

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 23 November 1983

The SPEAKER (Mr Harman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion without notice by Mr Bryce (Minister for Economic Development and Technology), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Minister for Economic Development and Technology) [2.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, this Bill is of great significance to the development of this State, its people, and its economy. Specifically it is of significance to the development of new industry.

It is a Bill that recognises the challenges of the current economic situation, and provides a basis for future developments to meet those challenges.

The Bill recognises that the Government has a significant role to play in enabling the State—both the private and public sectors—to meet the challenges facing us all.

There is little doubt that Western Australia is facing a decade in which major economic and industrial challenges must be met and overcome.

Advances in information technology, the emergence of high technology products, and developments in fields such as biological engineering, and the like, are moving to alter and redefine the way we view our processes of production and the means of distributing goods and services.

Such technological advances are impacting on every aspect of our lives, not just at work, but also at home, in our family and personal lives.

The pervasiveness of these changes is so complete that it is sometimes difficult for people to comprehend just how much things around them have altered.

The changes have also tended to come in waves, breaking in different parts of society in different ways, and at different times.

For example, when computers first emerged as innovations, they were primarily confined to "number crunching" exercises for scientists and Government R and D facilities. The applications moved slowly from the laboratory to specialised

tasks in the field. Then, within 10 years, the whole picture exploded. Breakthroughs in production methods, programming, and marketing, brought computers into offices, factories, homes, schools, universities, and shops.

Yet even this tidal wave of change swept past key industries and groups. Many companies and Governments chose to ignore the trends and kept going with their old technology, "making do"—expending energies on keeping the past alive a little longer. Such organisations and Governments are now paying a high price for such neglect. They are going out of business, or paying a high premium to catch up on events.

This need to catch up or miss out is not a problem which applies only to individual companies and persons; it applies also to whole communities—entire State and national economies.

Western Australia is fast running out of time in this regard. So fast is the rate of technological change that any delay in confronting the challenges and the opportunities will see us sidelined, uncompetitive, and with declining living standards and rising levels of unemployment. The economic future of this State is resting on the ability of the people of this State, and their Government, to take up the issue of technological development.

I am sure there are those in this House who are prepared to sit back, and suggest that the situation is really not so bad; that it will all turn out right in the long run. To those people I say, "Wake up and look around you".

Recent expert and specialist committees of inquiry have undertaken extensive investigations concerning the relationship between Australia's economic growth and its level of technological development.

One of these committees established by the Australian Scientific Industries Association had this to say concerning the relationship—

Current predictions are such that, barring a complete switch in our economic priorities and a commitment to both research and development in both high and new technology, we will be surpassed in per capita income by Singapore by the end of the decade. We have already been surpassed by Iceland.

Australia's current level of research and development expenditure as a ratio of gross domestic product is approximately one per cent. As another report produced by the Australian Academy of Technological Science points out, this is well below the amount spent by other comparable countries. It is less than the ratio of Belgium, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden, and it is less than half the ratio of the

United States of America, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Australia relies heavily on imports of other people's technology. We are amongst the largest net importers of technology in the world. I have mentioned the report by the Australian Academy of Technological Science which points out that—

The trade balance in statistically identifiable areas of high technological products was running at near \$10 of imports for each dollar of exports in the 1981-82 year.

By comparison the United Nations trade year book reveals for the 1980 year, other countries ratio of imports to exports for the same high technology products were much lower.

In fact, countries as diverse as Ireland, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, West Germany, and the USA are large net exporters of technology. Even countries such as Belgium, Canada, France, and Spain manage to keep their technology trade balance below half the Australian figure. The consequences of this neglect of our technological development is one of the key contributing factors to Australia's deteriorating economic performance.

There is a significant difference in attitude of the Governments in these countries to technological development, compared with the attitude in Australia. Without exception they are committed to high technology and growth in those industries, increased co-operation between the public and private sectors and between industry and educational institutions, and improved industrial relations and a positive role by Government to give the economy a sense of direction in technological development.

In the United States, for example, the Government, since 1958, has supported and backed an established organised venture capital market to provide much needed risk capital for new industries. In the United Kingdom, the Government's National Research Development Corporation and the National Enterprises Board support commercially promising high-risk manufacturing ventures. In Canada, the Federal Government's Canadian Development Corporation is the largest shareholder in three of Canada's leading private venture capital companies. Ireland, Japan, Singapore, France, West Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands, and Finland all have active Government involvement in the financial marketplace in order to encourage technological development.

In the area of skills development and education, Australia also has slipped badly compared with its neighbours and major trading partners.

In the 1980 OECD economic survey of Australia, the full-time school enrolments of young people aged 15 to 19 years were identified to stand at only 45 per cent of the age group, and Australia ranked fourteenth of the 23 nations listed, well behind the leading nations—the United States, 74 per cent; Japan, 71 per cent; Switzerland, 70 per cent; and Canada, 65 per cent.

When we consider participation rates in tertiary education, we realise that the proportion of the 17-to-22-year-old age group enrolled in tertiary institutions in Australia is eight per cent which is, I regret to say, about half that of Japan—16.8 per cent—and one-third that of the United States—23.4 per cent. While 60 per cent of the 15-19-year-old age group is in the labour force in this country, comparable figures are 21 per cent in Japan and 18 per cent in the United States.

It should therefore hardly be surprising to members that in a period of rapid technological change and development, youth unemployment is increasing. Without greater access to skills and more enlightened attitudes from all of us, young people will not find work as easily as they might have done 10 or 20 years ago.

Western Australia has a mixed economy. It is a blend of private and public sector activities with a heavy—75 per cent—reliance on the private sector. State Governments have, over the years, supported local companies with direct financial grants, advice, and various forms of assistance. None of these schemes has ever directly addressed general issues of technological development. The previous Government tended to maintain a policy of non-intervention in the marketplace.

As a consequence, there has been a lack of significant, co-ordinated support by the Government for Western Australian industries which may benefit from new technology. Where there has been Government funding and support for new technology in industry, it has invariably been of a minor nature. There has been no clear strategic purpose or planning.

Evidence from abroad indicates that Governments must take a positive and leading role in encouraging high technology if the economy is to reap the rewards from such industries. This is a point I made many times when I was in Opposition in this place. I recall vividly my debates with Sir Charles Court, the former Premier, as far back as 1977, when I argued for the establishment of a special portfolio for technological devel-

opment in the State. I was told then that technology was "everybody's" concern in that Government, so there was no need to have a special responsibility created to look after it.

Technology was clearly so much "everybody's" brief that "nobody" took any real responsibility for it. It fell between the stools of the previous Government. Western Australia lost valuable years of opportunity.

In the last 12 months of the life of the previous Government a token gesture was made. Technology was mentioned in a portfolio sense—a technology review group was established. This was created to improve liaison with the community in matters of technological industry development.

While some work was then done in the areas within the aims and objectives of the technology review group, it is clear that the group operated very much as a part-time organisation. It was never provided with adequate resources with which to systematically or vigorously review and evaluate any of the issues on which it has been asked to advise the Government.

Mr Rushton: Built on what so many other people had done.

Mr BRYCE: In so many years, the work has not been done. Consequently, when we won office we set about attempting to redress the balance, to catch up, to go beyond the limits set by our predecessors in their failure to comprehend the importance of the issues to Western Australia.

Make no mistake, Mr Speaker, great damage has been done already by the neglect of the previous Government. It failed to appreciate how central to the question of our very standard of living is this issue of technological development. We stand at a crossroads in this regard.

I would suggest that we face both internal and external challenges to our ability to continue with what we have come to regard as the good life in Western Australia.

Mr Old: Which you are about to ruin.

Mr BRYCE: The world is rapidly dividing itself into countries which have access to new technology, advanced information systems and knowledge-based industries, and countries which do not. There are fast developing "information rich" societies and "information poor" societies. The "information rich" economies such as Japan and the United States will easily outmanoeuvre

those countries the economies of which continue to rely solely on traditional industries where reliance is placed on natural resources and little attention is paid to other key areas of technological development.

The internal challenges are equally daunting. Technological development generates wealth, and wealth created in this way must be fairly and equitably distributed if the living standards of many Western Australians are not to plummet sharply. Our traditional means of achieving this distribution of the benefits of new technology are already showing themselves to be inadequate. The wages systems, and collective bargaining approach, and the very nature of work itself are under increasing challenges.

Mr MacKinnon: Big brother!

Mr BRYCE: That comes very poorly from somebody who sat in Cabinet, but who not only turned his back on what was happening in Western Australia, but also knew what had happened in the rest of the world. There should be a sense of shame.

We must find new ways and means of addressing these challenges. The old ways are not getting us very far. This Government is determined to take innovative steps to tackle the issues.

To "innovate" means to "make changes by introducing something new". Innovative people, very few of whom would be found in the Country Party, reach out for the future and shape it. This Government is determined to support and promote innovation in all its forms in the area of technological development.

In this regard, Western Australians have always been ready and able to take up innovative approaches. The number of inventors, experimenters, backyard "tinkerers", dedicated technologists, and entrepreneurial businessmen is extremely high. With orbital engines and back-winged keels, Western Australia seems to have more than its fair share of citizens with good ideas and the enthusiasm to carry these ideas into reality.

What then is the role of Government in innovation and change? The Government's aim is as follows—

Firstly, to show the way; leadership in the community; to demonstrate to others by example that the Government has faith and hope in the future of technology in this State.

Secondly, to promote private and Government sector co-operation and consensus; to

establish mechanisms by which the various stakeholders in the State can come together and share their ideas on the future.

Thirdly, planning for the future; to take a strategic view on the longer-term goals or desired outcomes from technology; to take steps to co-ordinate and mobilise resources, and point them in the right direction.

How do we intend to fulfil this role? The Government intends to practise what it has been preaching about innovation and new technology. This proposed legislation is designed to create new, flexible structure for the Government to deal with the issues of technological development.

The structure is also designed to be cost-effective; that is, it relies on participation from the wider community and does not establish a large, traditional departmental system. Such traditional concepts are suited to the administration of well-defined areas such as education and health. However, in the technology development area we are seeking to build "new bottles for new wine"—new mechanisms for dealing with new ideas.

The proposed Technology Development Act 1983 describes or establishes three arms of government—

- (a) the WA technology development authority;
- (b) the WA science, industry, and technology council; and
- (c) the WA technology directorate.

This overall scheme is designed to allow the Government to develop in as many areas as it can, positive and dynamic initiatives.

The authority will be responsible primarily for the creation, establishment, and management of high technology "parks".

The council will be responsible for providing the Government with specialist and expert advice from the wider community on matters associated with science, industry, and technology and their likely impact on the social and economic life of the State.

I expect that a number of standing committees of the council will be established immediately in such areas as State Government purchasing policy, electronic industry, industrial relations, and bio-technology.

The technology directorate is intended to be the Government's research and co-ordination arm in technological development. It will have a vital and creative role to play in areas concerned with the promotion of technology development in the State, and in examining the impact of such development on the State. It will also provide support and back-up for the council.

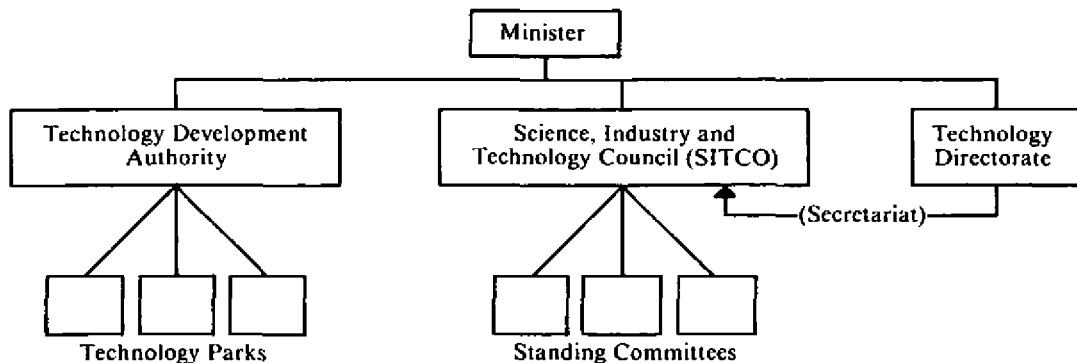
In taking these initiatives, the Government will replace the existing structures—the technology review group and the technology park management board—and establish a more substantial and dynamic set of structures.

Members may be assisted in their overview of the Bill by referring to a schematic diagram of these three agencies of Government, a diagram which shows how they interrelate with each other.

I seek leave to incorporate the diagram in *Hansard*.

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

Diagram: Structures mentioned in Technology Development Act 1983.



Debate Resumed

Mr BRYCE: Members will note from the Bill that the technology development authority is to be an incorporated body, while the science, industry, and technology council and the technology directorate are not to be incorporated.

It is the intention of the Government to "drive" these structures with a comparatively small number of talented people. Innovation is stimulated by good ideas and hard work.

The three arms of the Government's initiative will work closely together. They are joined in several ways—

- (a) through my office as the responsible Minister;
- (b) through shared resources in the case of the council and the directorate;
- (c) by shared membership across all three organisations at the management level—this is particularly the case with the director of the technology directorate; and
- (d) the three arms will also work closely with the Department of Industrial Development and the WA development corporation.

I now turn to the Bill itself.

Part I of the Bill enables the Minister to declare land to be a technology park and thereby declare it reserved for research, development, production, or assembly of science-based products.

The technology development authority is created by part II and is governed by a board of management as outlined in clauses 6 to 11. The main functions of the authority are listed in clauses 12 and 13. These include the control and management of technology parks and related land and buildings, and the provision of services designed to promote the development of technology in the State, ranging from information dissemination to advising and administrative services.

The authority has powers under clause 13 to demand fees and charges for its services, manage the lands it controls, and handle its funds in the normal way.

Clause 14 gives the Minister the power to direct the activities of the authority as required.

The authority will have the services of a general manager under clauses 15 to 19 and such other staff as are necessary. The Public Service Act 1978 will not apply to authority staff, but they may enjoy the benefits of the State superannuation scheme.

Division 4 of part II of the Bill outlines the financial provisions for the authority, and allows

for moneys to be made available from time to time by Parliament. The authority has the power to borrow moneys with the approval of the Treasurer who may guarantee the same.

The Western Australian science, industry, and technology council is established under part III. This will be an advisory group of six to 18 people drawn from many sections of the community.

The role of the council is to advise and report to the Minister on matters relating to science, industry, and technology and to liaise and co-operate with other groups engaged in related pursuits.

Funds for the council will be made available from time to time by Parliament, as outlined in clause 34 of the Bill.

The technology directorate which has already been established has been given a statutory base in part IV. The directorate will advise the Minister on policy and act as secretariat for the council. The directorate has the services of a director and may draw on professional and technical consultants as necessary.

Clause 44 allows for the making of regulations. This is essential for the management of technology parks and allows for the enforcement of established standards and covenants controlling use of the land in accordance with the ethos.

This Bill and the agencies created in it, are the subject of a review in five years as specified in clause 45.

Mr MacKinnon: There is no sunset clause here.

Mr BRYCE: I am sure I will enjoy an exchange of opinions with the member for Murdoch about whose definition is right and what constitutes the best definition of sunset clauses.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I would like to return to the theme of innovation and change in technological development.

I am reminded of the words of a well-known social psychologist, Abraham Maslow, who observed in the early 1970s that—

Life moves far more rapidly now than it ever did before... it seems very obvious to me that this requires a change in our attitude toward the human being, and to his relationship to the world. To put it bluntly, we need a different kind of human being, who is comfortable with change, who enjoys change, who is able to improvise, who is able to face with confidence, strength and courage a situation of which he has absolutely no forewarning.

What Maslow said then has even more relevance today. In order to grapple with science and technology, to overcome the challenges they pose, and

to take up the opportunity they offer, we must encourage people to seek out change—to enjoy the stimulation that comes with dealing in new ideas.

This Bill is designed to facilitate ideas, to encourage people to come forward, and to provide a clear signal to "everybody" that this Government means business.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Peter Jones.

RESERVES BILL AND RESERVES AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion without notice by Mr McIver (Minister for Lands and Surveys), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR McIVER (Avon—Minister for Lands and Surveys) [2.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill now before the House is similar to measures dealing with variation to Class "A" reserves and land held under trust which come before Parliament towards the end of each sitting.

The purpose in presenting the Bill late in the sitting is to ensure that all necessary variations to Class "A" reserves and land held under trust can be embraced in the one Bill.

The Bill contains 53 clauses including one which comprises a schedule of eight separate actions.

The high number of clauses reflects in part the need for additions to Class "A" reserves to be now submitted to Parliament pursuant to amendments to the Land Act 1982. Previously such actions were approved by Executive Council.

The high number is also a consequence of there being only one Reserves Bill this year, due to the single session of Parliament.

Class "A" Reserve No. 1653 near Bridgetown is set apart for "parking" and is unvested. The reserve, however, is not used for "parking" and the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes has requested the "A" classification be changed to "C" with portion of the reserve being used for roadways and the balance being set apart as "parklands" and vested in the shire. A clause seeks the approval of the Parliament to cancellation of the "A" classification.

Class "A" Reserves Nos. 8606 and 9719 at Busselton are set apart for "recreation" and vested in the Shire of Busselton. Because of their

proximity to the ocean foreshore, both reserves have been used extensively for parking, which has created traffic control problems. The Shire of Busselton wishes to rationalise the situation by widening Geographe Bay Road to provide permanent parking bays. To accomplish this, the following actions are proposed—

- (a) cancel Reserves Nos. 8606 and 9719;
- (b) consolidate the subject land located east of Geographe Bay Road into one Class "A" "recreation" reserve vested in the Shire of Busselton; and
- (c) include the remaining portions of the two reserves located west of Geographe Bay Road into road widening and a proposed foreshore "recreation and parklands" reserve with vesting also in the Shire of Busselton.

The shire fully supports the proposals. This clause seeks the approval of the Parliament to cancellation of the two Class "A" reserves.

Perth Modern School, Subiaco, is situated on Class "A" Reserve No. 9338 set apart for "educational" purposes. The Education Department is desirous of amalgamating Reserve No. 9338 with the adjoining "technical school" Reserve No. 8899 for the amended purpose of "school site" and dispensing with the "A" classification. A clause seeks Parliament's approval to cancellation of the "A" classification.

The Shire of Manjimup, which holds vesting orders for Class "A" Reserve No. 17672 "protection of flora (king jarrah)" and Class "A" Reserve No. 23630 "national park", has asked the Forests Department to take over management and vesting of the reserves in an effort to prevent illegal dumping of rubbish. The Forests Department has agreed to the request and both the National Parks Authority and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife have no objection to the proposal.

In order to effect the change and improve management, it is proposed to cancel the Class "A" status of the two reserves, amalgamate both reserves into a consolidated "parklands and recreation" reserve, and vest this reserve in the Conservator of Forests. A clause seeks Parliament's approval to cancellation of the Class "A" status of both reserves.

In 1976, the Environmental Protection Authority in its "Red Book" report recommended creation of a south coast national park stretching from Augusta to Nornalup Inlet. The Government approved implementation of the report and the western part was declared in 1980.

The name D'Entrecasteaux National Park was chosen. The eastern part, however, did not proceed at that time because of a number of difficulties.

In 1982, the Environmental Protection Authority recommended full implementation of the 1976 report including addition to the park of the following Class "A" reserves—

- (a) Reserve No. 20167 "camping and recreation" controlled by the Shire of Manjimup;
- (b) unvested Reserve No. 30523 "conservation of flora and fauna"; and
- (c) unvested Reserve No. 24158 "camping and water".

The former Government approved the recommendation. The Shire of Manjimup and the National Parks Authority support the proposal.

In order to implement the recommendation, it will be necessary to cancel all three reserves with the intention that the subject land be consolidated and reserved again as a Class "A" reserve for "national park and water" with vesting in the National Parks Authority. A clause seeks Parliament's approval of such action.

It is proposed to cancel the disused and unvested "gravel" Reserve No. 10433 and amalgamate the subject land with adjoining Class "A" Reserve No. 4561, set apart for "parklands" and vested in the Town of Armadale. The council has agreed to the proposal.

The approval of Parliament is, however, required to include land in the Class "A" reserve. A clause seeks the Parliament's approval.

In an effort to reduce access to North Swanbourne Beach, particularly by vehicular traffic, the City of Nedlands arranged closure of the northern unmade portion of Marine Parade with the intention that the land be included in adjoining Class "A" Reserve No. 27250 "recreation" vested in the city.

Council was concerned that, with increasing numbers of people using the beach, fragile sand dunes in the area would be further damaged leading to a complete breakdown in the dune system. As there was insufficient time to have the matter dealt with by Parliament during 1982, a separate "recreation" Reserve No. 38190 was created.

In order to rationalise the situation, it is now proposed to combine both reserves into a single Class "A" "recreation" reserve vested in the City of Nedlands. This will necessitate cancellation of Reserve No. 38190 and inclusion of the subject land in the Class "A" reserve. A clause seeks the Parliament's approval to such action.

The National Parks Authority wishes to establish a resident ranger in Watheroo National Park—Class "A" Reserve No. 24491 set apart for "national park" and vested in the National Parks Authority of Western Australia. As no suitable site exists within the park, the authority proposes to build a ranger's headquarters on adjoining Reserve No. 27871, set apart for "conservation of flora and fauna" and vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority.

The authority has accordingly requested that Reserve No. 27871 be included in the national park. Both the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Shire of Dandaragan agree with the proposal. In order to effect the inclusion, it will be necessary to cancel Reserve No. 27871 and include the subject land in Reserve No. 24491. A clause seeks the Parliament's approval to amendment of the Class "A" reserve.

In December 1982, the former Government approved a number of recommendations designed to rationalise the purpose, vesting, and management of several islands in the Dampier Archipelago. All but one action can be effected by the normal Executive Council procedures.

The proposal to include "recreation" Reserve No. 36912 located on Rosemary Island in "conservation of flora and fauna" Reserve No. 36915 will require the approval of the Parliament as Reserve No. 36915 is Class "A". A clause seeks that approval.

Class "A" Reserve No. 3293 at East Perth is set apart for "Perth Mint" and is vested in the Director of the Perth Mint. In order to accommodate proposed extensions, adjoining freehold land was acquired by the Mint in 1981 with the intention that it be added to the Class "A" reserve per medium of the 1982 Reserves Bill.

Due to legal problems the matter could not be dealt with during 1982 and in order to prevent delays in building, a separate Class "A" Reserve No. 38421 comprising the former freehold land was created.

It is now proposed to consolidate both Class "A" reserves into one "Perth Mint" reserve. This will require cancellation of Reserve No. 38421 and inclusion of the subject land in Reserve No. 3293.

A clause seeks Parliament's approval to the changes to both Class "A" reserves.

