

# Legislative Council

Wednesday, 21 December 1983

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

## ELECTORAL

### *Country Areas: Petition*

On motions by the Hon. Tom Knight, the following petition bearing the signatures of 46 persons was received, read, and ordered to lie upon the Table of the House—

TO:

The Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

WE, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia:

Being residents and voters of the country and remote areas of Western Australia urge metropolitan residents to reject the proposition now before the Parliament that would allow political representation of country areas to be diminished and which would cause all political power to be concentrated in the city.

Assert that the Legislative Council should reject the measures now before it to ensure that metropolitan area political representation does not "swamp" that of the country and remote areas.

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

(See paper No. 624.)

## SHOPPING: TRADING HOURS

### *Extension: Petition*

On motions by the Hon. Neil Oliver, the following petition bearing the signatures of 225 persons was received, read, and ordered to lie upon the Table of the House—

TO:

The Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned shopkeepers, lessees, small business proprietors and employees in the Midland area:

Hereby oppose any extension of current shop trading hours and ask that the Government does not accede to the requests of the multi-national chain stores for trading on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

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

(See paper No. 625.)

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL

### *Assembly's Message*

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date to be fixed by the President.

Question put and passed.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: ORDINARY

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [2.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### *Complimentary Remarks*

It falls to me at this time of the year to make the usual valedictory speech and on this occasion I propose to keep it short.

This session of Parliament has been a very difficult one because a new Government is settling in and that difficulty has been compounded because naturally a new Opposition has also had some difficulties in settling into its position. Despite all that, the House has operated reasonably well under all the circumstances. On some occasions tempers have become a little frayed, but not to the extent that bad friendships have developed. We are a minority Government in this House and we have performed very well.

I particularly want to thank the Hon. Joe Berinson, the Attorney General, for the difficult and arduous task he has had to perform during this session of Parliament because most of those very difficult Bills fell within his portfolio responsibility.

Hon. P. G. Pental: Hear, hear!

Hon. D. K. DARS: Not only did he perform extremely well from the Government point of view, but also he performed with dignity, a great deal of patience and very good humour as members of both the Government and the Opposition would agree.

Mr President, I thank you for your forbearance in the Chair. It has not been an easy task, but you have carried it out with dignity and fairness and to the best of your ability.

Through you, Mr President, I want to convey to the Acting Leader of the Opposition my sincere best wishes together with those of the Government to the Hon. Ian Medcalf, the Leader of the Opposition who, because of ill health, is not with us today. I hope that when this session resumes after the adjournment we will see the Hon. Ian Medcalf sitting over there in extremely good health. I hasten to add that is not to suggest that the Hon. Gordon Masters has not done a reasonably good job during his absence.

I also take this opportunity to express the Government's appreciation to the Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr Laurie Marquet, who this time around, despite his very vast experience, has worked under rather difficult and unusual circumstances from time to time.

Also on behalf of my colleagues I extend my compliments to Les Hoft, the Usher of the Black Rod, Mr Ian Allnutt, the Clerk Assistant, Mr Phil Ugle, Mr Bill Jones, Mr Owen Jones, Mr Kevin Hogg and Mr Brad Williamson.

I also wish to thank all the attendants, Miss June MacKinnon and all the people who together make this Chamber operate successfully.

I thank the upper House members' staff, Miss Judith Fellows, who has recently been joined by Mrs Ruth Olney, who has performed a very sterling task; over the last three or four weeks she has been ably assisted by Miss Ruth Berinson. I thank them for their assistance.

Last but not least, this House pays a great deal of gratitude to the *Hansard* staff who, during my experience in this Parliament, have never previously been called upon to perform under such arduous and long sessions of Parliament. Their skill and forbearance has enabled them to produce the transcript of proceedings in the manner they

have done. I speak for everyone in saying that we are very grateful for their support. I hope they take my comments as a gesture of our support for them and realise that we understand the circumstances under which they have to work. I hope at a later stage today we can meet them in a social atmosphere over a glass of lemonade or perhaps something stronger and we can express our thanks personally.

I thank the gardeners, the drivers, the Controller (Mr Edmondson) and his staff, Mr Willis and his stewards, Mr Hallett and his staff and the other people who make this place run despite the activity of members of Parliament of various political parties. Those people are the institution and make up the function of Parliament.

It is now 2.45 in the afternoon and thankfully not 2.45 a.m. I extend to all members of Parliament assembled here in this House sincere best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Acting Leader of the Opposition) [2.46 p.m.]: I echo the comments of the Leader of the House (the Hon. Des Dars), in wishing all members, their wives and families a happy festive season and a successful New Year. In doing so, I pay tribute to many people who were responsible over recent months for the successful operation of the Legislative Council.

In particular, I want to compliment you, Mr President, on the way you have conducted the affairs of this House and although at times perhaps some of the debates do become a little trying, you, in your unbiased and careful manner, have controlled the House and ensured that debates progress in the proper way.

