial breeding.

One other aspect which must be borne in mind is that Western Australia has been a little slow because in 1982 the Victorian Herd Improvement Organisation and the South Australian Herd Improvement Organisation sought support from the Commonwealth Dairy Industry Stabilisation Fund. The sum of \$326 000 was provided for computerisation of herd recording in those two States. That stabilisation fund does not belong to any State, person, or company.

Western Australia decided to computerise its records and write its own programmes. Quite frankly that appeared to be a rather silly thing to do, when the model had been quite well developed by Victoria and South Australia. I suggest we should have some of the money from the Dairy Industry Stabilisation Fund to ensure the minimum input from the Western Australian Government. Some of that money belongs to us.

Some States provide certain training schemes for the improvement of farmer skills in herd management systems. This Government might look at that aspect and the current situation where farmers pay the total cost to ensure greater use of the skills which may be incorporated in technical courses or something of that nature. It could be put on the same basis as all other tertiary and trade skill industries.

I would like to express some concern about a number of other areas in the Bill. One has been taken care of by the circulation a few minutes ago of an amendment to be moved to the schedule. I support that proposal.

The first area of concern to me is that there is no sunset clause in this Bill. Whenever a new agency is set up, we all expect and hope that it does well, but over the years whenever a Government agency was established, a sunset clause was inserted. The Liberal Party has said that on a number of occasions, and I know the Australian

Labor Party has also. I have an extract from the "Australian Labor Party Platform, Constitution and Rules 1984".

For members' information I will quote item 10 from page 163 of that document. It reads as follows—

Review existing statutory authorities and make necessary changes to ensure their accountability to the Parliament and minister and their adherence to the principles of public administration as set out in this platform. In addition—

- (a) ensure that when new functions of government are established, that so far as possible these are carried out within ministerial departments; and
- (b) introduce where appropriate 'sunset' legislation to set fixed terms to the life of government authorities to ensure a regular review of their functions and efficiency.

The establishment of the Herd Improvement Service is a classic case of doing just that. I believe it is a deficiency of the Bill not to include a sunset clause. I will be interested to hear the reply of the Minister who is responsible for this legislation on this point.

Another area of concern is the definition of the term "pecuniary interests". I know this matter was raised in another place, but it does not seem clear to me that clause 9(4) protects the user of the Herd Improvement Service. It protects the board member and outlines the obligations of a breeder of an animal which may be used for artificial breeding, but it does not outline, in any shape or form, the position concerning the user of the herd recording service.

The board sets the fees, and if a user of the herd recording service sits on the board he has a pecuniary interest in the board's activities. It could be said that he shared in common with all other breeders of stock. I do not know whether that is correct. It may be said he has a pecuniary interest in setting the fees. If that is the case, three members of the board will not be able to continue their representations on the board.

Another matter which concerns me is that the present General Manager of the Artificial Breeding Board has been appointed as the senior adviser of the new Herd Improvement Service. I do not wish to reflect on Mr Bill Hanley. I know him very well; he is an extremely nice man and a capable person, but this is a new corporation which has functions different from those of the Artificial Breeding Board. It will require different skills to those which are solely the province of the Arti-

ficial Breeding Board. It may be that Mr Hanley is the appropriate person to appoint, but I believe that if the corporation is to achieve the best result, it would have been advantageous to advertise that senior position to ensure that the best person was appointed. It is no use saying afterwards that a mistake was made. The correct appointment should be made from the beginning.

The service needs to generate the confidence of farmers in Western Australia. It must be a good, competent service, and the best service that is available. If it is not, it is inevitable that the service will be calling on the Government to further subsidise its operating costs and possibly its operating losses.

It may be said that the corporation will be the only organisation of its kind, but it is not. At least two other organisations operate in this State in the artificial breeding area. They sell the genetic material for herd improvement by artificial breeding.

If the system were to be inferior, farmers would not have the capacity to record, to some extent, the performance of the cows. If that situation should develop, every dairy farmer will be adversely affected, because unless it is done on a standard basis without a herd recording function, there will be no way livestock in the industry can be compared, and there will be no way that superior animals can be identified. There will also be no way that genetic material can be identified for further improvement of the industry in this State.

I have spoken about the dairy industry, but the same applies to the beef industry. Although the herd recording process is not the same, nevertheless, the same techniques are used.

It is absolutely essential that the Government understands that Western Australia should not be left behind in terms of technology and that if, in fact, other States are supporting the dairy industry in the area of technology, it does not impinge on Western Australia's capacity to compete in the marketplace with dairy products.