Class "A" Reserve No. 15677 near Nornalup is set apart for "protection of flora—red flowering gum" and is unvested. The reserve is important for both conservation and landscape aesthetics. However, due to limited management, the reserve

has been damaged by fire and is visited regularly by unauthorised seed collectors.

To overcome the problem, it is proposed to cancel Reserve No. 15677 and include the subject land in the adjoining Walpole-Nornalup National Park—Class "A" Reserve No. 31362. The National Parks Authority, the Environmental Protection Authority, and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife all support the proposal. A clause seeks Parliament's approval to cancellation and amalgamation of the two Class "A" reserves.

Clauses 17 to 39 contain proposals to increase the size of the Class "A" reserves listed. These proposals vary from inclusion of vacant Crown land and closed roads to provide or improve management, to a proposal to include two areas of former freehold land specifically acquired to rationalise the boundaries of the Porongurup National Park. All proposals have the support of the controlling or vesting authority concerned.

Class "A" Reserve No. 1668 is set apart for recreation and vested in the City of Nedlands with power to lease. The council wishes to utilise the unoccupied Dalkeith ladies' bowling clubhouse situated on portion of the reserve for occasional child care and community use. The proposed use, however, is not compatible with the reserve purpose, so council has requested the clubhouse be excised from the reserve, set apart as a separate reserve for "hallsite (community purposes)" and vested in the City of Nedlands with power to lease.

A clause seeks Parliament's approval to effect the excision from the Class "A" reserve.

Class "A" Reserve No. 8431 surrounding Prevelly townsite is set apart for "protection and preservation of caves and flora and for health and pleasure resort" and is unvested. In 1978, portion of the reserve was excised for a "church site".

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, however, refused to issue a building permit and the proposed Greek orthodox memorial chapel was subsequently built on freehold land in Prevelly. The "church site" reserve was cancelled and the subject land reincluded in Reserve No. 8431.

The church trustees now wish to extend the amenities adjacent to the chapel, but have insufficient land. Accordingly they have requested excision of a small area of Reserve No. 8431 which adjoins the chapel.

As portion of Reserve No. 8431 had been made available previously to the church, but was not used, both the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River support the proposal.

A clause seeks Parliament's approval to excision of the land required from the Class "A" reserve.

Mr Rushton: Are we going to have maps showing all this?

Mr McIVER: Clauses 42 to 46 seek Parliament's approval to amendment of the purpose of various Class "A" reserves. In each case, the agreement of the controlling or vesting authority has been obtained.

Reserve No. 23234 has excellent potential for recreational development in conjunction with an existing Forests Department development at Rooney's Bridge, Manjimup. Accordingly it is proposed to change the reserve purpose from "stopping place and national park" to "recreation and parklands".

Reserve No. 13289 is an important bird habitat with high conservation value.

Mr Blaikie: That will be interesting.

Mr McIVER: As the present purpose of "water and camping" is unsuitable, a change to "water and conservation of flora and fauna" is proposed.

Reserve No. 17125 is used by passing motorists as a convenient stopping place. Because of its size and remoteness, its present purpose of "national park" is inappropriate and a change to "parklands" is proposed.

In order to prevent development of home units on Reserve No. 22624 and preserve the reserve's public amenity, the Shire of Busselton requested the reserve purpose be changed to "parklands and recreation".

As part of an ongoing programme to rationalise the purpose of reserves under the control of or vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has requested the purpose of each reserve listed in the schedule to clause 46 be changed to "conservation of flora and fauna".

Such a change will afford maximum protection for each reserve pursuant to the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act while at the same time allowing standardisation of management procedures.

Class "A" Reserve No. 8428 south of Yallingup is set apart for "national park" and vested in the National Parks Authority of Western Australia.

The adjoining freehold owner has cleared part of the reserve and in an effort to rationalise the situation proposes a land exchange whereby portion of his freehold land is exchanged for portion of the reserve.

Although actions of unauthorised clearing are not usually accepted as the basis for land dealings, the National Parks Authority and the Department of Conservation and Environment have agreed to the exchange as acquisition of the freehold land will provide a continuous link between the balance of Reserve No. 8428 and Class "A" Reserve No. 20171—"National Park"—vested in the National Parks Authority of Western Australia and also allow the amalgamation of both reserves into one consolidated national park.

To effect the exchange and amalgamate both reserves, the approval of Parliament is required. A clause seeks that approval.

Class "A" Reserve No. 13375 situated on the south-western side of the Causeway, East Perth, is set apart for "roads, parks and public recreation" and is vested in the City of Perth.

In an effort to rationalise the reserve boundaries, council has requested that several small portions of Crown land be included in the reserve. These comprise—

- (i) the remaining portion of former "public works (improvement of Swan River)" Reserve No. 7728;
- (ii) the reclaimed channel between former Reserve No. 7728 and the mainland—now vacant Crown land; and
- (iii) the remnant portion of unvested Class "A" Reserve No. 17827 "park and gardens".

Council also requests that the purpose of Reserve No. 13375 be changed to "park, public recreation, and vehicle parking".

The Perth water and Burswood Island foreshores advisory committee supports the proposal. However as two Class "A" reserves are involved, the approval of Parliament is required before the reserve boundaries can be changed.

Accordingly a clause seeks that approval.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr McIVER: Perhaps I should concentrate more on the nudist beach in which everyone has shown interest.

Mr Blaikie: You are doing very well.

Mr McIVER: The Shire of Boyup Brook has requested that Class "A" Reserve No. 5132 set apart for "shire purposes" and vested in the Shire of Boyup Brook be resited so that its north-western boundary adjoins the foreshore reserve along the Blackwood River.

This will involve a land exchange whereby an area of 9 707 square metres is excised from Reserve No. 5132 and granted to the registered pro-

prietors of adjoining freehold land comprising portion of Nelson Location 8440, and an area of 9 705 square metres comprising portion of Location 8440 is added to Reserve No. 5132.

The proprietors of portion of Location 8440 agree to the exchange and both the Town Planning Board and the Office of Titles has approved the survey. A clause seeks Parliament's approval to alteration of the Class "A" reserve boundaries.

A recent boundary survey by the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes revealed that portion of an access track on council controlled "parklands and recreation" Reserve No. 15860 encroaches onto the adjoining "site for bowling club and premises" Reserve No. 26084, held under Crown grant in trust by the Bridgetown Bowling Club, while portion of the bowling club development encroaches onto the recreation reserve.

To remedy the situation, it is proposed to excise portion of the bowling club reserve and include it in the recreation reserve and conversely excise portion of the recreation reserve and include it in the bowling club reserve. A clause seeks Parliament's approval to the adjustments to the Class "A" reserve.

Boulder Town Lot No. 75 is held in fee simple by the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (W.A.) in trust for "ecclesiastical purposes".

The manse constructed on Lot No. 75 is no longer required by the church and approval is sought to dispose of the building. As the land must also be sold, its value will be reimbursed to the State from proceeds of the sale.

Before approval can be given however, the trust over the land must be removed in order that an unencumbered freehold title can be issued to the purchaser. This will necessitate the approval of Parliament and a clause seeks that approval.

The Independent Order of Oddfellow has a widow and orphan fund established in 1939 pursuant to section 12 of the Reserves Act (No. 3) 1939 to provide assistance to aged members and children who are orphans of the society.

The society, however, has few orphan children and consequently the majority of funds is unable to be utilised.

To overcome this, the trustees of the society have requested a legislative change to allow 25 per cent of funds to be used to assist aged members and the remaining 75 per cent to be used for social welfare and community projects.

It is necessary to obtain parliamentary approval to amendments to the 1939 Act. A clause seeks that approval.

Reserve No. 27074 at Maida Vale is set apart for "institutional purposes (slow learning childrens group)" and held in freehold by the Slow Learning Children's Group of WA (Inc.) in trust for that purpose.

Portion of the reserve comprising Swan Location 7561 contains Hawkevale village for intellectually handicapped persons.

In order to finance development of residential housing within the village, the group has requested permission to subdivide and sell portion of Swan Location 7561. This will entail removal of the trust over that portion of the reserve.

It has been agreed to remove the trust from Swan Location 7561 provided that—

- (a) all proceeds from land sales are directed towards institutional activities and not general endowment;
- (b) no further land will be granted to the group for expansion of the Hawkevale village;
- (c) the group agrees to surrender without compensation, portion of the reserve for roadworks and pipeline reserve;
- (d) the trust is retained over the balance of the reserve comprising Swan Location 7562.

Parliament's approval is required for removal of the trust and this clause seeks that approval.

Class "A" Reserve No. 17495 south of Northcliffe is set apart for "camping and recreation" and vested in the Shire of Manjimup with power to lease that portion comprising Nelson Location 12439.

Since 1961, council has issued leases to local fishermen and holiday-makers and today there are in excess of 150 cottages in an area known locally as "Windy Harbour settlement".

The legality of leasing a Class "A" public recreation reserve for permanent occupation by private parties has been questioned.

To regularise the situation, it is proposed to excise Location 12439 from the reserve and set this land apart as a separate Class "A" reserve for "recreation, camping, caravan park, and holiday cottages", vested in the Shire of Manjimup with power to lease. On this basis, the shire has agreed to surrender the vesting of the remaining major part of Reserve No. 17495 for inclusion in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

The purpose of the residual Reserve No. 17495 is to be changed to "national park" with vesting in the National Parks Authority.

A clause seeks Parliament's approval to the proposed changes to this Class "A" reserve.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Blaikie.

RACING RESTRICTION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Parker (Minister for Employment and Administrative Services), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR PARKER (Fremantle—Minister for Employment and Administrative Services) [3.20 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 association or the club in the metropolitan area.

Since 1979, the Western Australian Turf Club has conducted midweek metropolitan meetings, which are now an accepted part of the State's racing calendar; they are popular with owners, trainers, jockeys, and the racing public. The club pays increased subsidies to provincial race clubs when meetings are held in the same week as a midweek metropolitan meeting.

In 1981, the Western Australian Trotting Association developed an overall industry plan in consultation with the Western Australian Country Trotting Association, which resulted in agreement being reached on the following matters—

recognition of country dates and dates available for city meetings;

proposed progressive increase in metropolitan dates;

subsidies to country clubs holding a meeting immediately following a city midweek fixture;

winter subsidies, feature cup races, and classic event subsidies; and

programming and stake money 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 part—

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

- (1) Increase TAB and oncourse 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 WA 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 agreements between the various bodies cannot be reached.

In most respects, the Bill now before the House provides authority to the Minister as envisaged by the Honorary Royal Commission.

The Minister will be required to approve all racing and trotting calendars in advance.

The present machinery of negotiation by the Western Australian Turf Club and the Western Australian Trotting Association with country and provincial clubs, prior to the promulgation of the racing and trotting calendars, will continue as in the past. However, the Minister will be required to approve the racing and trotting calendars, before they can be implemented.

This action has been taken by the Government to ensure that a reasonable balance between metropolitan and country racing is achieved. 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 control over metropolitan and country racing and trotting fixtures which control has not existed in the past.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

STATE FORESTS

Revocation of Dedication: Motion

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Minister for Forests)[3.23 p.m.]: I move—

That the proposal for the partial revocation of State forests Nos. 4, 26, 28, 38, 41, 59 and 51 laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly by command of His Excellency the Governor on the twenty-fifth day of October, 1983 be carried out.

Members will note that the proposed excisions amount to about 2 101 hectares. Three areas totalling 145 hectares are in exchange for equal areas of private property.

This amounts to a reduction of 1 956 hectares attributable mainly to the proposed excision of 1 713 hectares, located approximately 30 kilometres south-east of Northcliffe townsite, for inclusion in a planned extension of the south coast national park.

It is desirable to draw to members' attention the fact that dedications as additions to State forests in 1982-83 amounted to 1 292 hectares while 227 hectares were revoked, resulting in a net gain of 1 065 hectares.

I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Blaikie.

BILLS (7): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. General Insurance Brokers and Agents Amendment Bill.
2. Exotic Stock Diseases (Eradication Fund) Amendment Bill.
3. Liquor Amendment Bill.
4. Acts Amendment (Trade Promotion Lotteries) Bill.
5. Parks and Reserves Amendment Bill.
6. Friendly Societies Amendment Bill.
7. Shipping and Pilotage Amendment Bill.

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills—

1. Technology Development Bill.
2. Western Australian Development Corporation Bill.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TRIPARTITE LABOUR CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Parker (Minister for Employment and Administrative Services), read a first time.

Second Reading

MR PARKER (Fremantle—Minister for Employment and Administrative Services)[3.27 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill is cited as the Western Australian Labour Consultative Tripartite Council Bill 1983 and has been formulated by, and has the approval of, the following bodies—

- the Confederation of Western Australian Industry;
- the Australian Mines and Metals Association;
- the Trades and Labor Council; and
- the Western Australian Government Industrial Relations Service.

The foundation of this tripartite council has its origin in a green paper on industrial relations developed by the Australian Labor Party which was distributed for a period of some 12 months before the election in March 1983. The document was circulated to all major employer organisations, to unions, to academics, and to all interested members of the community.

The purpose of the legislation is to fulfil the Government's policy commitment to establish tripartite consultation in the area of industrial relations. The policy, contained in the Australian Labor Party's platform, states explicitly—

Once in power Labor will establish a permanent tripartite council which will consider and report to the Government and, if necessary, the Parliament, on legislative priorities, reforms and administrative steps necessary to improve industrial relations in Western Australia.

While having its own views and electoral obligations, a Labor Government will, nonetheless, adhere to the consultative process and seek consensus.

Employers and unions will be expected to do the same.

When an agreement is reached immediate steps will be taken to implement it. If, despite exhaustive effort, there is disagreement in whole or in part and resort to independent inquiry is not appropriate, a report of each or-

ganisation's position and views shall be made to Parliament.

Labor does not in any way resile from its fundamental responsibility to the electorate. However, it recognises that business and unions are important elements in the social and industrial process. Progressive and stable Government requires that they must be treated as such.

While expecting each group to be self-reliant, the tripartite council will establish a framework for information exchange and research between Government, the social partners, and tertiary institutions.

Labor will, however, assist particular research projects approved by the tripartite council which are of key importance to Western Australia.

In support of that policy, an interim tripartite council has been established, and to date has worked successfully at formulating initiatives to the following important pieces of industrial relations legislation—

- the Industrial Arbitration Act;
- occupational health, safety, and welfare legislation; and
- Workers' Compensation and Assistance Act.

The Government has purposely provided this piece of legislation with the express intent of ensuring that the Parliament has the opportunity to objectively assess the views of each member of the tripartite council in relation to important legislation pertaining to industrial relations. The representation on the tripartite committee has been increased by the addition of the Perth Chamber of Commerce (Inc.).

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Barnett) in the Chair; Mr Parker (Minister for Employment and Administrative Services) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title—

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Leader of the Opposition).

PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and on motion by Mr Parker (Minister for Employment and Administrative Services), read a first time.

Second Reading

MR PARKER (Fremantle—Minister for Employment and Administrative Services) [3.33 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is introduced to clarify the position in relation to the observance of the celebration day for the anniversary of the birthday of the reigning sovereign or, as it is more commonly known, the Queen's birthday holiday.

The second schedule to the Public and Bank Holidays Act provides for the holiday to be observed on the second Monday in October. The second schedule is amended to enable the Queen's birthday to be appointed annually by proclamation. It is intended that the proclamation of the date for the Queen's birthday for the whole of the State will be made at least 12 months prior to that date.

The intention is to use the Royal Show day as the basis for global proclamation and permit local authorities other than those in an area appropriately defined with respect to the Perth Royal Show to request an alternative day with respect to the locations, towns, or cities in their jurisdiction. The purpose of not stating that the Queen's birthday will be celebrated during the Royal Show week is to allow for the holiday to be celebrated on different days for various specified areas and locations of the State instead of the day specified in the State-wide proclamation.

A new provision allows local authorities to request a substitution of their local show day for the date specified in the State-wide proclamation. These variations must be published in the *Government Gazette* at least three weeks before the date specified in the State-wide proclamation.

A Cabinet decision taken in 1981 resulted in the holiday being celebrated on the first Monday of the Perth Royal Show. As a consequence of that decision the Public Service regulations were amended in 1981 to effectively remove the Public Service holiday in the Royal Show week, and at the same time the bank holiday previously granted to bank employees for the Perth Royal Show was abolished.

As the position now stands, it is necessary to proclaim the holiday each year to coincide with

the show, bearing in mind that the first Monday on which the Royal Show is to be held will be on 3 October 1983; 1 October 1984; 30 September 1985; 29 September 1986; and 5 October 1987.

The variation in the date shown in the second schedule—that is, the second Monday in October—to the actual celebration pursuant to the Cabinet decision, has led to confusion and misunderstandings. Manufacturers of diaries and calendars and many organisations rely on the present wording of the second schedule as a firm guide in identifying the actual day of the holiday.

The Bill is designed to provide greater flexibility in applying a designated holiday to meet the requirements of specified areas and locations.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Barnett) in the Chair; Mr Parker (Minister for Employment and Administrative Services), in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title and citation—

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Leader of the Opposition).

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Amendments

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Barnett) in the Chair; Mr Brian Burke (Premier) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows—

No. 1.

Clause 6, page 2, after the word "amended" in line 29—Delete all the words and substitute the following words—

in subsection (7) by repealing the proviso and substituting a new proviso as follows—

Provided that the State Government Insurance Office shall not be entitled to the services of any Government officer or department unless a full and appropriate charge is made in all respects on a commensurate basis with the charge which would be made to other insurers trading in Western Australia for the like services by persons engaged in providing such services.

No. 2.

Clause 7, page 3, lines 25 to 30—Delete the subsection and substitute the following subsection—

(4) The State Government Insurance Office may manage and administer self insurance arrangements on behalf of Departments, Authorities or instrumentalities of the Government, including the arrangement, when prudent, of re-insurance of risks arising therefrom (which re-insurance shall be open to competitive bids within the insurance industry and shall not be directed preferentially to the State Government Insurance Office), and such self insurance arrangements shall be conducted within the Government Insurance Fund, but where Departments, Authorities, or instrumentalities of the Government propose to take out or renew insurance other than through the Government Insurance Fund, such insurance business shall be open and available for competitive bids without being preferentially directed to the State Government Insurance Office. Where Departments, Authorities, or instrumentalities take or renew insurance other than through the Government Insurance Fund and such insurance is placed with the State Government Insurance Office, brokerage shall be payable by the State Government Insurance Office on a normal commercial basis.

No. 3.

Clause 7, page 3, lines 31 to 36—Delete the proposed subsection (5).

No. 4.

Clause 7, page 4, after line 20—Insert new subsections (9) and (10)—

(9) In relation to the Trading Fund and the Life Insurance Fund as constituted by this section, the State Government Insurance Office shall supply to the Minister such annual accounts and statements as are required to be supplied by a body corporate (incorporated in Australia) pursuant to the provisions of section 44 of the Insurance Act 1973 of the Commonwealth and Division 4, 5 and 6 of Part III of the Life Insurance Act 1945 of the Commonwealth as if it were a body corporate subject to those Acts.

(10) The Minister, within 14 sitting days of receiving the accounts and statements that are to be supplied in accordance with subsection (9) shall present such accounts and statements to both Houses of Parliament to the extent and in the form that comparable information is customarily published in the annual reports of the Insurance Commissioner.

No. 5.

Clause 7, page 4, lines 21 to 29—Delete the proposed subsection 7B and substitute the following—

Payments to Consolidated Revenue and of rates etc. 7B. (1) In lieu of the liability of insurers other than the State Government Insurance Office to pay tax on income or profits under any Act of the Commonwealth, within 6 months after the end of each successive period of 12 months ending on 30 June, beginning with the period ending on 30 June 1984, one-half of the net profits for the period derived by the State Government Insurance Office from all of its business, as certified to by the Auditor General, shall be paid to the Treasurer for payment into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(2) In determining for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section the net profit derived by the State Government Insurance Office from any of its business, losses, if any, that may have accrued in a previous year or years may be carried forward, and—

- (a) any amounts written off the premises of the State Government Insurance Office; and
- (b) any amounts provided for contingencies, bad or doubtful debts, or reserves established pursuant to section 7 (8) (a) of this Act,

are subject to the approval of the Treasurer.

(3) In lieu of the liability of insurers other than the State Government Insurance Office to pay to the Commonwealth sales tax, excise or other taxes or charges, the State Government Insurance Office, on the assessment of the Treasurer and to the extent that it is exempt from making such payments to the Commonwealth, shall pay an equivalent amount to the Treasurer for payment into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(4) Notwithstanding any exemption that may otherwise exist, the State Government Insurance Office shall be liable for and shall pay all local authority rates and charges and all land tax, metropolitan region improvement tax, water rates, payroll tax, stamp duties, and all other taxes, fees and charges of a kind imposed by the Government, its instrumentalities or agencies on other insurers trading in Western Australia.

Committee of Parliament set up to ensure fair competition.

7C. A Committee of Parliament, comprising one member nominated by the Premier, one member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition and one member nominated by the Leader of the National Country Party, shall be set up and shall be charged with the responsibility of supervising the competitive nature of the State Government Insurance Office's continuing operations and activities so as to ensure that the State Government Insurance Office does not receive any improper or unfair advantage or preference over its competitors in the insurance industry. The Committee shall be afforded all proper facilities and opportunities to obtain relevant information in order to carry out its duties and to report to Parliament not less than once every twelve months.

No. 7.

Clause 7, page 4, line 29—Insert the following new section—

Life Insurance Fund constituted under this Act, the State Government Insurance Office shall comply with all solvency and minimum valuation basis requirements imposed by an Act of the Commonwealth Parliament on any person or body carrying on the business of insurance in Australia.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I move—

That amendments Nos. 1 to 5 made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I move—

That amendment No. 6 made by the Council be not agreed to.

Mr O'CONNOR: I would like the Premier to outline the Government's reasons for not agreeing to this amendment, which is the one providing for the establishment of a committee comprising one member nominated by the Premier, one member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, and one member nominated by the Leader of the National Country Party, to supervise the competitive nature of the SGIO's continuing operation.

No. 6.

Clause 7, page 4, after line 29—Insert the following—

This amendment was in line with an undertaking given by the Premier that such a committee would be established to watch the competitive nature of the SGIO when in competition with private enterprise.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: As discussed with the Leader of the Opposition, it is not the Government's intention to resile from its undertaking, but no undertaking was given that a committee would be established and incorporated in the Bill. The advice we have, although the Opposition may not be aware of it or agree with it, is that the incorporation in the Bill of such a committee as structured would make it far less authoritative than it would be were the committee to be a standing committee of the Parliament. The Government does not intend to resile from its undertaking, and it will be moving for the establishment of a committee comprising the Premier or his nominee, the Leader of the Opposition or his nominee, and the Leader of the National Country Party or his nominee. We will ensure that the appropriate motion will include the facilities and the assistance required by the committee to do the job. But the undertaking was not given that provision to establish a committee would be incorporated in this legislation.