Hon. P. G. Pental: Hear, hear!

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: It is to your great credit that you have been able to do that successfully at all times.

I congratulate the Chairman of Committees (Hon. David Wordsworth) for the excellent work he did during the session, and the Deputy Chairmen of Committees who fulfilled their commitments very well. We saw a good example of that last night.

Mention has been made of the Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr Laurie Marquet, together with the clerks and attendants. The calls which have been made upon them over recent weeks and months have been extreme and I know they feel the pressure as much as we do. They do not have the opportunity to slip outside for a bit of a break. We have seen the pressure they have been under at all times, particularly the Clerk of the Parlia-

ments. We thank him sincerely for the help and advice he has given us during this session.

Mention has been made of the *Hansard* reporters and I again echo the sentiments of the Leader of the House. I cannot remember a time during my fairly short career in this House when the *Hansard* reporters have been under such immense pressure. They have always remained cheerful, even if a little white and drawn at times and they have done the very best they could do under very difficult circumstances. On behalf of members of this House, I hope that they take to their shoulders our thanks for a job well done. We hope that next year we will make life a little easier for them.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Hear, hear!

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I thank the Hon. Margaret McAleer and all my colleagues very sincerely for the great help and support we have received from them over recent weeks. It has not been easy. We dealt with over 100 Bills put forward by the Government and pressure has been placed on everyone, but there has not been a time in recent weeks when I have not asked one of my members on this side of the House to do a job and they have not performed it very well indeed. They have done an excellent job and consequently my job is made fairly easy with their help.

I have received a note in relation to my comment wishing honourable members and their wives a merry Christmas; I should have mentioned their husbands as well.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: He is one of your constituents.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I repeat my thanks to my own colleagues for the wonderful job they have done and express my appreciation for their help. I know great demands have been placed upon them. As far as our leader is concerned I, perhaps more than anyone else, wish him a speedy return to his duties. I am sure he will do that. I spoke to him today and he is much better and I think he will be fit and well for next year.

Again, our sincere thanks to everyone; to the staff from one end of Parliament House to the other, and to all members a happy and wonderful Christmas and a successful New Year.

HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central) [2.51 p.m.]: As the Leader, deputy leader, whip, backbencher and everything else of the Country Party, I would like to add to the remarks of other members who have spoken on behalf of the Government, the Opposition, and their various parties. At 4.00 a.m. today the last thing I wanted to do was to wish everyone a merry Christmas. I have never hated so many people in my life as when I walked out of

this place. The feeling was rather mutual, because I had blown a kiss across the Chamber to the Hon. Kay Hallahan, who turned her back on it and told me in no uncertain manner that that was no way to make progress in this place. I thought it was rather strange, having dealt with Grace Vaughan in a similar way, and having managed to get through her formidable armour.

Changes occur in this place and life is somewhat different here. But underneath, fundamentally, the little things in life—the sentiments and human values—are still with us. We have a harder veneer and we play the game harder but, at a time like this, we see that same true spirit of goodwill that everybody would wish to see in this day and age. Last night I would have doubted it, but I am sure the festive spirit eventually got through in that debate last night to the two people handling the Bill. I thought at one stage they were going to rush up and kiss each other with glee. That may have taken place when they went outdoors a couple of times.

On a more serious note, I take this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr President, and asking you to convey to your wife and family our sincere best wishes. It does not matter whether we are the Opposition, a central party, or the Government; we all recognise you do a heck of a good job. You have had a lot of strain and your decorum has been "par excellence". To the Leader of the House, I say that he is a very good statesman. I do not agree with his politics and with one of the portfolios he is handling.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I might have a few doubts myself.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: The Leader of the House has worked conscientiously, and both he and his wife deserve a thorough rest over Christmas. I know he has been flying all over the place this week and that he is feeling rather poorly. I will give him some fatherly advice later on so that he can enjoy some red wine over Christmas. I wish the deputy leader of the Government and the other Minister, and all Government backbenchers, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and all the best for the coming season.

To my colleagues on this side, because we are in coalition, I say it has been great working with you. I do not always agree with you. I ask every one of you to extend to your families the sincere best wishes of the Country Party of Western Australia.

Hon. Tom McNeil: What about the National Party?

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Where is he? Oh, there he is! Tom McNeil is like an amputated leg that one day the doctors may be able to sew on so that it may grow again in full flourish. Tom has been working with me and sitting alongside me for years, and I wish him and his family all the best for the coming season.

I also express my best wishes to the staff, the clerks at the Table and the attendants. A certain mate of mine happens to be a very one-eyed Swan Districts supporter, whereas I am a Claremont supporter through and through, and I say to him that I do not want to see a repetition next year of the events of the last two years, because he has an over-confident look about him.