With those comments I indicate the Opposition's support of the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. Fred McKenzie.

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT: RETIREMENT

### *Ministerial Statement*

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [4.38 p.m.]: I seek leave of the House to make a ministerial statement relating to the retirement of two members of the Legislative Assembly.

### **Leave granted.**

**HON. J. M. BERINSON:** Although not members of this House, the member for Cockburn and the member for Mt. Lawley are obviously close friends and colleagues of members in this House. We note that today is the date of their retirement. It brings to an end, in both cases, very distinguished careers in the service of the people of this State and we would all, I think, want to take the opportunity of extending our regards and good wishes to them.

As it happens, in a modest sort of way, I had something to do with advancing the careers of both these distinguished gentlemen. I well recall the day when, I was a chemist in Victoria Park, and a young chap named Taylor came into my shop and asked me for my vote in a preselection ballot. It was his first attempt to come into Parliament. While the secrecy of the ballot box is sacrosanct, I can say I did not do him any harm.

In the case of the member for Mt. Lawley, my contribution to his career was probably even greater. The fact of the matter is that when he first moved to Mt. Lawley, I was his opponent as the Labor candidate. I assisted him to a record majority and from there he went from strength to strength.

The member for Cockburn was elected to the Legislative Assembly 16 years ago at the age of 40, and with the election of the Tonkin Government in 1971, he became a Minister. Two years after that appointment, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Premier. In fact, he occupied eight portfolios within the three years he was a member of Cabinet.

He was a respected and successful Minister, just as he has been, for the whole period of his service, a respected, constructive, and helpful member of his constituency in the City of Cockburn.

The member has had an important and enviable advantage as member for Cockburn in that he has held a prime blue ribbon seat. With some people, that might have led to a certain relaxation of effort for his constituents. That was certainly not the case with Don Taylor. He leaves the Parliament with the high respect of everyone who has had anything to do with him.

Hon. Ray O'Connor was elected to the Legislative Assembly 25 years ago at the age of 33. He became a Minister very shortly after his election, and over his period in the Parliament he served in 18 different portfolios. He was elected Deputy Premier in 1980, and he became the State's twenty-second Premier on 25 January 1982.

During his time in office, he was associated with almost every aspect of important development which the State has seen over the relevant period. He has been a Minister and leader who was freely available and approachable, and it may well be said of Hon. Ray O'Connor that he also leaves his public service in this area in very high standing.

Both members retire from Parliament at a relatively early age, just as they came to Parliament at an early age. It is therefore not really in the sense of a valedictory that we express our good wishes to them. Both will find important and active roles to play, I am sure, and we all hope that in whatever activities they undertake they will gain satisfaction, and that they and their families will have many years ahead of them in which to enjoy each other's company in a way that members and their families do not always have.

On behalf of the Government in this House, I record the congratulations and good wishes which we all want to extend to Hon. Ray O'Connor and Hon. Don Taylor.

**HON. G. E. MASTERS** (West—Leader of the Opposition) [4.45 p.m.]: I wish to support the comments made by Hon. Joe Berinson. The Parliament of Western Australia is losing two very fine members of Parliament, both highly respected by all members who knew them.

Ray O'Connor is better known to me than is Don Taylor. Ray was born in Western Australia. As a boy he was a champion athlete and a league footballer. He was a businessman before coming to Parliament, and he was successful at that.

He was first made a Minister in 1965, and has held 18 portfolios—a distinguished record, I think we would all agree. In his 15 years as a Minister, he served in many capacities.

He was elected to Parliament in 1959, as has already been mentioned. He was appointed Honorary Minister Assisting the Minister for Railways and Transport in the Brand Government in 1965; he was appointed Minister for Transport in the Brand Government in 1965; Minister for Transport and Railways in the Brand Government in 1967; Minister for Transport, Traffic and Police in 1974; and Minister for Transport, Police, Traffic and Traffic Safety on 1 May 1974.

I would just like to comment here that with all due respect to Ministers for Police, I regard Ray O'Connor as the finest Minister for Police this State has ever had.

He was appointed Minister for Transport, Police and Traffic again in 1975; Minister for Works, Water Supplies, and Housing in 1977; Minister for Works, Water Supplies, Housing, Labour and Industry, Consumer Affairs, and Im-

migration in 1978; Minister for Labour and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Immigration, Fisheries and Wildlife, and Conservation and the Environment in 1978; and Deputy Premier and Minister for Labour and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Immigration, Regional Administration and the North-West, and Tourism in 1980. He was appointed to the highest position in this State in 1982, when he became Premier of Western Australia.