Firstly, that would be a rather strange way to handle the matter. Secondly, I am led to believe that the advice received by the Attorney General is that significant doubt exists about the ability of the committee to operate in that fashion, especially as it would appear to lack the authority of a standing committee of the Parliament.

So, we will be moving to establish the committee I have outlined. It is simply not acceptable to the Government that it be written into the legislation.

Mr O'CONNOR: We would prefer to see the establishment of the committee written into the legislation. While the Premier says it would have less authority, it would still have a degree of standing. We have no details of the committee the Premier has outlined.

Mr Brian Burke: The details will be given in the reasons we frame when the Chamber is suspended. We then meet as a Committee of Reasons.

Mr O'CONNOR: In the meantime, the Bill would go through this Committee and we would have no chance to indicate our concern. The Opposition would prefer to see the Council's amendment accepted. If we agree to the Premier's suggestion, we are in some way agreeing to give him an open cheque. We would prefer just to accept the amendment.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Just so that members know what is involved, I would be proposing that we advance from this Chamber, as part of our reasons for not accepting the amendment, the following proposition—

That the Legislative Assembly advises that a motion will be moved by the Hon. the Premier for a standing committee of Parliament, comprising one member nominated by the Premier, one member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, and one member nominated by the Leader of the National Country Party to monitor the competitive nature of the State Government Insurance Office's continuing operations and activities so as to ensure that the State Government Insurance Office does not receive any improper or unfair advantage or preference over its competitors in the insurance industry. The motion establishing the Committee will provide that the Committee shall be afforded all proper facilities and opportunities to obtain relevant information in order to carry out its duties, and that the Committee shall report to Parliament not less than once every twelve months.

Mr MacKinnon: When will you move that?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It depends on the Opposition, but it might not be before the end of the session. It would be a matter of priority. It does require some advice to be received and action by the draftsman. If things go according to what seems to be the agreed timetable, we have about five sitting days left. All I can say is that we are quite serious about this proposition; it is an undertaking and will be moved as soon as we can do so. We will not be rushed or bullied into moving it immediately.

Really, it was an unprecedented concession by the Government to agree to the establishment of this sort of committee. We are agreeing to establish a standing committee that will be given every possible facility. The previous Government would never have agreed to this sort of proposition.

Mr Old: Is it your intention to sit every night for the next five nights?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I hope that will not be necessary. With all due respect, we have provided the Leader of the Opposition with a list of items with which we would like to deal. But to illustrate the problem, I point out that we were told the Loan Bill would be over in five or 10 minutes. However, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has already spoken on it for half an hour and his remarks are to continue today. I have since been

told that another couple of members want to speak to it.

Mr Old: You can't stifle debate.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not want to. I am merely saying that these things happen, so it is difficult sometimes to give a guarantee about the way legislation will proceed in the Chamber.

Mr Old: There is no way we will finish in five sitting days.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I would not be surprised if we go for another couple of weeks.

Mr Old: It is better to keep the staff alive than to kill them off in five days.

Mr Hassell: How many Bills do you want to get through? It is obvious it is not possible to get through all the list.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: As I say, if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is not capable personally of abiding by what appear to be agreements, the Government cannot be blamed for the time taken.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr BRIAN BURKE: If we give an indication of the list of items we want completed and we receive an indication of the likely time involved to deal with those items, but that is not followed, it becomes very difficult to guarantee a programme.

The Committee has been provided with detailed information on the reasons for our opposing the amendment.

Mr STEPHENS: I understand the feeling behind this amendment and the need to ensure fair competition exists. One thing I cannot understand in the suggestion just put forward by the Premier that he was quite prepared to move for a Standing Committee comprising one member nominated by the Premier, one by the Leader of the Opposition, and one by the Leader of the National Country Party, is that he has completely ignored the existence of the National Party.

Mr Old: I might nominate you, you never know.

Mr STEPHENS: I do not know, by the member's standards.

Mr Old: It is highly unlikely.

Mr Brian Burke: The undertaking was given in the Chamber when you were present. You have had more consideration from this Government than you ever received from the previous Government, so it is simply not good enough for you to stand up like that.

Mr STEPHENS: I am not questioning the consideration that has been given—I accept it has been given—but I am making the point in this instance that the Government is setting up a com-

mittee, in effect, comprising two members of the Liberal Party and completely ignoring the National Party.

Mr Clarko: What do you mean by "in effect"?

Mr STEPHENS: I am sorry the Leader of the National Country Party has seen fit to walk out of the Chamber. Perhaps he was afraid of what I might say.

Mr O'Connor: He had a deputation arranged. I thought you at least would understand this.

Mr STEPHENS: I am not privy to his plans.

Mr O'Connor: But you are making allegations without justification.

Mr STEPHENS: There was no justification for his walking out. The Leader of the Opposition has now explained the reason.

Mr Clarko: You can't get away with making snide remarks about him.

Mr STEPHENS: I am not making snide remarks; I am making factual statements.

Mr Clarko: You said it was the equivalent of having two Liberal people on the committee and that is like my saying the Government and two Labor people.

Mr STEPHENS: No, because the honourable member would be saying something which is completely incorrect when I would be speaking very close to the truth.

Mr Clarko: The only reason for you're being close to the truth is because you are standing up.

Mr STEPHENS: Only yesterday a member of the Liberal Party said there is not much good in dealing with the Country Party because it is only the rural wing of the National Country Party.

Mr O'Connor: It has been said by the ALP that your party is a wing of that.

Mr Clarko: It is as authoritative as what you said a moment ago.

Mr STEPHENS: A very biased and ineffectual group known as the Liberal Party was singularly rejected by the people because they were aware that the Liberal Party was not in touch with reality.

Mr Clarko: You haven't lost touch with reality because you have never been in touch with it.

Mr STEPHENS: If the Liberal Party had been sufficiently bright to take notice of the National Party, it could still be on the Treasury benches. We are hoping that our programme and co-operation and enlightened remarks—

Mr Clarko: You should wear a hat when you go out in the sun; it has got to you.

Mr STEPHENS: I have sufficient hair to cover my head.

Mr Clarko: Again you are blind.

Mr STEPHENS: Mr Chairman, they are trying to digress me.

Mr Clarko: Or is it that you are short-sighted?

The CHAIRMAN: The member need have no fear; I will not allow that to happen.

Mr STEPHENS: The Premier's proposed motion would be enhanced if he would only give consideration to the National Party. Unity appears to be close at hand.

Mr MacKinnon: Unity of whom?

Mr STEPHENS: Unity in the name of the National Party; the so-called two rural parties, look like coming together.

Mr MacKinnon: Is it?

Mr STEPHENS: The motion when moved would achieve more if the National Party was considered.

Mr Clarko: You should wear a hat.

Mr STEPHENS: It is worthy of consideration. I ask the Premier to bear that in mind when he addresses the motion before the Chamber.

Mr MacKINNON: Dealing with the matters raised by the member for Stirling, I assure him that the NCP is an active partner in our coalition; it is not a mere Liberal Party stooge as he would have people believe. I remind him that the undertaking given on 18 October was an undertaking made by the Premier, not an undertaking of the Liberal Party of this House or of the National Country Party.

The only point I wanted to make in relation to the Premier's commitment is not to be ungrateful or ungracious about his making that undertaking, but it seems to me that it is a very simple thing, if the Government is sincere in making those promises and in wanting to undertake it, to draft that motion very quickly. I have spent a lot of time over the last few days reading through the Financial Institutions Duties Bill and I also spent a lot of time last night reading through the Western Australian Development Corporation Bill. If the Government has had all of those pieces of major legislation drafted, hastily, I might add, in the last few weeks, it seems to me that it would be a very easy exercise for the Government to draft a motion appointing the committee within the next few days and presenting it to the Parliament next week so that a parliamentary committee is already in place and under way and we will know how it will work if and when this Bill is proclaimed.

The only things I can think of, if the Government is not prepared to proceed within the next two weeks—if that is as long as Parliament sits—and it does not want to make that undertaking and proceed with that measure or with the SGIO Bill, it is, in fact, opening up the SGIO to too much competition.

My second point, and probably the more likely of the two, is that until recently—and probably even now—the Premier is considering an early election next year. If that is the case, he does not want to have a parliamentary committee hanging around his neck after that election with which he might have to live if he happened—and I do not think he will or would—to win that election.

Mr Bertram: Why wouldn't he win it?

Mr MacKINNON: Unless there is some ulterior motive, the Premier should live up to the undertaking he gave on 18 October and which he has repeated today to proceed with the appointment of that committee of the Parliament this session. If he is prepared to give that commitment, I for one, will go along with what he proposes to do. If he is not prepared to make that commitment I certainly will not support his move to reject this amendment.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I move—

That amendment No. 7 made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Report, etc.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Mr O'Connor (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Bertram, and Mr Brian Burke (Premier) drew up the following reasons for not agreeing to amendment No. 6 made by the Council—

The Legislative Assembly is unable to agree with the amendment because it believes a standing committee of the Parliament is a more appropriate method of supervising the competitive nature of the State Government Insurance Office's continuing operations and activities.

The Legislative Assembly advises that a motion will be moved by the Hon. Premier for a standing committee of Parliament, comprising one member nominated by the Premier, one member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, and one member nominated by the Leader of the National

Country Party to monitor the competitive nature of the State Government Insurance Office's continuing operations and activities so as to ensure that the State Government Insurance Office does not receive any improper or unfair advantage or preference over its competitors in the insurance industry. The motion establishing the Committee will provide that the Committee shall be afforded all proper facilities and opportunities to obtain relevant information in order to carry out its duties, and that the Committee shall report to Parliament not less than once every twelve months.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Premier) [4.04 p.m.]: I move—

That the reasons be adopted.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Leader of the Opposition) [4.05 p.m.]: I indicated that the Opposition would prefer the amendment moved by the Legislative Council. However, the amendment moved by the Premier is second best, and if the Legislative Council agrees to it, then we on this side of the House request the Premier that he endeavours to make sure that this matter comes back to the Parliament as soon as possible, and if possible this session.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Premier) [4.06 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his qualified support and I assure members that we do not have any intention of failing to proceed with the establishment of this committee.

I note the comments of the member for Stirling and will consider that proposition when the matter of the committee is attended to. I will make inquiries and discuss with the Leader of the House the possibility of the motion to establish the committee being moved in the present session. If it is not moved in the present session, that will not in any way denote our unwillingness to establish the committee.

I simply restate that it is an unprecedented concession of any Government to permit the formation of a committee such as this on which are represented a majority of Opposition members and which is charged with the responsibility of guarding against a matter which was raised by the Opposition during debate. I feel that the Government has gone forward to the Opposition in its proposition that the SGIO should be guaranteed to be a competitive creature.

We have gone as far as we have because we hope to extend the terms and the conditions of the operation of the SGIO.

Question put and passed; reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

STAMP AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 17 November.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Leader of the Opposition) [4.07 p.m.]: It would be rather strange if the Opposition opposed this Bill because its intention is to reduce taxation in certain areas. The Bill is designed to remove stamp duty in connection with credit businesses, instalment purchases, and for matters in connection with promissory notes. It provides also for duty on life insurance policies which are issued outside Western Australia. I cannot see this as a problem because most people would take out their insurance within Western Australia.

The moves of the Government to take away duty in certain areas fall in line with the action in New South Wales. However, there is one variation in that New South Wales has dropped the duty on cheques. That is an action with which I would agree for this State because the FID tax imposes a further tax on people's bank transactions. I will not say very much about that matter now because we will receive some benefits with the removal of stamp duty as proposed in this Bill.

We now have the situation where if people are paying money into a bank account, they must pay a tax on that transaction. With the State tax and the Federal tax, three collections of tax are made on every transaction with a bank, building society, or credit society.

I hope the Treasurer will give further consideration, at a later stage, and certainly before the introduction of the next Budget, to adopting the New South Wales Government's action of lowering the FID tax to 3c per \$100 transaction instead of the 5c which will apply in this State.

A high rate of taxation is being imposed on the community and we have to look at some centralisation of these taxes so that people are aware of what they are paying in total. I believe it would be sufficient to pay one tax when making a transaction with a bank, building society, or credit union. To pay a tax three times is fairly cumbersome, and there is no doubt that the rate of the tax will increase in the future.

The Opposition would be looking at ways of getting a tax which has a more centralised operation, although that is not a good word to use in many ways.

Mr Brian Burke: It is all right if it is centralised in Perth.

MR O'CONNOR: Yes, not in Canberra; I was not thinking that way at all. People have to send

out cheques to pay local rates and other bills and those cheques attract a duty; if they pay money into a building society, a duty is imposed. We are spreading our wings so far that we are making it difficult for many people.

This Bill is acceptable to the Opposition. The removal of duty on high interest loans is one for which many people have pressed for a long time. The duty of 1.8 per cent is very high, and as the Treasurer pointed out, it imposes a further burden on individuals who can least afford to pay it. On a loan of \$5 000 the duty is \$90, and on a loan of \$10 000, the duty is \$180. Interest charges are high, usually 20 per cent in this area, so they impose a burden on the individual, and we concur with its removal.

MR COURT (Nedlands) [4.12 p.m.]: The stamp duties being repealed in this Bill cover two areas. The first is the duty on discount securities which brought in \$1.3 million, and the second is the duty in respect of credit business, instalment purchase agreements, and the issuing of discount bills of exchange.

I was hoping to have the answers to questions I put on notice in connection with the amount of duty which will be saved by abolishing these duties. The declared interest rate is currently 17.75 per cent, and interest rates have dropped quite a bit, so very few loans currently would be above that figure. I would be interested to know what income the Treasurer was going to collect in the six months from 30 June to 31 December. I tried to get the answers in the Budget debate, and I hope I will get them today, because I want to see what is left in the Budget item under credit facilities.

Mr Brian Burke: Is that question on the Notice Paper today?

Mr COURT: There are four questions on pages 10 and 11, numbers 2230 to 2233.

Mr Brian Burke: I presume the answers are up; I will try to get them now.

Mr COURT: In his second reading speech, the Treasurer made clear the reason that it was desirable to get rid of stamp duty on discount securities, but I believe he missed a good opportunity to introduce some incentives.

Mr Brian Burke: Can I answer your questions now? You asked whether I had made a formal request to other Treasurers; the answer is "yes". In answer to the second question, the declared rate of interest is 17.75 per cent. In answer to the question about discounting of bills of exchange and promissory notes, no separate statistics are maintained to provide that information.

Mr COURT: That is the reason I want to know how much duty will be saved in that particular area. The Treasurer has said the stamp duty on discount securities brought in \$1.3 million.

Mr Brian Burke: The Estimates showed the figures for the duty we are expecting to collect. The breakdown you are seeking is not the subject of separate statistics.

Mr COURT: It is not available?

Mr Brian Burke: That is the first I have seen of the answer.

Mr COURT: Does the Treasurer follow the point I am making on the 17.75 per cent interest rate?

Mr Brian Burke: Yes I do.

Mr COURT: I should have thought that because interest rates have come down, the Treasury would be collecting very little from that duty for the six months to 31 December. The Treasurer outlined in his second reading speech the advantage of getting rid of stamp duty on discount securities, and I agree with that action. I believe, however, the Treasurer should have taken the initiative to provide incentives for money market activity in this State as the Premier of Queensland is doing. He has not fallen for the higher taxation option by introducing a financial institutions duty. He has gone the other way and cut stamp duty on stock exchange transactions; he is providing incentives for people to carry on business in Queensland. I am told the turnover on the Queensland Stock Exchange is now similar to that of Victoria; that is quite a remarkable turnabout.

It is relevant also, as the Leader of the Opposition said, to ask the reason that stamp duty on cheques has not been cut out. The Treasurer said he wanted a replacement tax for missing out on stamp duty on discount securities and the other stamp duty that is being cut out, but he is raising an extra \$20 million in a full year. Why has he not taken advantage of this situation to cut out stamp duty on cheques? As he knows, it is just another tax that is imposed on the many different stages of transactions in the money process.

I believe the Treasurer has missed a good opportunity to start providing incentives to attract financial money market activity to this State. I do not think the Treasurer really sees the finance industry as one of those service industries which can be a large employer of people.

Most of the comments I want to make will be brought up in the debate on the financial institutions duty because this Bill is complementary to that legislation, and I will leave my further remarks until then.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Treasurer) [4.18 p.m.]: I thank the Opposition for its support of this legislation—qualified support in the case of the second speaker.

Stamp duty on cheques is not the subject of uniform action across the States which have imposed the financial institutions duty, and while New South Wales has seen fit to withdraw stamp duty, other States have not.

Mr O'Connor: You may not be able to answer this; have you any idea what the stamp duty would bring into the State annually?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: No I do not, offhand.

The member for Nedlands referred to the need to provide incentives to get the money market business going; I am informed by Treasury that despite the financial institutions duty being in place in New South Wales and Victoria, no significant drift of business to Queensland has occurred. I am informed that the nature of the tax more or less guarantees no incentive is involved to encourage people to transfer their operations or business activity to Queensland in an effort to evade the tax.

Mr Court: That is not right you know.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I can only say that is the situation as I am advised by the Treasury, which has been monitoring it fairly closely.

Mr Court: That is in connection with New South Wales because it has a territorial provision. That is not the case with Victoria or in the legislation you have introduced.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I can only repeat: The advice the Treasury provides me with is separate and different from the advice the member for Nedlands proffers, and the member for Nedlands will not look askance at me if I decide to accept the Treasury's advice in this matter. We will be monitoring the operation of the financial institutions duty very closely. Most of the things said today rest more properly with debate on that Bill. We will be prepared to make changes which are soon to be necessary as the Bill is transformed into law. If it does become desirable for a change to be made, a change will be made. For the present, we intend to abolish stamp duties referred to in this legislation and retain that duty which is presently imposed on cheques.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Brian Burke (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

LOAN BILL.

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 22 November.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.24 p.m.]: I was addressing the House yesterday in relation to the direction which the Government is taking in the matter of development and its involvement in industry. I was seeking to point out my interpretation of the Government's deliberate policy of seeking to isolate and reduce in the public mind the significance of the developmental policies followed by successive Liberal and National Country Party Governments in years gone by, beginning in the 1950s with the establishment of the Kwinana refinery which provided the bases and the starting point of our modern phase of development. As I said, without repeating the whole of it, I point out that it seems to me that the Government has sought to isolate that period and to reduce its significance in the public mind by criticising it, often inaccurately, for the purpose of distinguishing itself and its policies from what has occurred in the past and for the purpose of creating an image of a new era of development with different policies which the Government claims will be more beneficial to the State than those which have been pursued in the past.

I then went on to say that the pattern is now emerging as to the way in which this Government will operate. I said that the Government has produced a package of measures, decisions, and actions which have indicated that policy direction. I mentioned them briefly.

The extension of the franchise of the State Government Insurance Office is the first example of the Government's determination to involve the Government sector in private industry. There was no call from the public for an extension of that franchise. There was no need for it to occur, and it was simply a wish on the part of the Government to pursue a policy objective which the Labor Party has had for many years.

The Premier did state in introducing that legislation that it partly related to the gathering together and consolidation of capital for use in capital works and other projects in this State. I think there is some truth in that argument, but I do not think it is a justification for the Government's decision to go ahead with that Bill.

The WA Tourism Commission Bill which we debated the other night is my second example. The provisions of that Bill allow the Government through the tourism commission to become directly involved in tourist ventures, not only as a partner of private enterprise, but also as an initiator and as a sole owner. Those examples themselves show how far the Government intends to go with its policies of intervention in the private sector. No industry is more youthful, more vibrant, and more progressive than the tourist industry, and there is no need or justification for making provision for direct Government entrepreneurial activities.

Thirdly, investment in the Argyle project has been debated extensively in the House. That may or may not prove to be a good investment. Whether it is proved to be a good or poor investment, it serves as a startling example of this Government's sharp change of direction and its willingness to take a considerable risk with the taxpayers' money in respect of what I regard as a socialist objective.

The fourth example arises from the Government's desire to become a partner in the operation of a third commercial television channel in Perth, should a licence for such an operation be granted. Surely there is no need or justification for that. Once again we see in this example an apparent willingness—I say apparent because I do not think it has been confirmed officially at this stage—on the part of the Government to invest the taxpayers' funds in a venture which will require no public money to enable it to proceed or to succeed.

The Government's investment in a technological development company provides the fifth example. That investment may be one which is capable of justification in terms of the need to promote that kind of development, but we are yet to debate the issue. Until it has been properly examined, I see it as part of the whole aura of activities of the Government which indicate its philosophy and approach in this area.

There is also the establishment of a development corporation. Yesterday the Bill dealing with that corporation was revealed to us and we saw the very wide powers and objectives included in it. In the development corporation we see the sixth example of a Government determined and prepared to involve itself deeply and directly in business activities which have hitherto been regarded as being part of the essential domain of the private sector.

There are a couple of other examples which indicate the Government's philosophy: They are,

firstly, its desire to replace private school cleaning contractors with day labour people, indicating its wish to become directly involved in what can, should, and has been carried out by the private sector; and, secondly, the attitude of the Minister for Education, representing the Government, to school bus contracts, the desire of that Minister to eliminate from those contracts any element of goodwill, and his assertion that goodwill has no place in that system.

All those eight examples show the pattern and shape of the Government's approach to these issues. They show that the Government is indeed imposing, promoting, and putting into place a whole new direction of development in this State. I suggest that in time to come the Government will not find that that approach is the key to golden success which it hopes for and which the Treasurer suggests it will be.

As I indicated yesterday, I believe the programme of involving the Government in direct participation in a percentage of each resource development will lead to corruption of the system—the system to which we have become accustomed over many years and under which the Government, as an impartial promoter of development of the State, lays down the rules and sets the guidelines, but does not become a player in the game.

The universal reaction which I have received around this town to the Government's new policies of intervention has been for people to say to me, "How can the Government keep the ring honest if it is a player of the game?" That will emerge in time as one of the problems the Government has to face up to in embarking on this type of action and approach. Unfortunately, in doing so, it will do damage to the well-established good name of Western Australia and with successive developments we will see a scrambling and scrabbling on the part of private people to make attractive offers to the Government so that they can receive Government backing for their projects, direct help in some cases, and a ready acceptance of agreements and legislative endorsement in other cases.

The Government has sought to justify this new approach on a number of grounds and it is interesting to analyse those grounds in the statements made by the Treasurer. I refer to what he said in the Budget speech as follows—

... the States could adopt a more aggressive position by undertaking a greater entrepreneurial role to secure their economic and financial independence.

I wonder how much investment the Treasurer believes will be required for Western Australia to secure its economic and financial independence.

The Treasurer regards this option as representing "the untapped radiance of our future development and growth through economic and financial independence". Economic and financial independence will not be achieved.

At page 5 of the Budget speech the Treasurer said—

The new dimension of the State Government's strategy provided for in this Budget is the first important step towards the entrepreneurial role necessary to secure greater economic and financial independence for Western Australia.