To *Hansard* and the staff who have looked after our every whim, and to our secretaries, particularly my own, I extend my best wishes. If every year turns out as happy as this one has been, it will prove that life is worth living.

HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South) [2.56 p.m.]: I rise rather hesitantly as I did not wish to beat Mr Gayfer to his feet. I forgot how many leaders of other parties were to speak. As Chairman of Committees I thank you, Mr President, for your help in that role, as I do the Clerks of the House and those staff at the Table. It is hard for them to break in a new Chairman, but they have done it most admirably and I thank them for it.

I thank my deputies who have taken on a lot of hard work, particularly the Hon. John Williams, who has always been very keen to take the difficult Bills, especially if I wished to join in a debate. I also thank the Hon. Ian Pratt, the Hon. Robert Hetherington, and the Hon. Lyla Elliott for their co-operation and for the part they have played.

I congratulate the Government on a fine year. It has had a very successful year and a lot of Bills have gone through the House. I thank Opposition members for their help. At times proceedings have been a little trying, but nevertheless one builds up a terrific friendship in this House. I thank the attendants, *Hansard*, and the many others who have helped us. I wish you, Mr President, and everyone here a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and my best wishes for 1984.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths): As is the usual custom I also would like to participate in making one or two comments at this stage of

our session. I would like first to thank the Leader of the House for all the comments he made, and I speak not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of all officers and staff associated with the operations of this Parliament to whom the Leader of the House referred, and who have no opportunity to speak for themselves. In thanking him for those comments, I speak on their behalf as well as my own in saying that we are very appreciative of the good wishes he has extended to us. I also thank the Acting Leader of the Opposition for his comments, and the Hon. H. W. Gayfer and the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth. I thank those members on behalf of all those people for the various comments they have made. I extend to every one of you best wishes for the festive season on behalf of my wife and myself, as well as to all those officers and staff and their families.

I agree with the Leader of the House that it has been a changed year. We have all had thrust upon us pressures of a nature different from those that existed previously. However, on reflection, it is my belief that even though from time to time one or two of us, including me, may have found it necessary to perhaps raise our voices, in the main we can be pretty pleased with the way in which this House has operated during this session.

To all the new members who joined this Chamber for the first time at the beginning of this session I extend the hope that each and every one of them feels some satisfaction at the parts they have played in their various roles.

I would particularly like to say something to the Clerks and the Clerks' staff for the tolerance that they have continued to show towards me. The Deputy President and Chairman of Committees has indicated he was appreciative of their efforts to break him in. I know that the Clerks have just about conceded that they are not going to break me in; however, they will probably continue to try. I appreciate their efforts. I certainly appreciate their advice from time to time. I do not always take it, but I know it is extended to me with the best of intentions.

In conclusion, I extend to each and every one of you and your loved ones best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 1984.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.02 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### MINING

#### *Exploration: Landsat D*

811. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Mines representing the Minister for Regional Development.

- (1) Is it a fact that the latest satellite, Landsat D, cannot be utilised by Western Australian exploration companies because the Federal Government has failed to build the ground station requirements needed at Alice Springs?
- (2) Has this meant that the satellite is turned off when it could be utilised for the benefit of WA?
- (3) What is the expected cost of the station and what is the reason that has been given to the State for the project not going ahead?
- (4) Would research in this State be advanced by being able to utilise this latest satellite, and in what directions?
- (5) Has the Premier or Minister made representation to the Federal Government on the need to keep up with the latest technology?
- (6) Is it a fact that Zaire and Jordan have both recently built facilities to receive Landsat D messages?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (6) The information sought is not readily available. The Minister will pursue the matter and reply in writing to the member as soon as possible.

### LAND: NATIONAL PARK

#### *Fitzgerald River: Biosphere Reserve*

812. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for the Environment.

- (1) Is the Fitzgerald River National Park one of the two designated international biosphere reserves?

- (2) If so, which is the other?
- (3) What is the significance?
- (4) What are the benefits?
- (5) Who declared this and when?
- (6) Does such declaration now give the Federal Government an opportunity to become involved in, and make final decisions of management?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes, in Western Australia; there are 12 international biosphere reserves in Australia.
- (2) Prince Regent River nature reserve, Kimberley.
- (3) and (4) A biosphere reserve is one that has a representative suite of natural plants and animals, and can include areas modified by human activity and managed for the enjoyment of man.

It should allow for the conservation of a diversity of plants and animals, and safeguard the genetic diversity. In this regard, biosphere reserves are areas devoted to scientific research and education in the service of man. It provides a standard against which can be measured the effects of man's impact on his environment.

- (5) Declared a world biosphere reserve on 28 April 1978 through a recommendation of the National Parks Authority and on the nomination of the "Man and the Biosphere" committee of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO.
- (6) No. Legal and management responsibility rests with the National Parks Authority and the State of Western Australia.