We have a great deal for which to thank Hon. Joe Berinson for he was responsible for our gaining a very good member of Parliament. We can only hope that his endeavours as a Minister will result in the Opposition's achieving equal success in the next State election! Perhaps he would bear that in mind. With the good nature he always seems to demonstrate in this House, he might help us as far as he can.

Hon. Ray O'Connor made a comment in the party room that he had attended between 600 and 700 party meetings. Anyone who is able to sustain that sort of performance and still look as well as he does is a pretty good performer.

As far as all of us who work with him are concerned, he was a very good fellow with whom to work. He was a real man's man. Members who served with him had a great regard for him. He always understood the very special position of the Legislative Council and its members, perhaps more than anyone I have known. As a Minister under Ray O'Connor, I know that whenever a decision was to be made and members of this House had some difficulty with it, he knew that we had this special position. I understand it is difficult for members on the other side of the House to come to grips with how we on this side of the House perform, but Ray O'Connor did. Although there were some differences of opinion, he knew we had a job to do here; we had to make up our minds in an independent way. It is difficult for a Minister, and particularly a Premier, to cope with that problem successfully, and I am sure it gave him a few worrying times. We are all sorry to see him go.

I want to make special reference to Hon. Mick Gayfer, who has had to leave on business. He said he would like to be associated with the remarks made by me, he having served in the Legislative Assembly as well as in the Legislative Council.

I think Ray O'Connor has been a good personal friend to many of us, and I am sure he will continue to be so. He has certainly been a very good friend of mine, and we wish him and Vesna a long and happy—not retirement, because they will not

be retiring, apparently, but a long and successful life in their new endeavours.

I would like to support the comments made about Don Taylor, who has served in this Parliament for a long time. I did not know him so well. He always strongly supported the Labor Party, and he served his party well. He well and truly earned his representation in—I do not know whether we should call it a blue ribbon seat for the Labor Party, but his was a safe seat. He really and truly deserved that position.

Don Taylor occupied his seat against all odds, and he served the people well. The Parliament is losing two excellent members. I doubt whether two more respected members have served on either side of the House in my time. I wish Don Taylor well in his retirement, and I am sure that even if I do not see Ray O'Connor on Rottnest Island, I will see Don Taylor there.

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### *Land Bank Estates Pty. Ltd.: Ministerial Statement*

**HON. PETER DOWDING** (North—Minister for Consumer Affairs) [4.50 p.m.]: I seek leave to make a ministerial statement concerning the sale of land in Queensland.

The PRESIDENT: Is leave granted?

#### *Point of Order*

**Hon. G. E. MASTERS:** Last year, Hon. Ian Medcalf raised the question of ministerial statements, and we reached an understanding that the Leader of the Opposition would receive a copy of any statement. I will not press the matter now, but I make the point because we had a difference of opinion about ministerial statements last year. We will go along with it this time, but the arrangement should be observed in the future.

The PRESIDENT: It is an arrangement you can make.

#### *Ministerial Statement Resumed*

Leave granted.

**Hon. PETER DOWDING:** At the outset, I say that in an ordinary case I would provide a copy to the Leader of the Opposition. It is an appropriate practice. However, in this matter, the information has come rather late and it must be aired before the Parliament rises tonight.

It has been brought to the attention of me and my department that a company is promoting in Western Australia the sale of land situated in Queensland. The land is being sold by a company

known as Land Bank Estates Pty. Ltd. and it is situated in the Albert Shire on the Gold Coast of Queensland. The ability of the project to achieve windfall profits highlighted in the brochure advertising the proposal depends ultimately on the rezoning of the land. In the case of the land being sold by Land Bank Estates Pty. Ltd., inquiries by my department of the Albert Shire Council reveal that the shire is adamant that the land will not be rezoned as urban land. It is currently zoned "rural".

The land promotion involves the sale of land in undivided share interests, a practice which has been outlawed by legislation in Western Australia. In the past, many investors in Western Australia have been badly affected by investing in similar types of undivided shares in land projects in the expectation or hope of land rezoning. One such scheme was the Drummonds Cove Estate venture near Geraldton, a venture which was promoted by a firm in respect of which hundreds of investors were left lamenting the fact that they invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the scheme, and in respect of which the Government is deliberating on whether something can be done to assist the investors.

I do not make any further comment in respect of the advisability of this investment, except to say that potential investors should be very careful before investing in undivided land shares anywhere in Australia.