That is not likely to occur as a result of the measures the Government has taken.

More interestingly, the Treasurer has also sought to justify the Government's direct involvement in business and resource development in the course of a speech he made which was titled, "Federalism after the Franklin" and which he addressed to the Australian Institute of Political Science in Sydney on 1 October. There the Treasurer characterised the new policy as a "response to the decision in the Franklin dam case in the High Court". He also made similar remarks in this House and in the course of the Budget speech from which I have quoted already.

In his speech titled "Federalism after the Franklin" the Treasurer said—

The alternative strategy for the emerging resource based states is, of course, to adopt a more entrepreneurial role on the part of the State itself.

On page 14 of that speech he said—

State Governments may themselves also see an entrepreneurial role as a means of diversifying their revenue base, and protecting economic surpluses from transfer to a central authority.

None of those objectives will be achieved by the Treasurer's policies. It is of interest to note that the Treasurer has repeatedly referred to the Franklin dam decision as being a motivator for what he has proposed and is now doing. The Treasurer has referred to the dangers inherent in the Franklin dam decision, and yet on 24 June, a statement was issued saying that the Government would not intervene to support this State against the Commonwealth in the Franklin dam decision.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [4.37 p.m.]: I do not wish to give the impression I am trying to compete with Blue Hills, but the matters I shall

deal with have lasted almost as long as that serial. I refer to the saga of Star Swamp, a matter which is very dear to my heart.

In 1975, as I have done for many years, I attended a meeting of the Trigg, North Beach, and Waterman community association. At that meeting I raised a number of problems relating to Star Swamp. Having been a councillor for that area since 1969, on many occasions I had arranged with an officer of the City of Stirling to remove rubbish which was being dropped on that site. On several occasions I also arranged for dirt which had been placed there to be levelled. Presumably that dirt was put there by people who were building swimming pools. Over time, as a result of the levelling of this section of ground which is adjacent to Hope Street, grass grew through the levelled area and it developed into what looked like a small park.

I put it to the community association that it would be highly desirable to establish a permanent flora and fauna reserve there. As a piece of land that belonged to the City of Stirling formed part of the water area of Star Swamp, and as the balance of the land came within a large holding owned by the State Housing Commission, I advised the committee to write to the Hon. Peter Jones who was then the Minister for Conservation and the Environment and also the Minister in charge of the SHC, and request that some of this land be set aside for a flora and fauna reserve.

In fact, the secretary of that association came to my home and I helped him in the drafting of the letter which went to Mr Jones. Also, I took up the matter with Mr Jones myself both by discussions in this building and by letter, strongly urging him to agree to giving up the water area part of Star Swamp. He indicated to me he would agree to that, and subsequently I received a letter from him in answer to my letter in which he indicated that the State Housing Commission was prepared to give up, not 2.5 hectares as I had requested, but four hectares on the condition that the area be treated as part of its public open space contribution.

I am sure most people in this place know that land developers—whether a Government department or otherwise—need to give up 10 per cent of their holdings for public open space. I indicated my total dissatisfaction with the offer. I said it was no offer at all; there was no way the SHC would ever be able to build houses in that area, and a private developer would never be allowed to give away such land in lieu of public open space. As a result the Minister went back to his officers and a letter was received saying that the SHC

would give the four hectares unencumbered or restricted in any way.

At about the same time I wrote to the City of Stirling to urge it to make available the two hectares of land it had in the vicinity. By the beginning of 1976 we had available for the creation of the Star Swamp reserve an area of approximately 6.2 hectares. Over the years, both then and earlier, I had taken other actions to protect this area. Earlier I had opposed attempts to upgrade the zoning of the SHC land to include flats.

I was successful in that action, and later I played a major part in drawing the community's attention to the RDC development proposed for the area. It was a form of development by a private company on behalf of the SHC, and it was to be called, if I recall correctly, Beachwalk. I understand it was to have a mixture of high density levels of accommodation instead of conforming to the zoning that then applied, which meant that roughly three times the number of people originally zoned for would have been able to live on this land.

Mr Peter Jones: It was medium to high density.

Mr CLARKO: It was a mixture of densities. I applaud the member for Narrogin for his contributions in those early days of 1975 and 1976. Without his help the establishment of the reserve would not have got off the ground. If he remembers, I did pester him a little bit in order for that to come about.

In regard to Beachwalk, I went to a local printer and paid out of my own money for a leaflet to be prepared to point out what was about to go before the City of Stirling Council. I distributed the leaflets with my young daughters and a few other people through the area of North Beach and Watermans. The public meeting was successful in persuading the council not to proceed with the rezoning, and from that time on the community association and especially its Star Swamp committee, put forward strongly that the land needed to be set aside was the land between Hope Street, Beach Road, Marmion Avenue and North Beach Road, an area of about 92 hectares. I indicated at that time to the people involved at their regular meetings and also to the public generally that I would continue to press, as I had from the beginning, for more and more land to be set aside for a Star Swamp reserve.

Between 1976, when that first 6.2 hectares was set aside, and 11 February 1980, when Cabinet agreed to 33.2 hectares being set aside, we had gained a significant area in the size of the potential flora and fauna reserve. As anyone can tell, it was an increase from six hectares to 33 hectares.

On 14 August 1980 I wrote to the Hon. Gordon Masters, the then Minister for Conservation and the Environment seeking the setting aside of 45.8 hectares. As a result of my initiatives and interactions with people in the MRP, 11.8 hectares—which we generally termed regional open space but more correctly was named the Charles Riley memorial oval—was set aside.

The naming of that oval was again a planning mistake. The Charles Riley oval was quite some distance from the area in question. If anyone is interested I will give some of the history of North Beach by telling members a story.

Years ago when the people of the area decided they wanted a local sporting oval, they were told the council did not have the money for it. They were told they could have the little section near to which I have referred and which is just to the north of the North Beach Primary School. The local people went to that area Sunday after Sunday cutting down trees and levelling the ground. I understand that every Sunday morning they had a five gallon keg to drink at the end of their labours. However, after many months of labour they were told they were on the wrong site and had to start again.

To return to my point, the land those people originally worked on was adjacent to the area set aside for the future Star Swamp flora and fauna reserve. By 1980, I was being criticised by certain people in the Star Swamp committee that I should be arguing for and supporting only the setting aside of the whole area. I think some people wanted me to commit myself to the setting aside of all that land. Some of them were active members of the local branch of the Labor Party who thought they would be able to say I had failed if I did not achieve that goal.

As a result of that sort of Labor Party electioneering it was in early 1980, just before the State election, that Ron Davies, the then Leader of the Labor Party Opposition was brought out to Star Swamp. He made an unqualified commitment to the local newspaper that if Labor were elected at that early 1980 election, all of the land, the 92 hectares, would be set aside.

At that time—I cannot recall exactly whether it was the end of January or the first week in February—I took a deputation to meet Mr Ray O'Connor, the then Deputy Premier and the Minister for Conservation and the Environment, to discuss this question of Star Swamp. I fought and struggled for the expansion of the area of the future reserve. At a meeting of members of the community association, it was put forward that we needed a scientist to evaluate the claims made

by the association and it was agreed that Professor Main would be an eminently suitable person to undertake a study of this area. Subsequently the Main report, to the great disappointment of members of the association and to my disappointment, came out arguing that there was not a conservation argument which would require the Government to set aside any more land. So we had gone no further in resolving that basic fundamental issue as to whether all of the 90 hectares or only part of it should be set aside for the reserve.

The core of the argument was that there was a fundamental disagreement between scientists in the Department of Conservation and Environment and elsewhere who advised the Government, and the scientists who supported the association. The difference was whether all or some of the area should be set aside.

As I indicated a few moments ago, on 14 August 1980 I wrote to the Hon. Gordon Masters pressing for an area of 45.8 hectares to be set aside. As a comparison I indicate that the Cabinet had previously agreed to the setting aside of 33.2 hectares. Last year I met with Mr Ian Laurance, the then Minister for Conservation and the Environment, and Mr Richard Shalders, the then Minister for Housing. I pressed the case for the setting aside of about 45 hectares.

Mr Terry Burke: They refused.

Mr CLARKO: They did not refuse at all. Whenever I pressed for the setting aside of more land for the Star Swamp reserve, my political opponents and some others in North Beach who have a genuine non-political view of the matter, said to me, in effect, "Not more, but all".

Like clockwork, just before the 1983 election, a public meeting was arranged for 6 February, which, in my opinion, was nothing more than a stunt to promote the local Labor candidates and an attempt to put me on the hook. The meeting was deliberately arranged and the speakers were put in a particular order. The first question was, "Will your party agree to the setting aside of the 90 hectares of land near Star Swamp?" The first person to be asked that question was the Hon. Graham Edwards and he was able to say, as was my political opponent, Grenville Pitts, that he had a statement from Brian Burke which had already been released to the Press—it was published in the *Stirling Times* two days later on Tuesday, 8 February—to the effect that people who thought that Star Swamp could be saved by setting aside only a part of it did not understand its ecosystem. The Labor Party would save the total area. That is what the Hon. Graham Edwards said; that is

what Grenville Pitts said; and that is what was contained in a Press release by the present Premier of Western Australia.

Mr Thompson: That is what the Government has done, isn't it?

Mr CLARKO: No, it certainly has not done that. In addition, during the following few days, a political pamphlet was published. It was headed, "Star Swamp and what Labor would do". It was an explicit statement that Labor would set aside the total area.

Mr Thompson: All of it. Who said that?

Mr CLARKO: It is authorised by a man called Brian Burke.

Mr Thompson: Is he the home building man?

Mr CLARKO: No, he is not Brian Burke the home building man; he is the present Premier of Western Australia and he said that Labor would set aside the total area and that the local Liberal spokesman (Mr Clarko) was not able to make that commitment.

Mr Williams: You would have to be used to those sorts of people now, wouldn't you?

Mr CLARKO: I particularly stress that the Hon. Graham Edwards, in the Charles Riley hall at North Beach, assured everyone that Labor would save the whole area. Furthermore, the Hon. Graham Edwards said that it would be done by February 1984.

The Labor Premier, the Labor Government, and the Hon. Graham Edwards must also share the blame for this dreadful and disgraceful broken promise.

What happened last week was that the Labor Cabinet announced it would make available at some unknown date—not February 1984—an area which is only half the total area. It is about 47 hectares out of the 92 hectares. The Labor Party has spent about five years lying to the people of North Beach and Waterman by saying to them that they would make available the whole area.

That was said by Ron Davies before the 1980 election and it was said by the present Premier just before the last election and the Labor Party has disgracefully, dishonestly, and in a most deceptive way cheated and misled the people. Having argued always that it would make available all the land and that anyone who was in favour of only part of it being made available was not able to understand the matter, the Government has made available only half of the area. What charlatans—another broken promise!

In a sense it is only a small matter and it affects, I guess, only the people who live in my area and also certain conservationists.

Mr Tonkin: Why didn't you do something about it?

Mr CLARKO: These people have been cheated. I have done a great deal about it.

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin: You were a Minister and did nothing about it. You sat on your big fat bottom and did nothing.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: The Labor Party said it would do something by February 1984 and it has done nothing to date. The Labor Party promised to set aside the whole area—

Mrs Beggs: That is an absolute lie.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CLARKO: I have the pamphlets and the newspapers and I would be happy to send them to the lady who interjected and give her the precise statement from the Premier who said, "I will make available the whole of the land".

Mr Tonkin: You should refer to her as "the member", and not "the lady".

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: The Premier said he would make available the whole area. Do not wriggle on the wind.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: I am the person who has been getting the area increased year by year and members opposite are gross hypocrites.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: If members opposite are saying that 47 hectares will be made available now, and that the Premier has in mind to make all of the area available, I would welcome his saying it and so would the people of North Beach and Waterman who have been cheated and misled. They would love the Premier to come out and honour his promise—a promise which was that all the area would be set aside.

Perhaps members opposite have better advice than I. If members opposite are saying that the Government is in the process of moving from 47 hectares to 90 hectares over a period of time, please tell me the time, whether it be one year, three years, or six years. It would be marvellous news for the people of North Beach and Waterman.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Don't you think your constituents will stop and look and say when they read your speech, "That Clarko; what a hypocrite!"?

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: I do not know whether members opposite have seen Star Swamp. However, they can make any political interjections they like because it does not matter to them in any way at all. If they want me to send to them copies of the evidence and the Press statement of this Premier wherein he said that anybody who claims he can save it by making only part of it available does not understand the ecosystem and that the Labor Party would make the whole area available, I will do so. I will send them the pamphlet which is authorised by Brian Burke and they can decide upon the truth.

This particular issue will not go away. It will come back to haunt this Government. As I have said, in some ways it is only a small issue, but it is a very big issue to the people in North Beach.

Mr Tonkin: You thought it was a small issue and did nothing about it.

Mr CLARKO: The Leader of the House is part of the charlatan Cabinet and all he has is a large voice and a very aggressive and rude manner. I suggest that he sits and reflects on the fact that I have the information, the newspapers have the information, and—

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin: You had nine years and did nothing.

Mr CLARKO: My Government never made a promise that it would set aside all of Star Swamp. It never made a promise that it would set aside part of it. I achieved that.

Mr Tonkin: You achieved nothing.

Mr CLARKO: What members opposite—

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin interjected.

Mr CLARKO: The Minister should not scream at me in his verbose, rude, and angry style.

The SPEAKER: I would suggest to the Leader of the House that he ceases to interject and the member for Karrinyup might address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the most verbose of all?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kalgoorlie. On several occasions I have told members in this House that if, when I stand on my feet and call for order, a person interjects immediately afterwards, I might have to get to the stage of naming that member.

Mr CLARKO: I am not at all surprised that members of the Government get angry because it is a normal reaction when a person has been caught out and found with his hand in the cookie jar. That without question is what has happened.

I will remember what the member for Whitford has said. In future, when I make my Press releases I will say that perhaps the people in the area should press the Government to make a statement that in the near future it does intend to honour its promise and not just give half of the land which is a complete contradiction of the years of political chicanery involved in this issue.

Mr Tonkin: You did nothing for nine years. You are a bag of wind.

Mr CLARKO: I may be a bag of wind, but I could equally argue that the Leader of the House is also a bag of wind.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: All the Government has done is to set aside an additional area which is less than half of what has been agreed to.

Mr Tonkin: Nine years and you did nothing.

Mr CLARKO: The Leader of the House sits there like some pompous fool and interjects when the Speaker has just told him not to. He is supposed to be the Leader of the House, but he is the greatest piece of dross in this place.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CLARKO: The Leader of the House spent nine years on this side of the House being rude and bellicose and he has moved to the other side of the House with the same manners.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: It is quite clear that at each election somebody pops up against me and a meeting is arranged. This year it was Grenville Pitts. He became the Sir Galahad of Star Swamp. I wonder whether the man had even contemplated Star Swamp before he was endorsed. I wonder whether, in fact, he had been there. For a brief couple of months, these Labor candidates become interested in Star Swamp.

Similarly, three years earlier when Mr McKenzie was my opponent, he appeared at a meeting or two immediately before the election, and afterwards was never seen again. This is the situation in my area and if the Hon. Graham Edwards had not been elected, he would probably never have been seen again in the vicinity either. However, he has been elected and he has the opportunity to continue to put forward this case. I am sure he will press vigorously and firmly for the

Government to honour its promise. I accept that he was sincere in what he said on 6 February at the Charles Riley hall.

Mr Peter Jones: He has been cheated, too.

Mr CLARKO: Yes, he has been let down. I assume he will not let the Government alone; he will keep at it. I will encourage him and applaud him if he is successful. I will also applaud the member for Whitford if she is able to assist. I am holding my breath with regard to the Whitford nodes and I look forward to that promise being honoured.

Mrs Beggs interjected.

Mr CLARKO: Is the member saying that that promise will not be honoured for a long time? I expect the first step to be taken will be to claim the land which the Government said was worth \$20 million when, in fact, it is worth \$12 million, and can be acquired for \$12 million. The Government can then claim it has saved \$8 million.

I look forward with keen interest, as do the electors of Whitford and Karrinyup, to the Government's honouring the promises made with regard to the setting aside of nodes in the areas of Pinnaroo and Whitford. The Government is no more interested in this problem than we were when in Government, but, as managers of the State's finances, we found it was an expensive project. The reason we did not go ahead was that we had difficulty finding the necessary funds. I look forward to the present Government's being able to find those funds.

I refer to the practices adopted by this Government in winning the 1983 election. The Government went to Whitford and bribed the electors with an offer to purchase the Whitford nodes. However, nothing concrete has come forward as yet. I am not saying that the Government should have taken any action yet, but no doubt it looked into this matter carefully before making the promise to buy the nodes. If the Government has not purchased the nodes before the next election, I will not be the only person to accuse it of breaking promises.

This is similar to the way in which the Government won the seat at Mundaring. Although financial advice had been given to the previous Government that there was no economic justification for setting up a distillery, Opposition candidates—hell-bent on getting into Government—promised to make the money available. That played a major part in the election of the member for Mundaring.

The situation with regard to the nodes at Whitford may have helped the member in the upper House to defeat Bob Pike. This is true of Bunbury as well, where blatant payouts are used

to buy a couple of seats. However, I caution members that two can play at that game.

Mr Bertram: What about the school for which you could not pay?

Mr CLARKO: I do not know about that. However, I doubt whether any State in Australia has school buildings which compare with ours. Even in Canberra, which receives a disproportionate amount of taxpayers' funds, it is hard to equate the building standards of schools with those in Western Australia.

I hope some people will take notice of how these promises have been broken. The issue will not go away, it will remain. It will be interesting to see whether the Labor Party, having made this half offer only, which is diametrically opposed to what it previously said, does anything before the 1986 election.

I think that Government members are cowards and that they will do nothing with the remaining half. The odd comment may be made from time to time that because the area has not been developed, it might be set aside. That is quite contrary to the previous promises. I do not believe development will take place in that remaining half and the Government will continue to play games. Possibly before the next election, a triennial visit will be made to the Karrinyup electorate and Government members will come out with gross falsities with regard to the lovely area of Star Swamp.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balg—Treasurer) [5.10 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch) [5.11 p.m.]: I will make a couple of comments briefly on the third reading of this Bill because I was interested to note that the Treasurer made no response to the points raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Brian Burke: Just settle down. That was because your leader told me there were two more speakers, and they did not materialise.

Mr MacKINNON: I was one of them, but due to a misunderstanding, I did not know who was speaking.

Mr Brian Burke: A total collapse!

Mr MacKINNON: Had the Treasurer wanted to, he could easily have responded on the third reading. Obviously he did not intend to do so, and that is the reason I have taken this opportunity to make comments at this stage.

Yesterday the Treasurer made a statement in response to questions I raised earlier this year in the Parliament—in fact, in October—relating to development contracts and resource development projects. Members would be aware I first asked a question on 13 October, and the response I received at that time was as follows—

A ministerial statement will be made on this matter in due course.

I subsequently asked the same question on 10 November, and I received the same response. It was clear, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition indicated yesterday, that the Treasurer had a plan afoot in relation to that question.

Yesterday, when the Treasurer made his statement, he did so just prior to introducing the Western Australian Development Corporation Bill. We will deal with that legislation in due course; but it will be shown to be one of the poorest pieces of legislation that we have ever seen presented to this House. We should ask why the Treasurer chose to take so long to answer such a simple question. The reason is clear; he chose to make that statement yesterday, in answer to my question, because he was unsure and uncertain about the Western Australian Development Corporation Bill as a policy and whether it would receive acceptance in the community.

Because of his uncertainty, the Treasurer began to discredit the past performance of the coalition parties when we were in Government. He tried to ensure that the criticism will give him the basis on which to justify his new strategy. I for one do not believe that that strategy will be successful. I assure the Treasurer that many successful people in the community are grateful for the policies pursued by our parties when in Government.

I remind the Treasurer who, because of his youth, may be unaware of where we were in this State in the 1950s before the development took place, that we were termed the "Cinderella State"; that we were a claimant State; that we were energy deficient; that we were, by and large, a rural-based community; and that we had a population of approximately 600 000 people. What do we see today after 20 years of almost unbroken conservative Government in the

State? The policies of that Government were denigrated by the Treasurer in his statement yesterday. Now we see a State that provides 20 per cent of the nation's exports; that has an energy surplus; that has opportunities unlimited; that has a broadly-based economy which is becoming more so every day; that has a population of 1.4 million and is the first State of any in Australia to pass the population of another since Federation; that has world prominence in the export of iron ore, alumina, and nickel; that now has gas reserves almost unequalled anywhere in the world; and that has provided the winner of the America's Cup after 132 years and challengers from all over the world.

It could be said that Western Australia has one of the most soundly-based economies in the world. I chose those last words—that Western Australia has one of the most soundly-based economies in the world—from one of the Government's own publications, to which I referred last week. That is a publication entitled, "Perth, Western Australia—strategically located for high technology industry". As I indicated last week, that pamphlet indicates that Western Australia has one of the most soundly-based economies in the world. However, in the Treasurer's previous statements and in his statement to the Parliament yesterday, he had the gall to indicate that we do not have a soundly-based economy. Both he and the Deputy Premier indicated that we have had unbalanced development in the past 10 years or so, and that we face significant problems in our community today as a result. At the very same time, the Treasurer promoted a pamphlet with the earlier statement included in it; and in that pamphlet the Treasurer is dead right. We do have one of the most soundly-based economies in the world.

The Treasurer cannot have it both ways. He cannot make one statement in a pamphlet and then make a statement to the Parliament totally contradicting the sentiments contained in the pamphlet.

I refer briefly to the points made by the Treasurer yesterday. Firstly, he referred to the Oil Refinery Industry (Anglo-Iranian Oil Company Limited) Act. Included in the Treasurer's comments was the following—

We obtained the refinery but the package of concessions was extremely generous. It included freehold title to 1 000 acres of prime industrial land, State dredging of harbour entrances, provision of over 300 houses on State purchased land, construction and maintenance of road, rail, water and power services to the refinery site free of capital cost, and

concessional rates and exemption from all port and harbour dues.

The Treasurer made that statement on 22 November 1983; and I draw the attention of the House to the statement made by the same man on 19 October 1982, a year before, when we were discussing the Budget. At that time, the present Treasurer said—

The fourth point I make is that the Government should be spending much more money on providing growth-provoking infrastructure, such things as coal loaders, railway lines, and industrial estates.

It is very strange that the selfsame man has the hide to criticise a Government that, in the 1950s had the courage to take decisions and to provide the spark that led to industrial development in this State. Such gall has not been seen in this Parliament for many years.

The Treasurer then went on to comment on the Koolyanobbing agreement. At this stage, I might add, the Treasurer mentioned 56 Acts of Parliament confirming agreements in this State, but he could only find three to criticise. He had to go back to 1950 to find one, and we saw how hypocritical that statement was. The next agreement the Treasurer could find to criticise was in 1960, and that related to Koolyanobbing.

The statement by the Treasurer about Koolyanobbing indicates his total ignorance of the real problems. Instead of realising that that agreement lasted for 20 years—I hasten to add that I doubt we will ever see an agreement concluded by this Treasurer that will last for so long and that will be so successful—he was destructive in his criticism rather than constructive.

He did not once mention the problems faced by the iron and steel industries in this country and worldwide as a consequence of technological changes. He did not once mention the great problems confronting the world economy that has seen a net reduction in steel production worldwide over the last three years. He did not once mention that tariffs have led to some of the real problems which have had to be faced by the steel industry in this country. He did not once mention anything about investment incentives that should be extended to the industry to give it a competitive edge. He did not once mention the level of wages paid in this country compared with those paid by our competitors. High wages have played a large part in the problems faced by the industry. The Treasurer showed a lack of understanding of the problems that led to the closure of the Koolyanobbing operation.

Instead, all we got was a political comment, a political stunt, with the Treasurer trying to find a base on which to develop his Western Australian Development Corporation Bill.

Finally, he criticised the North-West Shelf development. Let us note again the Treasurer's comments, which were, "A less massive contract might"—I stress the word "might"—"have got the project moving without encumbering the State with large gas services and a debt profile which will take a great deal of ingenuity to move". Once again we see a difference of approach. We see the Treasurer being critical of a wonderful agreement, of a wonderful project that has world stature, a project that has provided us in this State with opportunities unlimited. Instead of seizing these opportunities, all the Treasurer has to say is that we have problems and that we are really abandoning the work done and trying to decide whether we will buy into those projects or to socialise them. It is obvious we have a clear difference of philosophy in our approaches to these types of projects.

We on this side see the North-West Shelf project as a great opportunity to be exploited by us in Western Australia. We give a firm undertaking that when in Government we will continue as we did previously and not change parliamentary agreement Acts in midstream and not cause uncertainties and doubts for people overseas who might want to invest in this State. We give a commitment to search out and pioneer ways to allow our resources to be used for the benefit of the people of this State. We give an undertaking that our role will not be a participatory one because we, unlike the Deputy Premier, do not believe members of Governments are the best people to make decisions about the future of the marketplace. We believe the private sector has always been and will continue to be much better equipped to handle that sort of decision-making.

We also believe in small Government, and that is an objective we will pursue with vigilance when we are returned to office.

Mr Parker: You didn't follow that policy last time.

Mr MacKINNON: I agree that we did not follow the policy assiduously enough, but when we return to Government, it will be one of our top priorities. If by those words the Minister is trying to say that his Government is pursuing small Government policies, it shows he has not been paying much attention to the amount of legislation passing through this House establishing new Government agencies and extending vastly the tentacles of this Government. What legislation

have we seen before us this session to abolish anything?

Mr Parker: The Western Australian Tourism Commission Bill, to replace the Department of Tourism.

Mr MacKINNON: The Minister must be joking. That Bill involves just a change of name.

I can assure the Government that we are extremely proud of our record on economic development in this State. We are extremely proud and confident of our ability to continue that record in two years' time when we are returned to Government. We will ensure we have an economy in this State based on an extremely strong and active private sector, one without the Government's being a competitor with it, or purchasing parts of it.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balgas—Treasurer) [5.25 p.m.]: Let me put the record straight about the second reading of this Bill. I was informed by the Leader of the Opposition that there would be four speakers on this Bill. On that basis, I left the Chamber only to find that that was not the case and that two of the speakers apparently were speakers on the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Bill that is to follow, so the second reading collapsed. Members would be aware that I returned to the Chamber, but that the vote had been taken by then. In any case, it would not be my choice to respond to the sort of political claptrap the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for Murdoch went on with. Which members in the Chamber seriously want me simply to argue with those members on such a crassly political basis? I am happy to, and if I had to chance my arm and I really stretched myself, I could probably match them in political rhetoric. I am certainly aware of the jockeying for position between the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for Murdoch and I find it quaintly amusing.

Mr Blaikie: What has this to do with the Bill?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It has a fair bit to do with the contributions made by the two members in question. Theirs were political speeches tailor-made for Opposition members pretending to greater things in this place. They were largely made for the benefit of members opposite. It is for members opposite to judge the contributions so that when they go to their party meetings they can vote on the basis of their judgments. Certainly they should not expect me to stand and argue with arrant nonsense like that.

Mr Blaikie: Then sit down.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I will sit down in my own good time now that I am on my feet.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support of the legislation in principle. It is what we would expect because this is the Loan Bill, and traditionally it is not the subject of disagreement, at least in the application of votes in this Chamber.

I can understand the concern outlined by the member for Karrinyup in his contribution. I can understand, too, his ire at the undertakings given by us when in Opposition and subsequently not fulfilled, at least initially following our election to Government. I concede that. We would have been much more comfortable had we been able to reserve the full amount of land involved. But in the same way that the member found it very difficult to persuade his colleagues to reserve the entirety of Star Swamp, for very good reasons I have no doubt related to the financial burden on the State of such a reservation. This Government on cool reflection has decided to reserve quite a significant portion of Star Swamp; in fact, we have reserved all the swamp and a fair portion of the surrounds. Without being politically smart about it, I say to the member for Karrinyup that at least we have taken some steps to reserve a considerable part of the land associated with Star Swamp.

I commend the Bill to members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 5.30 p.m. to 8.20 p.m.

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS AND FALSE ADVERTISEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Tonkin (Minister for Consumer Affairs), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Minister for Consumer Affairs) [8.21 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is to amend the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act and that is the reason, I suppose, it is called the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Amendment Bill. It is the forerunner to a major review of the legislation in this State governing fair trading and trading standards. Work is well advanced on this project for which I anticipate introducing legislation to this Parliament early next year.

The contents of this Bill cannot await the introduction of that legislation which will update

existing law and form the basis of uniform State legislation intended to mirror the consumer protection provisions of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act.

This Bill seeks to rectify what are perceived as serious deficiencies in the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act.

Mr Thompson: I knew there would be a line there somewhere.

Mr TONKIN: These deficiencies were known to the previous Government and yet it did nothing about them. I am reminded of Francis Bacon's comment that, "He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils; for time is the greatest innovator".

The Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act prohibits false or misleading statements concerning the sale of goods, the provision of services, or the sale of interests in land. It is silent when it comes to the question of employment advertising. It is silent when it comes to bait advertising. It is silent when it comes to advertising concerning business activities and, in particular, the profitability or risk of such business opportunity.

No State law protects the public from false, misleading, or deceptive statements of this kind.

Mr Williams: What rot. What about your commissioner's report only the other day when there were four advertisements in the paper to rectify his false statements on consumer protection. That is an absolute disgrace and you are coming up with the same thing now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Clontarf will come to order!

Mr TONKIN: There is no law which prohibits an individual, as distinct from a body corporate, from engaging in such conduct. Only at the Commonwealth level under the Trade Practices Act is this type of advertising prohibited and then only if the advertiser is a corporation.

Here in Western Australia, false and misleading statements concerning unemployment have been rife. Yet the State has been powerless to take steps to control them by prosecution.

The most recent report of the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs tabled in this House only last week exposes the wilful and despicable tactics of some persons who prey on the unemployed.

I cite for the benefit of the House the commissioner's comments concerning an individual, who traded as a sole trader under a multiplicity of business names, and who is referred to by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs in his latest

annual report at page 22. An advertisement cited there states—

... very urgent due to large amount of work. 3 intelligent and energetic young men urgently needed (no experience necessary) for ceramic restoration work to early architecture on contract basis.

top money (own phone and car essential)

A \$400.00 bond refundable after three months is required as new methods and application are to be taught.

phone 3849652 to apply.

The bureau received a number of complaints from people who replied to the advertisement. Complainants said that the "tuition" lasted for about four hours and consisted mainly of a brief journey examining buildings and the reading of library books. One young man who was employed, made the following statement in support of a successful claim in the Western Australian Industrial Commission—

I commenced employment with the respondent on May 2, 1983 as a public relations consultant and on May 16, 1983 I terminated my contract of employment because my employer refused to pay me monies owing to me.

Under my contract of employment I was to be paid a salary of \$280 per week for the supply of not less than 25 appointments per week to my employer. I was required under my contract to pay a \$400 bond.

My employer refuses to pay me salaries and bond owing to me.

Claim

I therefore claim a benefit under my contract of service—

	\$
1 week's salary.....	280.00
refund of bond	400.00
	<hr/>
	680.00

It is nothing less than a public scandal that this man should be permitted to continue to advertise with impunity.

The commissioner also condemns the activities of Norman Ian Cheetham and Jennifer Ann McCoy who are involved in the operations of Modern Style Home Improvements and currently East West Promotions in this field.

The Bill therefore proposes, in line with section 53b of the Trade Practices Act, a prohibition on false or misleading statements relating to employ-

ment. The definition of employment is sufficiently wide to include not only the conventional employer-employee relationship, but also engagements on a commission or selling contract basis, or as an independent contractor or distributor.

One further point which indicated the inadequacy of State law was the Commonwealth prosecution of Bridgewater Importers Pty. Ltd. under the Trade Practices Act whereas the State was powerless to act.

Mr Williams: How many more people are you going to name and defame?

Mr TONKIN: The Government will not tolerate the young unemployed sector of the community being preyed upon by the activities of such persons. This Bill will be a means to put a stop to such exploitation. As well, in these difficult economic times, the prospects of being self-employed or the purchase of a business activity has been considered by many people. Many are lured by the expectations of profits to be made from purchasing a business franchise or business activity.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has in the past received numerous complaints about the activities of some persons who have advertised the sale of courier franchises with indications of substantial profits to be made from such a purchase.

One example of this practice emerged in 1981 relating to the sale of a courier franchise by Destination Express. At the time, the then Minister for Consumer Affairs, and now the Leader of the Opposition, indicated that an investigation would be undertaken in relation to what additional legislation was required in this area. Nothing was forthcoming.

This Bill, therefore, contains a provision to prohibit publishing false or misleading statements with respect to the profitability or risk or other material aspects of business activities which may be carried on, at, or from a person's place of residence, and prohibits persons' inviting participation in business activities which require investment of moneys from making false representations as to the profitability or risk or other material aspects of the business activity. This would extend to the misleading claims of Jojoba International Pty. Ltd. referred to in the annual report of the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs in 1982 and tabled by the then Minister, Mr Shalders. In this report, the comments of the commissioner are most apt.

The commissioner's report at page 44 referred to advertisements promoting investment in Jojoba International and took the view that the claims relating to profitability of the concern were false and misleading and ought be regarded as being

without foundation. Such claims were not capable of prosecution under the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act.

The absence of State legislative control on this form of advertising or invitation merely serves to demonstrate the lack of concern the previous Government had for the small businessman enticed into parting with hard-earned money with the false prospect of good returns. The failure of such enterprises has only caused heartache to people who can ill afford it. That must be stopped.

The provisions contained in this Bill are consistent with section 59 of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act which applies such prohibitions or conditions only to corporations.

The Bill also contains a provision consistent with section 56 of the Trade Practices Act and section 29A of the New South Wales Consumer Protection Act which prohibits bait advertising. The Commonwealth provision is limited to the conduct of corporations.

The Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act does not specifically encompass bait advertising, a practice adversely commented on by the Commission for Consumer Affairs on many occasions.

Bait advertising, simply explained, is the practice of advertising goods at special prices without the intention to offer goods for sale at this price for a reasonable period of time having regard to the market, and in quantities which are reasonable.

In addition, the Bill encompasses clauses which update the provisions of the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act in the prosecution of the media; and also updates the defences to prosecution. Such defences are consistent with the Trade Practices Act and are in the same form. This is essential if the primary offences are to be the same. It is only proper that a defence to the Commonwealth offence should also be a defence under State law. These provisions are consistent with section 85 of the Trade Practices Act.

The Act provides substantial penalties for contravention. A maximum penalty of \$5 000 is imposed, which is consistent with the current penalty of \$5 000 under section 8 of the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act. This will extend to directors of companies unless they are able to establish a lack of involvement in the commission of the offence or if they have acted with due diligence to prevent the offence.

Other evidentiary and ancillary provisions are inserted in this Bill.

Much of the contents of this Bill is mirroring the existing law of the Trade Practices Act, as it applies to corporations. It is, therefore, not new law which is being enacted with which businesses must comply. It merely extends the ambit to the individual or partnership not caught by the Trade Practices Act and provides the same sanctions and obligations on the individual.

It is ludicrous that there should be one law for the corporation and another or none for the individual or partnership. That anomaly is overcome by this Bill, which, while fulfilling an urgent need to plug glaring loopholes at State level, also in these areas brings a consistency of approach to this field of law.

It is, therefore, with much pleasure that I commend this Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Thompson.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

LIBRARY BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 8 November.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [9.07 p.m.]: The Opposition does not object to this Bill. My understanding of it, as was the explanation by the Minister, is that the provisions of the Act are not quite clear on the filling of casual vacancies on the board. Although the Minister has not said so out of politeness, I understand that the Minister previously responsible for the board abused the lack of clarity in the provisions by appointing people to casual vacancies not only for the remainder of the terms of the vacant positions, but also for an additional term. Such action is somewhat unusual, and it is quite right that the provisions be made clear.

I ask the Minister, however, to clarify his position, because I trust that he will not make the provisions retrospective and that he will maintain the present appointees to the board. If he does not make his position clear, he will cause a degree of insecurity in the board. I say this irrespective of the fact that one of the people appointed was the wife of a mutual friend of the Minister and myself.

The second provision will make the legality of the regulations clear concerning the libraries under the control of the Library Board. This move will be beneficial, and it will clarify the position that was meant to be in place all the time.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Minister for the Arts) [9.10 p.m.]: I thank the member for his contribution and his acceptance of the Bill on behalf of the Opposition. I assure him there is no intention to apply this Bill retrospectively. The appointments made by the previous Minister, which the member clearly identified, will not be upset by me.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Davies (Minister for the Arts), and transmitted to the Council.

MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 8 November.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [9.12 p.m.]: It is a fairly difficult task for me to represent the Opposition's view on this measure. It could be said I am one of those who can be affected by the Bill. To take that thought a little further, it could be said that I should disqualify myself from discussing this Bill because I have a personal interest in it. However, my experience on both sides of the fence might add a little to the consideration of this question.

I will not criticise the Minister. I have respect for him, and I think he introduced the Bill with the conviction that it is in the interests of certain people as well as of the community at large. My personal reaction, I am sorry to say, is that the Bill is unnecessary. It is just a lot of words and will create yet another QANGO. To some extent the Bill represents political point scoring, and is meant to be a vote catcher, but it is superfluous.

I am not opposed to the basic idea of assisting selected groups of people who want and need this help. There is no opposition to the help and the assistance embodied in this Bill for people who need it—perhaps, more importantly, for people who want it. I have no doubt about the Minister's sincerity. As I said, he wishes to render this help, but I do think he could do it in a much better and infinitely cheaper way and without creating unfavourable controversies simply with his department engaging voluntary workers.

When I speak about voluntary work, I am thinking of organisations such as the Good Neighbour Council which was a tremendously good organisation, and even the Salvation Army which, in certain cases, renders enormous help and has the apparatus and experience to do so without the creation of any additional machinery. However, I shall try to enlarge on the whole subject and give some constructive thoughts.

The Opposition does not oppose the Bill. I suppose one can say that it is the product of democracy as we are conditioned to perceive democracy just as are the tourism commission, the Western Australian development corporation, and the small business development corporation—which will be followed by the South-East Asian corporation and many other superfluous agencies. Before the election, every side of the political spectrum wracked its brains to think what it could promise to the electorate. New services were dreamt up which would inevitably lead to higher taxes. Unfortunately, that is one of the syndromes of our system of democracy; more and more QANGOs are added to the existing ones, and more and more expenditure occurs.

If we look at this matter from that point of view, we note that this particular exercise was very well-done with the help and assistance of the media; an environment has been created with good preparation, nice packaging, and a thorough promotion.

So, a certain sympathy, albeit not a unanimous sympathy, already surrounds this legislation. Indeed, it becomes something of a motherhood type of idea. So, no matter how superfluous I or the Opposition considers this legislation to be, if I oppose it I would be called a cynic, a knocker, or heartless.

So, without opposing the Bill or criticising the Minister, I will make my observations about how difficult it is to help in this confined way in this legislation. Help is being offered in a qualified and defined way. It would be more effective and less offensive assistance if it were offered in a loose, undefined, unqualified way, with a few officers, and the help of the department and voluntary people.

The Bill vaguely aims to assist, and, of course, the question is: Whom is it to assist? I think we all have an idea of whom we want to assist, but it is tremendously difficult to define the individual or the group which should be assisted. I suppose one endeavour is to help people or groups which are disliked or discriminated against because they are different. What makes them different? How can we define the difference? I know that two

parts of the Bill—the one dealing with the objects of the legislation itself and the one dealing with the functions of the committee to be established—use four distinctive descriptions and use them in a mix of three at a time. It is really like shuffling cards. The four descriptions are: origin, language, tradition, and culture. I question whether these are the right definitions for an individual or a group?

Let us examine them one by one. I suppose we all have different origins to some extent, but then of course it depends how far one goes back. If one is religious, one can go back to the time of Adam and Eve and say we have the same origin. If one is not religious, one can use the Darwin theory to go back far enough to an organism as the commencement of evolution.

But then, with the same origin, I suppose we could have different traditions. Again, the question, "How can tradition be expressed in a pragmatic way?", is asked. Is it education, is it the interest expressed by individuals, is it habits, is it clothing, or is it a manner of speech? It is fairly difficult to put a definition into words, but then we all might feel something about tradition. There could be differences of tradition within the same group of people, and there could be differences in the same town, and differences between the tradition of people living in the same street.

If we group together as individuals, we can think about the sort of expressions which form part of the definition of culture. What is it in today's society? How much culture is expressed by people living in a suburb? Occasionally we go to folk dances, to performances, or to view various exhibitions of art, and we talk about the different cultures exhibited. That is a point which is very important from the point of view of trying to define those people, individuals, or groups who need assistance.

The fourth expression used is language. I think that is almost the only real distinction, although not so much the language itself, but rather the pronunciation used or the accent of the user. If I had to suggest some definition of difference, I would say that it would be in the way people speak and the way people pronounce the words of a language.

Another important difference is how we look. In some cases people who come from Africa, Asia, or a defined part of the Mediterranean are included in this definition of difference. Of course, that could include Aborigines, because I can find nothing upon a legal reading of this Bill which would exclude the Aborigines; they would come under the same definition. They have a dif-

ferent language, a different culture, different traditions, and, to a certain point, a different origin.

So, we arrive at the fact that language is really the only difference, and the proper definition of people who should receive assistance and help under the auspices of this legislation are perhaps the first generation migrants of non-British stock who have a different mother tongue. Perhaps they are those people who came here at an age which did not enable them to pick up the same pronunciation that Australian or English people use, and, therefore, they will always be able to be distinguished from other people.

Through the last 30 to 40 years, this very same group of people have been called all sorts of different names. They have been called newcomers, new Australians, migrants, and today they are called members of an ethnic group. I can remember 35 years ago when an old Italian was standing at the Fremantle wharf to meet some people arriving on the boat, as they did at that time. He listened to the speeches of the various officials and he said to his mate, "I have been here for 30 years now; and whereas these new arrivals are called a new Australian, they call me still a 'dirty dago'." This shows that the difference is very difficult to define and, of course, although it is in the Statute, it is not quite definite, it does not include the point that assistance should be rendered only to those who really want it.

Another problem is to assist in eliminating discrimination. I submit in all honesty and sincerity that when one tries to statutorily eliminate discrimination, the opposite is achieved. Once it is in legislation, it is open to legal interpretation and time, energy, and even money will be spent on interpretation, enforcement, and finding loopholes.

This is the reason I make no secret of my opposition to anything like the Bill of Rights, because there is no group of people who have an involved system built in to their heritage as do the British people. As soon as they start to codify or define discrimination, they achieve exactly the opposite.

Some people may have experienced the unfortunate situation in America where it is in the Statutes. If someone collapses on the street, the situation is that no doctor will come and help him because the doctor may be endangering himself if he does not render the assistance he legally should have rendered. I can give many examples—it is a rather unfortunate situation.

I believe in Western Australia and in Australia—allowing, of course, for exemptions to strengthen the rule as we all know—one should

beware of such legislation which, of course, tends to be divisive rather than to achieve cohesiveness.

I think the migration problem has been solved best in Australia, of all the countries in the world which have taken in migrants in the last few decades, particularly since the last war. It was the best solution, because it was unrestricted and there was no compulsion one way or an other. Everyone was left to do what he wanted to do.

If people wanted to combine and exert their nationalities, and maintain their traditions, customs, and language, they were allowed to do so. If they did not want to do that—and some migrants can be identified from various regions who did not want to do so, perhaps the Dutch—they went on their merry way and assimilated quickly.

Codified legislative assistance could be seen by many as patronising. Even in my definition, when I talk about the first generation of non-British migrants with an accent like mine, some are discriminated against, but not all of them are underdogs. The majority do not feel like underdogs and they do not want to be created as underdogs. Many do not want to be regarded as different; they do not feel different. They wanted to succeed and they have succeeded in assimilating. They do not want to be grouped and called "ethnics" or whatever. They can have an interest in their own culture and in the country of their birth but they do not want to do that under a patronising sort of coverage.

It is sometimes very difficult to explain how one feels about this. I will tell members a story of something that happened about 14 years ago when I was in Vienna and I was asked to address the Austrian-Australian Society. It was not a difficult task; I talked about the history of Australia and customs here, having then already spent nearly 20 years in this country. When I finished my talk someone asked a question and said, "You are one of us, you talk our language". I do not have an accent in German because I learned it as a kid; it was one of my mother tongues. He went on, "You went to university here and are a member of an Australian Parliament; how do you feel? Where is your loyalty?"

The question struck me at first and I said, "Take the example of a young man who grows up in an ordinary family, studies, and reaches 24 years of age and marries. Where is his loyalty? It is obviously with his new wife and family to be. That does not mean he has to relinquish his parents and cannot go home and keep the best relationship with his parents". I enjoy going to the Australian Club once or twice a year and to the Hungarian dinner dance once a year; I am always

invited. The club to which I belong and where I can mostly be found cannot in the wildest imagination be described as ethnic but is a very local and very conservative institution.

I do not like the emphasis in this Bill and generally on a multicultural society. I know all political parties use that expression; everybody uses it because there is an advantage in doing so. But once we state that we are a multicultural society and that Australia is a multicultural community, we might as well ask the next logical question: Should it remain so? For how long should it be a multicultural society? Should it not rather absorb the many cultures, traditions, and origins of the migrants, and retain the original heritage of the majority who first came here? I cannot see anything wrong in having an ancestry, and I am more embarrassed than are some members who are third or fourth generation Australians from British stock when they talk almost with shame about Britain.