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [4.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 18 September, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: ORDINARY

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [4.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

#### *Wine Sales Tax: Winery Closures*

**HON. NEIL OLIVER** (West) [4.54 p.m.]: I do not wish to detract from the valedictory remarks

that have just been made in relation to the former Premier and also the member for Cockburn.

For the benefit of members, I advise that one of the wineries the subject of the urgency motion I moved today, Redgate Wines, has closed. A further four closures are under consideration, and

further wineries will be closed. Tomorrow evening, a meeting will be held, and the possible closure of another 12 wineries in Western Australia will be discussed.

**Question put and passed.**

*House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### LAND

#### *Broome: Exchange*

122. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Has the Minister been requested by the Aboriginal Lands Trust to approve an exchange of the freehold block of land owned by Mr Lee Bonser at Lookout Hill in Broome for an alternative site?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) why does the Lands Trust support the exchange of land; and
  - (b) what was the Minister's response to the request?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs has no authority to approve such a transfer as the member would know.
- (2) (a) The Aboriginal Lands Trust is not supportive of any major developments in that area. As the member will be aware, Mr Bonser has been campaigning for a development in that area for some time, a campaign which was not supported by either the previous Government, or this one.  
 The trust had hoped to see a resolution of that problem, which might have involved an appropriate and reasonable transfer of land. However such a transfer would have been contingent upon approval being granted by the relevant authorities. This has not been the case.
- (b) The Minister, fully cognizant of his portfolio responsibilities, has been generally supportive of the Lands Trust position.

### HEALTH: NURSING HOME

#### *Hill View*

126. Hon. KAY HALLAHAN, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What record of complaints does the Health Department have regarding the Hill View Nursing Home at Armadale?

- (2) What was the substance of those complaints?
- (3) What action was taken?
- (4) What form is the proposed inquiry to take into the recent allegations of mismanagement and inadequate care of patients?

Hon. J. M. Berinson (for Hon. D. K. DANS) replied:

- (1) (a) From Royal Australian Nursing Federation;
  - (b) private staff complaint;
  - (c) private family complaint;
  - (d) representations from Yvonne Henderson, MLA;
  - (e) statutory declarations from a relation of former patient and ex-staff members.
- (2) and (3) The substance of the complaints received from those sources (1)(a) to (e) above, included—
  - (a) lack of equipment and dressing materials;
  - (b) staff hours decreased due to employment of individuals from CES;
  - (c) no high pressure sterilisers;
  - (d) many staff had back problems from lifting;
  - (e) air-conditioning was turned off at night;
  - (f) the nursing home smelt.
 Inspection to investigate complaints and a follow-up inspection in regard to departmental recommendations.  
 Separate action was taken by the Royal Australian Nursing Federation and the Hospital Services Miscellaneous Workers Union.  
 The substance of complaints outlined in the statutory declarations (1)(e) included—
  - (a) patients had bed sores which developed into gangrene. At least two patients had died from gangrene;
  - (b) patients did not eat properly as staff did not have time to feed them. Several patients may have starved;
  - (c) patients were left lying in bean bags for hours;
  - (d) staff did not have time to change wet beds;

- (e) inappropriate patients placed in wards together;
  - (f) nurses did not check patients' blood pressure;
  - (g) patients lacked proper medical treatment.
- (4) After a report of his department's investigation in conjunction with the Commonwealth is received by the Minister, he will determine if a formal inquiry is required.

### LAND

#### *Broome: Exchange*

136. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Did the Minister, at any time, support the proposal that Mr Bonser be permitted to exchange his freehold block of land at Lookout Hill, Broome, for an alternative development site in the town?
- (2) What is the Minister's present view on this matter?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) Please refer to the response to question 122.

### LAND

#### *Broome: Purchase*

140. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Did the Minister, at any time, support the proposition that the Government should purchase a freehold block of land owned by Mr Lee Bonser at Lookout Hill in Broome?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) why did the Minister support the purchase; and
  - (b) which Ministers were advised of this support?
- (3) What is the Minister's present view on this matter?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Please refer to my response to question 122.

141. *Postponed.*

### GAMBLING: CASINO

#### *Advisory Committee*

144. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Administrative Services:

I refer to the report of the Government Casino Advisory Committee of November, 1983—

- (1) Does the Government accept that a casino will return between \$6 million and \$7 million a year to the State's revenue?
- (2) If not, what is the revised figure representing the Government's income from a casino?