People want to dismiss the flag and the national anthem, and I am the one who is ashamed when they do so because I cannot see anything but juvenile thinking and immaturity in not being proud of and wanting to stand by one's ancestry. One ought to be proud of it.

Mr Bryce: Would you seriously apply that logic to the Canadian people?

Mr MENSAROS: The Canadian people did that; I do not think they necessarily did the right thing. What is wrong with saying that one comes from British stock? Are the British such bad people? I do not think so; Britain is one of the most magnificent nations in the world.

Mr Bryce: You would not suggest the Canadian nation was juvenile because it reached the stage where it felt that, although it was proud of its heritage, it had reached maturity. It had grown up and could stand on its own two feet, and was proud to do so?

Mr MENSAROS: I do not know whether they have necessarily reached maturity as a nation. If the Minister wants to make comparisons—and I do not want to philosophise—and if one compares the British and the Chinese peoples, I think the Chinese are much more advanced and refined. I think they are superior as people, I am sad to say.

If people say everything about their heritage should be disregarded and then go to the races and bet on horses with pedigrees, one can ask the reason that they do that. The answer is because the pedigreed horses are better horses. Where is the logic in their thinking? I feel embarrassed for them, and I say what I have said tonight.

It is somewhat dangerous to talk about a multicultural society, to stop there, and not say what is going to happen next. Every society, no matter how unilateral it appears, has absorbed various cultures. The British, Germans, and French have absorbed cultures, whether through amalgamation, migration, or occupation; they have become a more unified society. It is something we should not forget. It will only create problems which do not exist today if we overemphasise our multicultural society for generations to come.

The same applies to calling it a bilingual society. The expression is wrong anyway because ours is by no means a two-language society; a large number of languages are used in Australia. Of course it is all right to learn a second or third language in order to educate oneself but I do not think we ought to create either a bilingual or a trilingual society. Is it any better than in Canada where one has to read in French and English, South Africa where one uses Afrikaans and English, or Belgium where French and Flemish is used?

We would only be manufacturing and buying trouble which does not exist today. We should feel happy and lucky that English has become the world language in the last three decades. It was not so between the two wars. Now without any doubt it has become the world language. Some members might recall the debate in India after the war as to which should be its official language—whether it should be Tamil or anything else—and the people settled on English. If one goes to the Parliament in New Delhi one hears every member speak English. A member has a right to speak in his own language, but if he did so only three or four members would understand him, so he uses English no matter how badly, in order that all members understand. That is a merit and not a disadvantage.

Another important question for both individuals and groups is how do we reach an equal and non-discriminatory situation among those people themselves. The Bill talks in the plural of ethnic groups or multicultural groups. Surely we have to go beyond the approach of 30 to 40 years ago that people are either Australian or they are foreigners. I assure members there might be a much greater difference between the so-called ethnic groups and within one of the ethnic groups than there is between those groups and an equivalently placed Australian from the point of view of origin, tradition, culture, and language. Much greater differences exist sometimes in those groups.

One has to look only at the Yugoslavs; there are seven different ethnic groups in that country, different languages, religions, and different forms of writing. Many people do not know that. They use Cyrillic and Roman, and some people, such as the Muslims in the south of the country use Arabic. The difference between those people whom we dismiss in one word as "Yugoslavs" can be much greater than the difference between a Serb or Croat and an Australian.

Social levels make a difference and that has nothing to do with being ethnic. If we consider a village in Croatia, we realise that a person could be on an entirely different social level—a fact which is not emphasised so much in Australia—than his neighbour 20 metres away, and they will never be able to properly match each other in the same grouping.

I turn now to the implementation of the Bill. I have already said that the Opposition feels it is an unnecessary new qango. I cannot help remembering very vividly the occasion on which the member for Victoria Park brought in a list of the so-called qangos the Brand Government was supposed to have created. His speech and his criticism was very impressive, but how far have we advanced since then under any Government? I do not think we have advanced very much. It is not difficult to predict that this commission will become an octopus which will proliferate in due course. One has only to look at some other States where this has been done.

One of my colleagues made inquiries in South Australia and was told that in the hospitals in which a similar commission operates, the interpreting services increased from no cases to 1 500 a month. This is a typical example of creating an office which in turn creates work for itself. How will the Minister start to implement the Bill? I am tremendously sorry for him because for instance clause 6(2) says that the commission shall be representative. That is simply impossible.

The Minister said there are about 100 ethnic groups, and there will be 10 commissioners. Maybe the implementation of the newly-born philosophy of the Australian Labor Party of one-man-one-vote would solve the problem, because then the composition of the commission will be very simple; it will be composed of four Italians, four Greeks, two Aborigines, and no-one else. The other 97 ethnic groups will not be represented. Without going into the statistics, that would be roughly the representation if all votes were equal in the so-called ethnic groups. The largest groups are the Greeks and Italians; but I suppose the Aborigines could have even greater numbers. That might not help the Minister; but it would be

impossible to solve the problem. Instead of receiving thanks, he will receive apprehension and complaints. I honestly feel sorry for him in relation to that.

The Minister did a magnificent job. He approached every group but perhaps, as is always the case, when we talk about referenda, the main problem is the framing of the question. If anybody had framed the question to these ethnic groups or to the public, for that matter, as "Do you want to have a commission and pay more tax?", what would have been the answer? However, I think the decision would have been the proper one—that is, in the negative.

Let me be positive. I have pointed out the pitfalls, the dangers, the built-in shortcomings in the Bill; but let us look at it in a practical sense. Let us consider what is needed by way of assistance, and what can be done.

There is no doubt that, for very recent newcomers, an interpreting service, advice on legal matters, advice on employment and self-employment opportunities, are of tremendous help.

The first man I met in Perth when I came to Western Australia was the father of the Premier and the member for Perth. He gave me tremendous advice as the member for Perth in the Federal Parliament. I was sent to him, perhaps, by a religious organisation. Although I did not have occasion to see him frequently, we remained friends after that. I point out that members of Parliament have a role to play. They ought to do their job in this regard.

Voluntary organisations were of assistance at the time when I came here. They were the Good Neighbour Council and the Salvation Army. Many other people, including local government organisations, can assist. Of course, such services should be restricted to the people who need them and want them.

There is a special problem with trade and professional associations. This is not directed against migrants; unfortunately, it is directed against anyone who is outside and is not allowed to come in. I saw this sort of thing whenever legislation came up dealing with the registration of occupations, whether they were street sweepers, builders, or whatever. It is human greed and human selfishness that operates in that situation. The associations do not want registration; they want to keep other people out. The people who notice this the most are the recent arrivals in the country. Help should be given to them. Help can be given more properly if we move away from the system of registering occupations under the pretence of protecting the public. They can be protected much

easier in many cases by giving opportunities to the people coming in.

On many occasions when professional people have come to Australia—medical doctors, for instance—they have to undergo vigorous tests and examinations. A doctor may have received his diploma, say, from the Sorbonne—an institution which is attended by many English doctors who do their postgraduate studies in Europe, on the continent—but a diploma from the Sorbonne is not acknowledged, although the holder of a diploma from Birmingham, or anywhere else in the United Kingdom, is.

Let us deal with the question of drivers' licences. If I am going overseas, I go to the Royal Automobile Club. I show my licence, and I am given a licence which is accepted in almost every country for a year. However, when migrants come here they can use their old licences, I understand, for three months only. After 91 days, they must take an examination. For those who do not have a command of the language, it is difficult to learn the rules in 90 days. There could be a tremendous amount of practical help, and something should be done to change these rules. It would be better if they did not have to do a written examination or an oral examination where a knowledge of English is more important than the skill in driving and recognising the signs which, even in Western Australia now, are international signs. The signs have very little writing on them, but they have figures and symbols.

The teaching of English is commendable, but I would not emphasise it just because we are supposed to be a multilingual society. Rather we should be concerned for the education of Australian youngsters. They have more and more opportunities to go overseas where they could utilise another language.

Another practical problem is that of the aged. Some aged people have not picked up the language. Many of them have no families, they feel alone, and they ought to be assisted in ways which are not patronising.

The Opposition regards the legislation as superfluous. It is a lot of words and a lot of window-dressing. It is a vote catching measure.

The genuine aim of the legislation, with limitations, is commendable, and we accept that. However, the aim could be better achieved without legislation. Officers of the Minister's department could encourage voluntary help—and there would be plenty of it.

We should strive for a homogeneous society, absorbing the various cultures into the main

British one, and not emphasising the multicultural aspect of Australia for ever.

Much practical assistance can be given to migrants; and we should guard against human greed, and prejudice, and calling it discrimination.

I trust that I have reflected properly the views of the Opposition. I have a fairly difficult task because I am involved; but at least I can assure the House that I have been absolutely frank and devoid of any hypocrisy, or at least as much as is humanly possible.

MR TERRY BURKE (Perth) [9.54 p.m.]: Although I realise the member for Floreat has indicated his general support for this legislation, I find most surprising his cynicism and his attempts to rationalise his position. In fact, I suggest he is probably the only ethnic politician in Australia who supports a homogeneous society.

It is difficult to believe that, 34 years ago, the member for Floreat arrived in Australia as a refugee from Hungary, without a knowledge of the language. He must have suffered considerable cultural shock, and yet he spent the last 45 minutes endeavouring to deny the fact that he is one of the six million Australians who are either migrant born or who have at least one parent born overseas.

I am proud of the fact—and I have often voiced it—that in representing the electorate of Perth I represent the largest and most diverse ethnic community in Western Australia. I am proud of the fact, too, that I succeeded a man who, very early in his career, and when it was not as popular as it is today, took on the role of reuniting families who came here immediately postwar and making life easier for them.

I was pleased to hear the member for Floreat indicating that he was one of the migrants who was helped in those days. In fact, a large part of the support that my brother and I derive from the ethnic communities today is owed to the work that my father did in making it easier for migrants, many of whom were refugees, during that period. At least half of those people had no knowledge of the English language. At that time, services were practically non-existent and, as I have indicated, it was not as popular to be closely involved with migrants as it is today.

My father's early involvement was a motivating factor in the continuing efforts of my brother and me on behalf of migrants whose special problems are real. It is interesting to me, and I am certain it is to most members on both sides of the Parliament, that the member for Floreat should suggest that this Bill is a political exercise. It is not. In

fact, it has been part of the Labor Party's platform for at least the last three elections. It is a genuine effort to meet needs and to provide equal access to all Australians.

I have been associated from very early in my political career with Labor's efforts to establish a multicultural platform so we can provide equal access to all Australians; and I pay tribute to many good people from both sides of the political spectrum who have had this interest, over the last nine years at least, since both political parties at least at the Federal level did away with the monocultural proposal for Australian society; but the member for Floreat, as I have indicated, is probably the only ethnic member of Parliament in Australia who still adheres to the earlier policy.

This is part of our effort to provide for the six million Australians who were either born overseas or who have at least one parent who was born overseas. At least half of them were born postwar and are non-British.

I believe this is the most important piece of legislation introduced in this Parliament to date—

Mr Clarko: Is it more important than the smoking Bill? The Minister for Health had said the smoking Bill is the most important.

Mr TERRY BURKE: No, this Bill definitely is although, of course, I support most strongly the smoking Bill as well. I support this Bill, not only for its historical significance, but more importantly because it touches so many lives and so many facets of our society. At least it gives credence to the fact that we have a multicultural society; and it gives all Australians an equal opportunity to derive the benefits of and have an equal share in the rights of that society.

In the Minister's second reading speech, he detailed proposals for a multicultural and ethnic affairs commission, for which the member for Floreat wanted to volunteer. Except for the commissioner, the commission will be made up of volunteers; and so the volunteers will make up seven-eighths of the commission. The proposal for the commission is to meet the special needs of migrants and ethnic community groups, to facilitate the rights of migrants, and to ensure that all Australians have access to and benefit from the resources and the opportunities that the diversity of lifestyles and cultures has contributed to this State.

I would like to trace the development of our multicultural society through its short but interesting history, to comment on the difficult birth that prejudice and difficult economic circumstances forced on this legislation, and to ex-

press a hope for the future of our society and our nation.

As we are all aware, the loss of the American colonies prompted the settlement of Australia in 1788 as a convict settlement for England. The first group of 11 free immigrants arrived in 1793. Between then and 1829, when Western Australia was first established, 14 000 free immigrants settled in Australia, including 3 000 in Western Australia. Between 1788 and 1850, the total number of people who arrived in Australia was just over 330 000, of whom 187 000 were free immigrants and 146 000 were convicts.

Migration in the latter part of the nineteenth century was largely influenced by changing economic conditions in Europe, and particularly Ireland, and by the discovery of gold in Australia. The discovery of the precious metal was largely responsible for a population growth from 405 400 in 1850 to 1 145 600 in 1860. In fact, Western Australia was the only State that was not significantly affected by the gold rushes of the 1850s. Out of the 700 000-odd people who migrated to Australia during that period, only 5 000 came to Western Australia. The gold rushes heralded three decades of economic expansion for Australia, adding 741 000 to our population between 1861 and 1890. This free flow of migrants ground to a halt in 1891 as a result of economic recession. In fact, in 1892-93 and 1898-1900, Australia lost population, although there continued to be considerable inter-colonial movement, particularly to Western Australia after 1894 with the discovery of gold here. Extensive immigration from overseas was not revived until 1909.

In the twentieth century, there have been extensive oscillations in the migratory movement as the result of wars and economic depression. I will give members an indication now of the net immigration intake from 1901 to 1940 for Australia as a whole and for Western Australia particularly. The total intake was nearly 600 000 people, of whom just under 100 000 came to Western Australia.

It was the Chifley Labor Government which laid the basis of the extensive postwar immigration scheme by the establishment of a separate Commonwealth Department of Immigration in July of 1945, under the ministerial control of Arthur Calwell, and by the establishment of an immigration advisory committee, with representatives of the Government, employer, and employee organisations.

The broad objective postwar was to double the natural rate of population increase of 70 000 per

annum. Between 1945 and 1954, the programme saw a total of over 900 000 new arrivals to Australia. It is interesting to see that this is where the birth of our multicultural society is found. Out of that 900 000, a total of 440 000 were of Anglo-Saxon stock and 460 000 were of non-British stock. This period saw the largest influx of non-British migrants and, as I have said, the genesis of a multicultural society. It is interesting to record the declared nationalities that arrived during that period. I quote as follows—

Italian.....	100 400
Polish.....	71 700
Dutch.....	64 100
German.....	36 400
Yugoslav.....	26 000
Greek.....	24 400
Russian.....	20 400
Latvian.....	19 800
Hungarian.....	13 900
Czechoslovak.....	11 600
Lithuanian.....	10 100
American.....	9 800
Estonian.....	6 200
Others.....	46 500

There is no doubt that Australia's postwar immigration programme was a remarkable social experiment which radically altered the social landscape. Migration was also a key factor in our economic development. Immigrants and their families have accounted for 50 per cent of the population growth, and 70 per cent of the growth in the work force since 1947.

In 1947, only one-tenth of the population was born overseas and fewer than three per cent of these were of non-Anglo-Saxon origin. By the 1981 census, 27 per cent were born overseas and more than half of these were from non-Anglo-Saxon countries.

From the days of Arthur Calwell, the first Federal Minister for Immigration, until the end of the 1960s, official policy was paternalist and strictly assimilationist. As I have indicated already this evening, the member for Floreat seems to be the only politician in Australia who is still promoting that policy. It was based on the assumption that new immigrants should consider themselves lucky to be here and should be absorbed into the Australian way of life in the shortest space of time. This forced assimilation was to ensure an essentially homogenous society, and immigrants were expected to shed their original cultural identity and to become indistinguishable from the Anglo-Saxon Australians.

Mr Mensaros: I said that there was no force, although it ultimately had to be forced.

Mr TERRY BURKE: The member for Floreat, instead of denying his cultural heritage, should be proud of it. He seems to be going to great lengths to rationalise it out of existence; he seems to be ashamed of it in some way. I am pleased this Government is accepting the contributions that can be made by different cultures and is facilitating this action instead of continuing with the situation that existed when the member for Floreat first came to Australia, a situation which has seen him deny and try to hide his cultural background.

The general failure and unrealistic nature of such an extreme policy was evidenced by such things as high rates of migrant return, the incidence of psychiatric disorders, residential concentration, and widespread unhappiness among the wide sections of migrant populations.

The election of the Whitlam Labor Government in 1972 saw the disbandment of monoculture and the acceptance of the fact that ours was a multicultural society.

The contribution of Al Grassby, with his concept of the family of nations, will go down in history.

Mr Clarko: What a hopeless twit he was.

Mr Hassell: He caused more racial tension than anyone else.

Mr TERRY BURKE: It is all right for the isolated Anglophiles opposite to hide away in Circe Circle or wherever and deny the fact that the large percentage of our society is not Anglo-Saxon.

Mr Clarko: We are not denying that; we are laughing at your reference to Al Grassby.

Mr TERRY BURKE: He will be remembered a lot longer than either the member for Karrinyup or the member for Cottesloe.

Mr Clarko: He was a standing joke.

Mr TERRY BURKE: He is a great Australian; he is a brave Australian. He is remembered and revered by a lot more people than the member for Karrinyup could ever get to vote for him.

Mr Clarko: But don't you think he divided Australia?

Mr TERRY BURKE: Not at all. He laid the groundwork for our multicultural society, and that is being recognised in this legislation which is being supported by the Opposition. The Opposition's spokesman on this subject has indicated support for the legislation, so the Opposition agrees with what Al Grassby was doing and with what he has said.

Mr Clarko: He was a hopeless little grasshopper. He wore the best overcoat I have seen other than on a lady at a reception held one night in the City of Stirling. It had fur—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TERRY BURKE: I repeat: The contribution of Al Grassby will go down in history. He will certainly be remembered a lot longer than will be the member for Karrinyup, the member for Cottesloe—

Mr Clarko: Or the member for Perth.

Mr TERRY BURKE: Let me say it myself: Or the member for Perth. I welcome this opportunity to honour him and to pay tribute to his contribution in this area.

The Whitlam Government laid the ground rules for a truly multicultural society. The political debate has pursued from State to State since that time. Multicultural and ethnic affairs commissions have been established in most States. The only exception is Queensland. In this State practically nothing was done.

An ethnic affairs officer was appointed to our Immigration Office at a very low salary of about \$9 000 per annum—an amount on which he probably found it difficult to live. Immigration processing from the United Kingdom continued to be duplicated. If one wanted to nominate someone from the UK, one would send the nomination forms to the State Immigration Office, the State office would send them to the Commonwealth Department of Immigration, the Commonwealth department would send them to the UK to be processed by the UK Immigration Department, which in turn would send them back to the Australian department, which would then send them back to the State department. The whole process was a farce and a complete waste of money. A great part of the budget for the State office over the last nine years was in support of that farce.

Successive conservative Governments paid no more than lip-service to our migrant communities with an annual fancy dress party.

In the first term of this Labor Government, the promise of a multicultural and ethnic affairs commission, made at each successive election since 1974, will be fulfilled. At last we have recognition of the fact that in excess of one-quarter of our population was born overseas, that they came from 100 different countries, speak different languages, have different customs and traditions—but all are Australians and will at last have access to equal rights.

Australia is a multicultural society. Six million of our population were either born overseas or

have at least one overseas-born parent. Over 300 languages, including 200 Aboriginal languages, are spoken in our community. The diversity of the Australian society needs to be understood and accepted and provided for by Government and the community at large.

Different groups must be able to interact freely while sharing a common commitment to social and national ideals. Multiculturalism has implications for attitudes and actions on the part of all of us and places particular responsibility on those serving the needs of migrants.

The fact that this Government is accepting its responsibilities is reflected in this legislation and in the establishment of a multicultural and ethnic affairs commission, charged with the responsibility of providing programmes to meet these needs. Ethnic groups must be free to retain and express their ethnic identity without sacrificing their rights of equal access to the community's resources.

In conclusion, I would like to express my hope for the future: That multicultural Australia will mature enough to achieve independent status by 1988.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs) [10.14 p.m.]: I thank both the member for Floreat and the member for Perth for their contributions. The member for Floreat spoke with an obvious understanding of a situation he confronted when he arrived in Australia. He would not typify the average immigrant who might need this sort of assistance; nonetheless I can appreciate his thinking on this matter. The situation he found may not apply precisely to the situation confronted by people who have come to these shores much later than he did. Indeed, some of them have arrived just in the past couple of weeks.

When I got around to drafting this Bill, I tried to keep it as simple as possible. We have achieved that. It is not an involved Bill. It is one that sets out quite clearly what we hope to do, but the interpretation, of course, is in the eyes of the reader. I have used terms such as "broadly" and "as far as possible" in the Bill. Broadly, we will be able to ensure that there is no discrimination or bias for or against any particular ethnic group, and that is important. We do not want people in those groups to be in a privileged position, but we want to make certain that those people who come to WA, who give us the benefit of their labours and skills, for whatever reason they might have come here, are able to play a part in the community to the fullest extent possible.

When drafting the Bill, I thought it might be an idea to research the Liberal Party's policy speech to see what that party's feelings were on this problem, but I regret to say that nowhere in the policy speech put out by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Ray O'Connor) could I find any mention of multiculturalism, immigration, or anything that in any way brushed against the subject with which we are dealing tonight. It must have been a very bad oversight and, as I said in my opening address, my figures broadly compare with those quoted by the member for Perth. The last census showed that 20 per cent of Australian people did not have English as their mother tongue, and that is a fairly large group in the people who comprise our society. These ethnic commissions have been found to do some very good work. In New South Wales, the concept was entered into with a flourish, followed by South Australia and Victoria, which has had its commission for about 12 months only. I was concerned to try to assess the effectiveness of those commissions, and to use that assessment to help in our proposals.

I found that in South Australia the commission which was set up by a previous Liberal Government was under assessment, and it was only just before I introduced this Bill that I received the report of the person who had been doing that assessment. I am delighted to say that the Bill which we had written was almost on all-fours with the type of commission that had been recommended to be applied in South Australia. At least we have found some common ground and have probably identified the problems and the areas in which we hope to provide assistance.

In the first Victorian annual report, which I read only a week or 10 days ago, there appears a quotation from the Aboriginal poet, Kath Walker, as follows—

We are a multi-cultural people, but we are not a multi-cultural society.

That is very true. We want to see a society develop into a homogenous society incorporating the various elements which currently make up our society.

Mr Mensaros: That is precisely what I said.

Mr DAVIES: That is exactly what the member for Floreat expressed. It is a matter of how we go about it. He remembers with a great deal of fondness the Good Neighbour Council. Much of its success was due to the fact that people wanted to help those coming here from other countries and wanted to see what could be done to help them settle in.

Mr Burkett: Hear, hear!

Mr DAVIES: This is exactly what we propose to do under this Bill. There will be only one full-time official, but there will be 10 part-time officials who will serve in a voluntary capacity, and, if necessary, subcommittees will be set up which can identify and pursue a particular problem which may be of concern. That will all be done in a voluntary capacity, but I think we need that leadership from the top.

The success or otherwise of this commission will depend on the people we appoint to the board. As I said during my second reading speech, it is not my proposal to ensure we have one Australian, one German, one Dutchman, one Austrian, one Hungarian, one Chinese, and so forth, on the committee. We will select people, irrespective of their backgrounds, who are best suited to serve that area which we want them to serve. It will not matter whether they are ethnic or Australian. We will be looking for the best people we can get.

It is very true, as has been said by the member for Floreat, that the development of our society relates to the background of the people who make it up. Since I have been the Minister responsible for this area, it has been my pleasure to visit a large number of these groups, and I have always been very well received by them. I have seen some splendid traditional dancing, singing, and so forth, put on by the various groups. I remember in particular one group of dancers from the Austrian Club—every one of those dancers was as ocker as Vegemite. They were born and bred in Australia, but they took great pride in their traditional dances and traditional costumes. I think that is what we are aiming at. We want them all to become part of our society.

All that is good will remain, and all that has no attraction will wane and eventually disappear. We will have a great society made up of all these ethnic groups. People have come to this country for various reasons and they want to be part of our society; and they will be part of it.

People will always try to live together in their groups, and I do not want to stop that from happening. One has to go only to Earl's Court in London, an English-speaking city, to see that Australians dominate in that area. Of course, even in Perth, we find different ethnic groups dominate in certain suburbs. They will all merge and develop into a society which will throw up the very best of what they have got and strengthen our hope that we will develop into a much more understanding society in future.

Gone are the days when people came here and were told they had to like Holden cars, meat pies,

tomato sauce, and Australian rules football. Thank goodness those days have gone.

Mr Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Mr DAVIES: There is much more to enjoy from the cultures which come here and which have not been forced upon us. I know we have a lot to be thankful for in the people who come here. They do have problems—language problems and others—and while we want to ensure that they are not disadvantaged in any way, we do not want to give them a particular advantage.

I do not think I have anything more to say, except to again thank the member for Floreat for his contribution, because he speaks from experience and from the heart. I do not look upon him as being atypical. I think he is probably a special migrant and, if we had other migrants of his background, education, and understanding, we might not need this type of commission. Unfortunately, they are not all in that line, and we do need to make certain that the people who come here to build a better Australia are not disadvantaged.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Barnett) in the Chair; Mr Davies (Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 5 put and passed.

Clause 6: Membership of the Commission—

Mr MENSAROS: The Minister has expressed his desire to appoint commissioners who are not necessarily representatives of various ethnic groups, but this would be against the provisions of the Bill. Subclause (2) states that, in nominating a person for appointment as a member, the Minister "shall" ensure, as far as is practicable, that the commission is representative of the person and communities of diverse origins, languages and culture. I do not wish to propose any amendment, but I submit that it will be difficult for the Minister—using the word "shall"—to ensure that result. I think he would be better advised to use the words "shall attempt" to ensure, as far as is practicable, etc.

I think it is an inconvenient situation for the Minister to be in because it will be absolutely impossible to ensure those requirements of the commission being representative.

Mr DAVIES: I did underline those words when the member spoke about this matter earlier. I do not pretend that it will be an easy job to get the spread that I would like. When we were dis-

cussing the drafting of this legislation, we did think about including the word "shall". I think that highlights the difficulties we are likely to encounter, but again, with the 10 members appointed by the Governor, we appoint some for one year, some for two years, and some for three years. After 12 months' experience, if we find we have erred, we will be able to make an adjustment without waiting for a full three years.

A large number of people have offered their services on this committee and one of the difficulties we will have will be, from that large number, to pick out the best available. While I do not presume to suggest the task will be an easy one, it will be made that much more easy by the people who have offered to assist.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 to 12 put and passed.

Clause 13: Functions of the Commission—

Mr MENSAROS: I was reminded by one of the groups which will be affected by this legislation about the provision of subclause (1) (a); namely, that the functions of the commission are to investigate, report upon, and make recommendations to the Minister on any matter relevant to this Act referred to it by the Minister. The query is: Once the commission is established and working properly, if the commission wants to bring a matter to the Minister's attention and that matter has not been referred to it by the Minister, what should be done? I know there are ways around it because these people can go to an officer and ask him to draft an instruction for the Minister to sign. So it is undesirable that the commission should be able to investigate, report upon, and make recommendations only if the Minister asks it to do so.

Mr DAVIES: When we were drafting this legislation, I was in some doubt as to whether this matter should be contained in paragraph (a) or (h) of subclause (1). I did not know whether to make it the most important or the least important part of the subclause. If we are to rate the various clauses, there is always one to be placed before another. I consider this to be an all-embracing clause, because if the committee is not able to do the things it is charged to do, the Minister can say that something has been left out of the legislation and it is something the Minister should look at. He can then make that request.

I think the other clauses as they stand cover most if not all of the matters which are set out in the objects of the legislation. Therefore, the functions of the committee are put into effect. If there is any omission which is apparent, the Minister can refer that to the committee and ask it to

look at the matter. It is as simple as that. Any subject that needs to be looked at will be attended to, even if it is not specified.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 14 to 19 put and passed.

Clause 20: Regulations—

Mr MENSAROS: This clause has nothing to do with the aim of the legislation or the subject matter of the Bill. If we were to discuss contentious issues, I have had plenty of experience dealing with such issues—I can remember sitting in exactly the same place the Minister sits now when discussing the fuel emergency legislation and the Opposition members spent hour after hour saying how cruel the regulation-making powers in that legislation were—but I have not seen any regulation-making provisions or power in any Act of Parliament as wide as this. It states that the Governor may make regulations prescribing all matters which are required or permitted to be prescribed or which are necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to the Act.

I am not necessarily against this provision; I just want to bring this situation to the attention of the Chamber. Whenever an Opposition wants to put its foot into something, it always takes the regulatory powers and powers of delegation and says how horrible they are. Of course, it depends on which side of the Chamber one is sitting.

I just wanted to comment on that from a legal and drafting point of view and say that it is possibly the widest drafting of regulatory powers to be allowed.

Mr DAVIES: I think I would agree with the member that this clause probably has the widest provisions of that particular type of clause that I have seen in a Bill. I think it concerns the officers in the Crown Law Department. Perhaps they suddenly dislike the way a certain thing has been written for years; they may now find it inadequate; or a new officer may come into the department and wish to express a certain point in a particular form. I hope I do not see anything sinister in this clause. It has been just as much of concern to me while on this side of the Chamber as it was when I was on the other side of the Chamber. I hope that this power which we are giving to the Governor will be used wisely.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Davies (Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs), and transmitted to the Council.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

In Committee

Resumed from 22 November. The Chairman of Committees (Mr Barnett) in the Chair; Mr Brian Burke (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Progress was reported after Division 51 had been agreed to.

Division 52: Agriculture, \$49 122 000—

Mr OLD: While I had a fair deal to say in the general debate on the Budget in regard to agriculture, there are a few points I would like to raise in the Committee stage.

I would like to quote from what has been recorded in *Hansard* in the past about the presentation of Budgets. Perhaps when we, as politicians, speak in this Chamber, it is as well we remember that at some time we may perhaps be sitting on another side of the Chamber and we may have something that we said quoted back to us, and those remarks may not fit into the present scene. I hark back to 4 November last year when the member for Warren spoke on the Division concerning agriculture and he said—

I will turn now to this Division. I preface my comments, as I did in speaking to the motion for the revocation of the dedication in regard to State forests, by saying that once again an inordinate deficiency and paucity of information is apparent. I will demonstrate in a moment what this leads to, and the unfortunate effects that the Government was liable to bring about, and is bringing about, with the trend of this legislation.

This is my main point. It continues—

I recall that during my earlier years as a member of this Chamber each Minister presented his section of the Budget. He did a great deal of highlighting the achievements of this department, a course which gave a much better understanding to the members of this House of the many points that otherwise would not have been raised. Sometimes explanations were given in response to an interjection, but the finer aspects of the administration of each department were given. It is noted with regret that on this occasion the total Government contribution to the debate on agriculture is four paragraphs

in the Treasurer's speech. It is just bare bones.

Several members interjected.

Mr Tonkin: Hard times.

Mr OLD: I allowed a few minutes for the Minister to say what he now feels about the inordinate deficiency and paucity of information, but he has passed up the opportunity.

There were four paragraphs concerning agriculture in the Budget speech last year, but there is not one word about agriculture in the speech this year. There are times when one should be very careful about the comments one passes while in Opposition.

Mr Tonkin: You are in Opposition, remember.

Mr OLD: I will certainly take note of my remarks, but I think I would like to remind the Minister of what he said last year because it really is something that is worth quoting. He goes on to say—

Firstly the Treasurer referred to the total allocation of \$43.7 million, and indicated that was a 14.3 per cent increase over the previous year. So be it, but, at the same time, that increase must be put in perspective—

He then referred to inflation, etc.

I repeat that this is a miserable Budget as far as agriculture is concerned and I will come back to the speech from which I have been quoting shortly when we refer to some of the items.

Mr Blaikie: It wasn't the member for Warren who made those comments?

Mr OLD: Yes, it was the member for Warren.

Mr Blaikie: He must be embarrassed.

Mr OLD: I do not think so. I think he realises the error of his ways in not presenting some notes in Agriculture. However, in all fairness I must add that my understanding, as far as the presentation of Budgets by Ministers is concerned, is that it went out some time ago. After the Opposition members have had time to study the Budget, if they do not have any comments to make, it is clear to the Ministers concerned that they agree with what is presented to them. I can assure members that I do not agree with the way this Budget has been presented and, in fact, when we look at the increase in expenditure in the 1982-83 financial year, we find it was 17.7 per cent. In 1982-83, the increase over the 1982-83 financial year was 9.1 per cent, which, when inflation is taken into account, is a negative factor of 1.9 per cent; in other words, it appears the Budget has gone backwards.

I made the point in speaking during the second reading stage that this Government has not given enough thought to the production sectors of the Budget and particularly to agriculture.

I conclude on that note and will continue my remarks when the various items are discussed.

Mr EVANS: I noted with considerable interest the remarks of the member for Katanning-Roe and those he made earlier in his contribution to the Budget debate which are now recorded in *Hansard*. I think it was a little uncharitable of him and a little out of keeping for him to describe this as the lousiest Budget seen in this House for some years.

Mr Old: I was at a loss for words.

Mr EVANS: As a matter of fact, I think he may have some cause to regret that because I have been looking at some figures.

Mr Old: You have not been looking at them; your economists have been doing that. Out comes the file.

Mr EVANS: I have taken out the figures for the last 10 years and they are rather revealing. I would like to draw attention to the Opposition's record in recognising the significant contribution of agriculture in this State over the years. Opposition members have claimed many times to be the only ones to understand agriculture, and to be the guardians and watchdogs of the rural areas. One would expect to find a record of great support for agricultural research, to give one example, in the nine years in which the Opposition had the opportunity to do something about it.

It has become evident that over the years research has helped the agricultural industries to attain the level of productivity that has been achieved, and which was in the order of \$2.4 billion as of last year. I do not need to detail the increases in turn-off of stock—beef and sheep—but agriculture has been a great investment for Western Australia. The full accord that should have been given to agriculture did not come about.

Over the last 10 years the State funds for departmental staff and staff support have increased only by six per cent—less than one per cent a year for each of those years when the Opposition had the opportunity to do something. An extended programme should have been put in place over a period of nine years, and it was not.

Mr Bryce: They let the farmers down.

Mr EVANS: They were nine lean years. As a result the Department of Agriculture has increasingly had to seek support from industry funds and

has done that well. It has established a reputation that has attracted industry funds from the AMLC and a number of other sources.

In 1982 a change was made in Budget procedure and the Auditor General's comment drew attention to the presentation and the fact that there needed to be a greater accountability of industry funds. As a result the present system was adopted. It has tended to occlude precisely the sources of the different funds, and the Treasurer has indicated he will take some action to ensure greater clarity and specific identification.

I would like to dwell for a moment on several points, not the least of which is the difficulty that agriculture has experienced, and where it stands in relation to funding in Western Australia. I have already mentioned that while the department has increased its activities and its productivity of agricultural products generally—bearing in mind that was the criteria the IAC used—the increase of 32 per cent has had a bearing on the funding received. Departmental staff has not increased to match the State Public Service increase which is in excess of 30 per cent. The Department of Agriculture's increase has been six per cent; in that period its role and scope has been extended and the State's productivity has increased. Despite that, there was a miserable reaction from the Government over the last nine years.

Mr Old: Strong words.

Mr EVANS: Yet the member for Katanning-Roe has the temerity to say that this is the lousiest Budget he has ever seen. He must have had his eyes closed.

Mr Old: What percentage increase in staff is there this year?

Mr EVANS: I will come back to the percentage figures in a moment and deal with them and make comparisons.

Mr Old: You will be battling to defend yourself.

Mr EVANS: Hold on! Let us make a critical examination of what has transpired to cause agriculture to be in such dire need for research in this State if it is to be able to maintain the productivity of the rural producer. Unless that is done we will fall behind in a very competitive world. We allocate less to research in Western Australia, and have done so in the last decade, than does the rest of Australia; and Australia is behind other countries, particularly the most advanced countries. The figure shown in the present Budget is something in excess of 11 per cent. When this is analysed more closely one sees the industry funds bring the CRF contribution to 6.7

per cent or 6.8 per cent. According to the Budget papers over the last decade, staff increases in people-oriented portfolios have increased dramatically; in education the increase has been 50 per cent; in the Police Force, 62 per cent; corrections, 123 per cent; public health, over 200 per cent; mental health, 64 per cent; and hospitals, 37 per cent. They are all very considerable expansions. By way of contrast, the average increase for agriculture for the period was six per cent.

I remind the member for Katanning-Roe that *Hansard* is a very good research document when situations like this arise.

I refer the Member to remarks he made in the Budget debate as follows—

One must be very competitive for money within the Cabinet in times such as these. I know that generally Ministers are keen to snap up any morsels of money that come along. However, such actions must be taken with a fair amount of enthusiasm if a Minister is to serve his department well. I exhort the current Minister to do his best to try to have that position rectified because there will be a great deal of reaction from the industry.

Although the member for Katanning-Roe makes that statement, his record over his entire stewardship of the post of Minister for Agriculture is even less; a six per cent average in numbers. Some matters were entirely ignored and when talking of assistance to agriculture, we must consider the full gambit of the measures presented. In the eight months that the present Government has been in office, we find very realistic financial support has been given to the Manjimup cannery; the opportunity to make it viable. It required assistance in the order of \$800 000. That is not a bad gesture towards the horticultural industries of this State; without the existence of the cannery they would be in trouble.

I also point out the loss sustained by the marketing division of Robb Jetty. The reason for this loss was the manner in which the previous Government set the abattoir up without giving it powers or access to finance of its own. It had to obtain finance by borrowing and the interest debt has been slowly strangling it and getting it further into trouble. As a consequence, this Government has picked up the tab for \$130 000 for 1982-83 and for the first half of 1983-84, a further \$65 000. This is a total of \$195 000 and it is something that was brought about by the efforts of the previous Government.

I draw attention to the contribution to the computerised cattle auction selling system for which a

capital contribution has been made and a further \$54 000 paid.

Mr Old: That was all fixed up before you were elected.

Mr EVANS: Yes, but the arrangement of the finance was not. We made the finance available. The member has the temerity to criticise the paucity of the funds in the present Budget, but let us look at the full situation. Amounts of \$800 000, \$195 000, and \$54 000 have been allocated and I do not think we are doing too badly.

I refer to the amalgamation of the artificial breeding board and the dairy herd improvement scheme into one organisation. That one body will now have the chance to become viable and get itself out of the morass into which it had fallen. A considerable amount of expenditure was necessary to do this. As a matter of fact, \$185 000 was involved in writing off the debt of the artificial breeding board and a further contribution of \$81 000 will be made for this year. Again this is not a bad contribution. It is expenditure on agriculture of the type upon which the previous Government did not embark.

Mr Old: It is extraneous to the Budget.

Mr EVANS: The member is happy to disassociate it from the Budget. The truth is that the Government has provided the funds.

Mr Old: We are discussing a CRF Budget.

Mr EVANS: We are discussing the subject in the way the member did when he criticised the Government. He was happy to do that.

Mr Old: I am still happy to do so, because you have not redeemed yourself one iota at this stage. The amount of \$100 000 is chickenfeed compared with what we are talking about.

Mr EVANS: Amounts of \$800 000, \$195 000, \$54 000 and \$185 000 are not chickenfeed.

Mr Old: You have the Meat Commission tied up in there.

Mr EVANS: Where does the member think the money came from to bale it out of trouble after the previous Government got it into a mess?

Mr Old: You really have not proved your point.

Mr EVANS: If the member will bear with me a little further, I will look at a few other matters. There will be an inquiry into Government involvement in the meat industry.

Mr Old: Aren't we waiting for those terms of reference?

Mr EVANS: The Liberal Government has done nothing to date and it had nine years of Government; what a job it did. A loss of \$4 million was sustained at Robb Jetty.

Mr Old: That is wrong. There was a \$4 million loss in the Meat Commission and you stopped the sale of Midland which would have relieved the debt and interest burden on the commission.

Mr EVANS: I am glad the member raised that; the debt at Midland Junction Abattoir is between \$14 million and \$15 million and the annual interest is \$1.2 million. That is what the taxpayers are shelving out for the mess made by the previous Government.

Mr Old: You are stopping the sale of the assets.

Mr EVANS: It was halted to enable the office of the Minister for Planning to ensure a study was made to ascertain whether there was any use to which the Midland abattoir could be put. There are five magnificent cool stores, each one the size of a football ground, and to see them standing there is, to say the least, heartbreaking, particularly if one has previously seen them in full operation. A study has been completed and the draft report is now with the Minister. One of the aspects being considered is the relocation of the Metropolitan Markets; that was the core point of the study carried out by the planning department. Finality will probably be reached by way of a recommendation, but it would appear from an initial appraisal, as far as I can gather, that Midland is not suitable for a market site. Nobody can suggest what can be done.

A \$14 million debt was created and we on this side saw the inevitability of the consequences as it proceeded step by step. This great edifice is double the size it should be, through the stupidity and pig-headedness of the Liberal-National Country Party coalition Government. We saw that occurring. We have now inherited that debt and picked up the mess.

I now refer to the cost of the two inquiries: the inquiry into the involvement of Government in the meat industry and the inquiry into the potato marketing industry. That is another area of neglect which should not have occurred and which would not have under this Government. In total, one is talking in terms of \$60 000 to \$80 000.

Some aspects of the policies of the previous Government were good and they will give us a great opportunity to expand. However, in the field of land degradation and restoration there was further neglect. We have accounted for \$237 000 for the Fitzroy River regeneration for the coming year.

Mr Old: What was the state of the Fitzroy when you were the Minister? Was there any degradation in 1971-74?

Mr EVANS: We were fully involved in setting up the Ord River regeneration scheme and estab-

lishing the research station there. It occupied the full resources and the member must admit that has been a success story.

Mr Old: The point I was making was that it was not something new which happened in the last few years.

Mr EVANS: It is something new, but give credit where it is due, we have come to grips with it, even in a short time.

Mr Old: We started the Fitzroy generation scheme. Did you start it up?

Mr EVANS: We have made a much greater—

Mr Old: Of course you have made a major contribution to it because it is an ongoing thing.

Mr EVANS: We have done it. The member's Government did not put up anything like that. What was it—\$80 000? We have multiplied that by three. We have come to grips with the matter in a much tighter Budget situation than the past Government had.

Several members interjected.

Mr EVANS: I do not think that there is any further point I wish to make at this stage. I will content myself with responding to particular items as they arise. At least we have the matter in perspective.

Item 1: Salaries, Wages and Allowances—

Mr RUSHTON: I would like an explanation from the Minister about the situation in regard to vacant positions. I know last year the allocation was something like \$500 000. This year it is \$1 million. I wonder whether he has an explanation for that huge provision.

Mr COWAN: I wish to deal with the same subject—the 51 vacant positions. My query is a little more specific. The Minister will be aware, if he is performing his duties, that a great deal of pressure is being placed on farmers, particularly in regard to financial matters. I am talking not only of short-term finance because of poor seasonal conditions, but also of the level of borrowings against equity, a level which has been rising quite rapidly over the last few years. I would like the Minister to inform the Chamber whether there is likely to be more advice on finance and financial matters to members of the agricultural industry as a result of the filling of these positions. There is a desperate need for this. To my knowledge, some mortgage sales have been conducted already in agricultural regions. As the Minister should know, mortgagors have no control over what happens in the sales and they have been forced to leave their farms. Some people have been forced to sell their properties and recoup nothing, after a lifetime of work. I hope that for this expenditure of more

than \$1 million provision will be made for better financial advice to members of the agricultural industry.

Mr OLD: I have four queries on this item. The first concerns the staffing of the Minister's office—the number of staff shown is two. On 26 October I asked the Minister how many staff were employed in his office and the titles of the individual officers. He replied, "Four", and he indicated that he had a private secretary, a secretary-stenographer, a typist, and an agricultural adviser on secondment from the Department of Agriculture part time.

I am certainly not going to accuse the Minister of misleading the Chamber. I am quite sure that at no time did he run his office with a staff of two. If he did, I will stand corrected.

He may say that he had a staff of only two. He had a girl seconded from the Department of Agriculture, which makes three, and a part-time Press secretary from the Department of Agriculture, which makes four. One cannot fill one's office up with part-time staff and then say one has a staff of two. In answer to my question, he freely admitted that he had an agricultural adviser on secondment from the Department of Agriculture, part time. I think the Minister owes us an explanation as to the reason the Estimates show he has only two staff members.

Last year, when we were discussing the Budget in items, the member for Warren was very critical of the fact that the Herbarium had been badly treated. His words were that this was a magnificent building, it did a wonderful job, and it deserved better treatment than it had been given. The treatment is that it now has two fewer staff. Whereas in 1982-83 the actual expenditure was \$439 000, this year it is \$406 000. Perhaps he would like to indicate the reason he has allowed the Herbarium to run down in staff by two. I would remind him of what he said, and that is that the WA Herbarium, which is one of the most outstanding buildings in Western Australia, had received only a \$5 000 increase.

I note that extension services have been downgraded by \$1 000. They have now received a decrease of \$33. I believe that the Committee would be interested to hear the reasons for this.

Mr EVANS: Starting firstly with the Herbarium, I think the member for Katanning-Roe would be aware that last year national biological research funds were available to the Herbarium. These funds were reduced significantly, so the contribution from CRF is in effect a 7.7 per cent increase.