Hon. J. M. Berinson (for Hon. D. K. DANS) replied:

- (1) and (2) Indications are that the revenue estimate of \$6 million to \$7 million should be achieved and may be exceeded. It is difficult to estimate more precisely what the return to the Government will be until a developer is chosen and details of an agreement are known.

### HEALTH: TOBACCO

#### *Education Programme*

145. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

With reference to the Government's tobacco education programme—

- (1) Can the Minister advise me what new programmes have been produced to educate young people at school on the subject?
- (2) How many schools are using the programme?

Hon. J. M. Berinson (for Hon. D. K. DANS) replied:

- (1) (a) A completely revised smoking prevention programme for year 7 has been prepared for third term of 1984;
- (b) special resource manuals for lower, middle, and upper primary and high school teachers have been prepared to enable teaching on the smoking issue to be integrated with the new health education curriculum.
- (2) (a) 370 primary schools have agreed to include the year 7 programme and regional health education officers

will be contacting the remaining schools regarding the use of these resources;

- (b) 4 000 copies of the smoking education resource manual for teachers have been distributed.

## PLANNING

### *Recreation Areas*

146. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Does the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority still adhere to its previously expressed view that "the reservation of areas for recreation within the metropolitan region scheme is essential to safeguard important regional landscapes and recreation areas from development . . . "?
- (2) If so, what is the MRPA's attitude towards the proposal to site a casino on that part of Burswood Island that, by the MRPA's own categorisation, represents "Reserved Lands-Parks and Recreation"?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) If the member will provide me with the source of the text from which this quotation is taken I will consider the matter.

## PAWNBROKERS AND SECONDHAND DEALERS

### *Registrations*

147. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) How many secondhand dealers are registered in Western Australia?
- (2) How many pawnbrokers are licensed in Western Australia?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) As at 30 June 1984, 1 386.
- (2) As at 30 June 1984, 19.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

### *Sales: Children*

148. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many complaints has the department received of retailers selling tobacco products to children?

- (2) What action has been taken as a result of these complaints?

- (3) Have there been any prosecutions by the department in relation to the sale of tobacco products to minors?

Hon. J. M. Berinson (for Hon. D. K. DANS) replied:

- (1) As far as the Minister is able to determine at such short notice, there has been only one complaint of this nature.
- (2) The complainant was visited and asked to provide the particulars necessary to commence prosecution but was unable to do so, i.e. he was unable to identify the retailer.
- (3) No.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### *Children: Artificial Conception*

149. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

Further to the answer to question 109 part (3) of Tuesday, 21 August 1984—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that he stated that the ethics committee was expanded to include female representation?
- (2) Who are the female representatives added to this committee since it was expanded for their inclusion?

Hon. J. M. Berinson (for Hon. D. K. DANS) replied:

- (1) and (2) The initial establishment of the committee include two unfilled ministerial appointments.

Miss Roz Denny, Director of Nursing, King Edward Memorial Hospital, and Dr Athel Hockey, Senior Medical Officer, Irirabene, were appointed to these positions.

The committee was then expanded to include Ms Margaret Papaalias, President of Concern for the Infertile Couple, and Mrs Jacqueline Anstead, who was appointed as secretary.

## INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

### *Balcatta and Osborne Park*

150. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

Further to his answer to question 109 of Tuesday, 21 August 1984, when will the

Minister be able to release a copy of the committee's report to the Parliament?

Hon. J. M. Berinson (for Hon. D. K. DANS) replied:

The Minister is considering the interim report, in consultation with the Attorney General and officers of their respective departments.

Following conclusion of their deliberations a decision will be made on whether to make the report available.

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

### PLANNING

#### *Mandurah Shire Council: Meeting*

41. Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I have given notice of this question to the office of the Leader of the House, as follows—

- (1) Can the Premier explain why the Mandurah Shire Council President (Cr John Guilfoyle) advised his

council members that he first learnt of the Premier's request for the council to meet with him on Friday, 24 August 1984 through a phone call from radio station 6KY?

- (2) Is the Premier aware that the previous request by the Deputy Premier for the Mandurah council to meet with him was relayed to the shire president by a reporter of the *Mandurah Telegraph*?
- (3) Is it now Government practice to transmit important information to local authorities through the media?

Hon. J. M. Berinson (for the Hon. D. K. DANS) replied:

I have been provided with the following information in reply—

- (1) No. There was telephone contact with the Premier's home and his office on Tuesday morning about the meeting.
- (2) No. The Acting Premier informs me he has been in regular telephone contact direct with Cr John Guilfoyle to discuss this matter.
- (3) No.