As far as my own staff are concerned there are still four: a secretary, a stenographer—

Mr OLD: A clerk-typist.

Mr EVANS: Yes, and also Mr John Lawson, who, as the member would know, has come from the department—

Mr OLD: He was on *The Agricultural Gazette*.

Mr EVANS: His role is largely in that field, and in the field that the term "adviser" would suggest. It is something of a misnomer. In that case, although I chose to mention two salaried officers, two are in the classification purely in the Minister's office, the others are on secondment. I am not sure whether the second two would actually show. If the member is concerned about that, I can supply him with details.

Mr OLD: Actually you have four persons in your office.

Mr EVANS: Oh, yes. I have never tried to deny that.

Mr OLD: I am not accusing you of misleading.

Mr EVANS: The point raised by the member for Merredin is one about which I have had some concern over a period of time. My concern goes back to the Agricultural Council meeting earlier this year when it was raised. It also played a major role in obtaining funds from the Federal Government to increase the rural adjustment authority capacity. We were able to get something like a doubling of funds.

Mr Cowan: They do not give advice.

Mr EVANS: This is the major source of funding to which we are looking to meet this position. I know it will never be adequate. Therefore, several months ago I put a proposition to Cabinet which was accepted. That proposition was that the role of the Rural Adjustment Authority be examined. That examination is being carried out at the moment and consideration is being given to several ways in which the operations of the authority may be expanded. It is hoped also that its funding will be increased, but it is early days yet.

Last weekend I was disturbed to read an article in the Press which made predictions before the harvesters were in the paddocks. That was regrettable and it did not do a great deal of good for the rural industries.

I turn now to the increased availability of economic expertise. Every endeavour will be made in this regard, bearing in mind Budget limitations with which we must always contend.

The member for Dale referred to unfilled vacancies in the Department of Agriculture. In a department of that size there will always be ap-

proximately 50 unfilled vacancies as a result of retirements, people getting married, transfers out of the system, and the like. Difficulty is also being experienced as a result of the Treasury recruitment policy this year and, once again, we must operate within Budget limitations.

Mr BLAICKIE: I understand the Government is in the process of introducing an apprenticeship scheme in the agricultural industry. While such a scheme could come under the provisions of the Industrial Training Act, I believe that more appropriately it should come within the realm of the Minister for Agriculture. I would have expected his department to have a substantial influence on setting the guidelines, establishing the terms of apprenticeship, and assisting in the apprenticeship training programmes.

The concept of establishing a farm apprenticeship or cadet scheme was recommended by the Honorary Royal Commission on the dairy industry. When one looks at the salaries paid and the officers employed by the Department of Agriculture, it is natural to expect the department would be involved in the establishment of the scheme.

The setting up of an apprenticeship training scheme is of great importance to the agricultural industry. Three or four years ago a scheme of a limited nature operated in the Moora region. The scheme I am interested in seeing established now would not only relate to agricultural areas, but would also train people on the job in the skills of farm and station work.

It is envisaged that the term of an apprenticeship would be for a preliminary period of three years and there would be a three month probationary period initially. Such a probationary period would give the apprentice the opportunity to see whether he was suitable for farm work and, likewise, the employer could establish whether the individual was right for the job.

I understand the apprenticeship agreement would cover both the sons and daughters of existing farmers. Technical college training would be required as well, because practical and theoretical training go hand in hand.

Such a scheme would have a wide impact on the technical education services in Western Australia. The Agriculture Department is the appro-

priate body to be involved in establishing these courses in conjunction with the Education Department. It would be a tripartite arrangement between the industrial officers and the education officers, with the Department of Agriculture being involved. I would expect the Department of Agriculture to be the Government agency which would play the greatest role in establishing such a scheme and laying down State regulations.

Providing the scheme is set up within the guidelines laid down by the Commonwealth, rebates should be available to employers to compensate for each day the apprentice is away from work attending a technical college doing a training course. Such rebates are available in other areas and there is no reason that they should not apply to agriculture. Accommodation expenses would be covered also.

The introduction of farming apprenticeships in this State is a new concept and a very important one. It will assist agricultural industries, encourage young people to return to the land, and provide subsidies to encourage employers to take on young people. If agriculture is to have a future, young people need to be trained in all these aspects and all the technical expertise available will be necessary.

Would the Minister indicate what he sees as being the role of the officers of his department? I would expect the Agriculture Department would play an important role in formulating policies and assisting with the technical programmes one would expect farm apprentices to be involved in.

Mr EVANS: There is no question that, as the member for Vasse indicated, a need exists for qualified young people in agricultural industries. It is difficult for farmers to obtain reliable labour and the type of labour necessary today when they must entrust pieces of equipment worth over \$100 000 to the care of employees. It is clear these people must be well trained and reliable.

Therefore, I do not doubt landholders desire that labour be trained for that purpose. The member for Vasse was right when he indicated such a scheme would require input from the Education Department as well as the Agriculture Department. After all, that will be the source of the funding.

That type of project would certainly see a role for the Department of Agriculture. I acknowledge this, but I also acknowledge that the problem in getting to the stage the member envisages would also be very great.

Division 52 put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr Tonkin (Leader of the House).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

MR TONKIN (Morley-Swan—Leader of the House) [11.25 p.m.]: I remind members of the strong possibility that we will be sitting on Friday. I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.26 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TRANSPORT: SERVICES

Recommendation: Cost

2059. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Referring to the Co-ordinator General of Transport's annual report for 1983—table 2 on page 15 showing the annual cost to the Treasury of reintroducing services with the recommended frequencies, will he now show the revised figures for each of the five years including the cost of labour and the additional refurbishing cost which has been incurred?
- (2) (a) Regarding the item "Minus avoidable line-line costs" did these figures include a capital content;
(b) if "Yes" will he state the amount for each of the five years?
- (3) For what term was the purchase of the line-line buses arranged?
- (4) What portion of the metropolitan rail passenger service of about \$22 million for 1983-84 can be applied to the Perth-Fremantle service?
- (5) Referring to item (4), if he is not able to be precise, is it about \$6 million?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The figures, which were reproduced from the Co-ordinator General of Transport's report on the reintroduction of passenger rail services between Perth and Fremantle, April 1983, remain the best estimates available and are believed still to be accurate.
- (2) (a) and (b). The figures were estimated on the basis that the release of the line-line buses from service between Perth and Fremantle would permit older buses to be sold for an estimated \$240 000 in year one. Had the line-line buses been disposed of instead, further net annual savings of approximately \$200 000 per year could have been expected, including the saving on leasing costs.
- (3) Individual buses were not completely dedicated to the line-line service, but the 17 articulated buses initially obtained to enable the service to operate were leased, not purchased. The leases were for 10 years with a renewal option at the end of that period.

- (4) and (5) As the member well knows, the \$22 million includes an allocation of costs for items shared by both passenger and freight services. This allocation to suburban railways has been increased in line with the additional services now operating. By the same token, the share allocated to freight services has been reduced. The additional cost to the Treasury, and to the taxpayer, of the re-introduced rail services on the Perth-Fremantle line, estimated to be incurred during the financial year of 1983-84 is \$1.3 million, which includes \$0.5 million for refurbishing and allows for the savings in bus costs.

A further amount, for the reallocation of costs from freight to the Perth-Fremantle passenger services, will also be charged by Westrail, reducing Westrail's deficit by \$2 million and increasing MTT's deficit by \$2 million. Similarly, revenue which would have been earned by buses will now be earned by trains. The resultant 1983-84 accounting figure estimated for the suburban railway "deficit" would amount to \$3.3 million less without the Perth-Fremantle services; that is, \$18.6 million instead of the \$21.9 million estimated for all three services.

In summary—

For 1983-84

Refurbishing cost	\$0.5 m	
Additional rail cost	\$2.1 m	
less saving in bus costs		\$1.3 m
Net cost to taxpayer		\$1.3 m
Costs transferred to MTT from Westrail	\$2.0 m	
Total extra payment for rail by MTT	\$4.6 m	
less Revenue earned by rail instead of bus		\$1.3 m
Increase in suburban rail "deficit"		\$3.3 m
offset by reduction in Westrail deficit		\$2.0 m

STATE FINANCE

Budget: Miscellaneous Services

2139. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

- (1) How many positions will be created, and in which areas, from the provision for new staff allocation of \$1 950 000 as provided in the Miscellaneous Services vote for the year ending 30 June 1984?

- (2) How many of these positions have already been filled, and in what areas?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(1) Premier, Treasurer, Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development, and Minister for Forests, Tourism and Women's Interests	82
Deputy Premier and Minister for Economic Development and Technology	1
Minister for Industrial Relations	3
Attorney General, Minister for Inter-Governmental Relations and Defence Liaison, Prisons and Minister Assisting the Treasurer	2
Minister for Water Resources, Consumer Affairs and Parliamentary and Electoral Reform	2
Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Local Government	3
Minister for the Environment, Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, and the Arts	3
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Wildlife, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Forests	1
Minister for Education	43
Minister for Health	29
Minister for Works and Lands and Surveys	4
Minister for Employment and Administrative Services, Planning, and Minister Assisting Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development	5
Minister for Transport, and Regional Development and the North West	1
Minister for Housing, Youth and Community Services with special responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs	10
Minister for Mines and Fuel and Energy	6
	194

Note

Forty of the 43 positions shown under Minister for Education are for junior clerical school leavers who are to be appointed in February to fill vacancies that will arise during the balance of the financial year.

In other words these 40 positions will be absorbed and are not permanently created.

(2)		
Position Filled	Area	No of Staff
Telephonist	Superannuation	1
Ministerial Officer	Police Department	1
Ministerial Consultant	Aboriginal Affairs	1
		<u>3</u>

DAIRYING: MILK

Antibiotics: Contamination

2140. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

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

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The first efficiency audit commissioned by the Government, concerned the artificial breeding board and was commissioned on 7 June 1983.
- (2) Efficiency audits will be carried out by the body most appropriate to the organisation to be audited and the objectives of each audit. Depending on the circumstances, the State Audit Department, the Public Service Board, and the Treasury Department may participate in the carrying out of an efficiency audit. Where required, private consultants will be commissioned to carry out such audits.
- (3) Decisions will be taken on the basis of information supplied by Ministers, and special reviews and inquiries. The priority for efficiency audits is a Government decision.

2160. *This question was postponed.*

DAIRYING: MILK

Antibiotics: Contamination

2161. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) In the cheese manufacturing industry, how much milk has been thrown out because of antibiotic contamination?
- (2) Are slaughtered livestock for human consumption tested for drug residues?
- (3) If so, what have been the results in the last three years?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Unknown.

Antibiotics are rarely incriminated as the cause of failure of the cheese manu-

facturing process. Only five of 7 000 milk samples tested in 1982-83 were positive for antibiotics.

- (2) The Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry regularly tests meat products for drug residues.
- (3) Testing in the last three years has shown no reason for concern.

HEALTH

Antibiotics: Resistance

2162. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Health:

- (1) In the article on the front page in the *Daily News* dated 3 November 1983, by Bill Power on the uncontrolled use of restricted antibiotics, does he, as the article states, also believe that an average of two to three people die because of bacterial resistance to antibiotics?
- (2) Does the Health Department carry out checks on veterinary surgeries similar to the method used by staff or employees of the *Daily News* to see if unsupervised sales of S4 drugs are made?
- (3) Does the Public Health Department carry out regular checks on the flesh of animals for human consumption for antibiotic or any other drug residue?
- (4) If so, what have been the results in the last three years?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) I am not aware of such cases.
- (2) No, but this is being considered.
- (3) No.
- (4) There is a continuing ongoing study by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry in conjunction with the State. The samples are taken from export works and provide a good indication of the levels of antibiotics and other drug residues reaching consumers. I am advised there is excellent compliance with the maximum residue limits set by the National Health and Medical Research Council and there is no evidence of any significant carry over from their use in animal husbandry to the food supply.

2163. *This question was postponed.*

HEALTH: TOBACCO

Deaths: Britain

2164. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does he have information to the effect that—
 - (a) smoking causes the deaths of 100 000 Britons each year;
 - (b) one in three cancer deaths in Britain is caused by smoking;
 - (c) 250 of every 1 000 young people will die prematurely in Britain because of cigarette smoking?
- (2) (a) Is he aware of the belief that a well known international sporting figure is being used by the tobacco pushers and media as a decoy "à la Hogan" to deceive and coerce youngsters to start smoking tobacco;
- (b) If "Yes", what action can be taken to stop this practice?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) Yes, I am aware of the report and it must be regarded as an appalling tragedy. It is equally appalling that the Opposition, with the exception of a few enlightened members, emasculated the Government's Tobacco (Promotion and Sale) Bill which threatens the success of the antismoking campaign which, together with the Bill, would have been one of the most significant public health advances in recent years.
- (2) (a) I am not aware of the specific instance the member refers to, but the tobacco industry has a sad history of linking sport, and admired sporting heroes, with cigarette smoking to enhance their products' appeal with the young.
- (b) The only effective action is to legislate to prohibit advertising of cigarettes.
In the absence of such legislation, the only avenue for action is through the Advertising Standards Council.

2165. *This question was postponed.*

MEAT: INDUSTRY

Inquiry: Terms of Reference and Membership

2166. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:
When does he intend announcing the—
- (a) terms of reference of the committee of inquiry into the meat industry;
 - (b) names of the members of the committee of inquiry?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (a) During the week 28 November—2 December 1983;
- (b) announced in *The West Australian*, 23 November 1983.

STOCK: SHEEP

Diseases: Tests

2167. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Agriculture:
- (1) Is it the intention of the Department of Agriculture to introduce compulsory tests for sheep flocks for specified sheep diseases?
 - (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) when are the compulsory tests to commence;
 - (b) what diseases will be covered?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

TRAFFIC

Infringements: Fines

2168. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:
- (1) With respect to traffic infringement notices how much was collected for the financial years—
 - (a) 1981-82;
 - (b) 1982-83, in
 - (i) the metropolitan area;
 - (ii) country areas?
 - (2) In each of the previous three financial years, how many accidents have there been in which machinery classified as "agricultural implement" has been involved?
 - (3) On how many occasions was the cause related to the agricultural implement?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) (a) \$4 902 087;
- (b) \$6 177 701.

Separate amounts for metropolitan and country areas are not available.

- (2) This type of accident is not defined by the statistical section.
- (3) Information is not available.

A vehicle licence is not required for an agricultural implement being towed on a road by another vehicle. Accidents involving agricultural implements are not coded, they are included in statistics as "accidents general".

2169. *This question was postponed.*

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Deficit: Projected Increase

2170. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Is the projected increase in the Westrail deficit for 1983-84 from \$46 million to \$70 million the biggest increase in the deficit in the history of Westrail?

Mr GRILL replied:

In actual dollars the projected \$24 million increase in the deficit in 1983-84 is the highest in the history of Westrail.

However, expressed on a percentage basis (52 per cent) the increase has been surpassed on several occasions e.g. 265 per cent in 1976-77 and 109 per cent in 1968-69.

2171. *This question was postponed.*

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Staff: Redundancies

2172. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Under each of Westrail's projected corporate plans for the next five years, how many staff positions would be reduced in country areas?
- (2) What towns would be involved and how many staff would be reduced in each town?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) It is not possible at present to provide a detailed answer to this question.

Figures provided at the Rail Strategy Seminar were indicative and will be refined as planning progresses and further input is received from unions and other interested parties.

Under the three options A, B and C, appropriate staff reductions in 1988-89, compared with current figures, are expected to be 2 300, 2 250 and 1 150 respectively. These figures are indicative only and other options can be presented by the unions, workers and other interested parties.

2173. *This question was postponed.*

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Savings

2174. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that monitoring by the Transport Commission has indicated that 60 per cent of users of the new deregulated transport policy for small freights prefer the new system?
- (2) Is it a fact that the net user saving in 1982-83 under the new deregulated small freights policy was \$11.14 million?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) I take it that the member is quoting from the Transport Commission Monitoring Report No. 9 dated January 1983, and if so, the answers are "Yes".

RAILWAYS: FREIGHT

Less-than-Car-Load: Savings

2175. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the estimated saving by Westrail during 1982-83 as a result of not being involved in the forwarding of small freights under the new deregulated policy?
- (2) What are the savings likely to be in the 1983-84 financial year?
- (3) Has the projected Westrail deficit of \$70 million in 1983-84 taken these savings into account?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Two factors are involved in the question—the effect of deregulation and

the effect of formation of Total West. The overall effect of deregulation has been assessed as a loss of \$3.5 million before taking account of Westrail's share of the operating results of Total Western Transport Pty Ltd. However, this loss is expected to have been \$6.3 million without formation of Total West and, therefore, the saving assessed for formation of Total West is \$2.8 million, again before taking account of Total West's operating results.

- (2) The savings attributable to formation of Total West in 1983-84 are expected to range from \$3 million to \$6 million, depending on the rate at which surplus staff are reduced. The loss due to deregulation is expected to range from \$3.5 million to \$0.5 million.
- (3) Yes.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Savings

2176. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the estimated additional revenue to the State Government in a full year from the deregulated land freight policy as a result of fuel taxes, licence fees and payroll tax?

Mr GRILL replied:

Estimates of these revenue effects have not been made.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Bulk Goods

2177. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the next stage of the land transport policy—that is, the deregulation of some bulk traffic, including timber, grain and wool—be introduced without further delay?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) and (2) The precipitate introduction of further deregulation would not be consistent with responsible government. The implications of the deregulation process to date are being monitored. Further deregulation will be introduced as and when it becomes appropriate.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Subsidies

2178. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Transport Commission considering subsidies or regulated services to any towns in the South-West Land Division which are not considered to be receiving a satisfactory transport service under the deregulated small freight policy?
- (2) Have any requests been made for such assistance?
- (3) Which towns are involved?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) No formal request has been received from any centre for such assistance.

2179 and 2180. *These questions were postponed.*

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Improved Services

2181. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that most country towns in the South-West Land Division now enjoy greater frequency of transport services as a result of the deregulated small freight policy?
- (2) Are there any centres receiving fewer services than previously?
- (3) If so, which centres have been so affected?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) to (3) A comparison of service frequencies has not been undertaken centre by centre. However, the Transport Commission Monitoring Report No. 10 (September 1983) indicates that of the 473 users surveyed 43 per cent considered service frequencies to have improved, 13 per cent consider they had deteriorated and 44 per cent saw no change.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Door-to-door Services

2182. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Is it a fact that many country carriers who were previously limited to "off-rail" terminal deliveries are now in a position to offer door-to-door services to their clients as a result of the deregulated small freight policy?

Mr GRILL replied:

Yes.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Report

2183. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Is it a fact that the Transport Commission Monitoring Report No. 9 stated that 79 per cent of the users surveyed listed one or more of the following advantages of the deregulated transport policy—

- (a) reduction in freight rates;
- (b) availability of door-to-door service;
- (c) improved frequency of service or the ability to receive daily deliveries;
- (d) less damage to goods;
- (e) freedom of choice;
- (f) quickness of deliveries;
- (g) users being able to transport their own goods;
- (h) personalised nature of the service;
- (i) more reliability and regularity?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (a) to (i) Yes.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Survey

2184. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Is it a fact that the Transport Commission has stated that the results of surveys "provide strong endorsement for the changes introduced so far under the Land Freight Transport Policy"?

Mr GRILL replied:

Yes, this was stated in the Transport Commission Monitoring Report No. 9 published January 1983.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Inquiry

2185. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the steering committee on the inquiry into deregulated freight transport completed its work as at 31 October, as originally envisaged?
- (2) How many submissions did the inquiry receive?
- (3) Of these, how many submissions favoured the retention of the existing deregulated policy?
- (4) Did any submissions favour Westrail re-entering the field of LCL or general freights, and if so, who made such submissions?
- (5) Did any submissions favour the discontinuance of the joint venture company Total West, and if so, who made such submissions?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The inquiry is still in progress. I anticipate it will complete its work by early December.
- (2) to (5) This information will be included in the steering committee's report. On receipt of the report I will consider the manner of its release.

TRANSPORT: ROAD

Deregulation: Report

2186. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the report of the LCL and general freight inquiry study team from the Centre for Applied Business Research be made public before any results from the inquiry are announced?
- (2) Will the Transport Commission's latest report on the monitoring of the deregulated transport policy be made public before any decisions from the inquiry are announced?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) I am presently considering the manner and timing of the release of this report.
- (2) Yes.

RAILWAYS

Hyden-Newdegate

2187. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is consideration being given to the future of rail services on the Newdegate-Hyden railway line?
- (2) What funds have been committed to upgrading the line since 1979-80?
- (3) What alternate transport arrangements are being considered if the line is closed, or services reduced?
- (4) Are financial losses being incurred on the line?
- (5) If "Yes", what losses are involved?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Yes. Westrail is examining what revised services will be appropriate to provide for the possibility of future further deregulation and to retain services sufficient to clear all grains from the lines in accordance with CBH Ltd's requirements.

Lake Grace-Hyden		Lake Grace-Newdegate
79-80	—	—
80-81	23 800	—
81-82	110 000	—
82-83	466 700	—
83-84	Est. 250 000	Est 360 000

- (3) As there is no intention to close these lines, no alternative transport arrangements to rail are being considered by Westrail.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

RAILWAYS

Gnowangerup, Nyabing, and Tambellup

2188. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is Westrail currently constructing barracks at—
 - (a) Nyabing;
 - (b) Gnowangerup?
- (2) For what purpose will any such barracks be used?

- (3) Is it proposed to construct a bypass line at Tambellup?
- (4) For what purpose is any such bypass line being constructed.
- (5) What funds are involved in any such construction?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) (a) No—construction is to commence in 1984.
- (b) Yes.
- (2) To accommodate train crews from unit grain trains working direct from Albany to Nyabing or Gnowangerup.
- (3) The feasibility of constructing a bypass line is being investigated. However, preliminary studies indicate that this line will not be constructed in the immediate future.
- (4) The line would enable unit grain trains to run direct from Albany to Knowangerup.
- (5) \$74 500 (estimated).

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Staff: Redundancies

2189. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Transport:

In what manner have unions been consulted regarding the cutback of country staff in the Westrail rationalisation programme which will result in drastic staff reductions in the great southern by 1988?

Mr GRILL replied:

Westrail's planning is in the conceptual stage.

At this early stage the conceptual plans have been put to union representatives at a railway strategy seminar held on 3 November 1983.

All who attended have been supplied with copies of the papers presented at the seminar and have been invited to make input into the Westrail planning process.

In addition, discussions have been held between Westrail branch heads and union representatives on specific aspects of planning which may involve staff reductions.

This interaction between management and staff will continue as the planning proceeds.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

School: "Bunbury 2000"

2190. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the "Bunbury 2000" transport plan affect the operations of school bus operators in the Bunbury area?
- (2) If "Yes", will compensation be paid to the affected operators?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The Commissioner of Transport is undertaking a study of bus services in the greater Bunbury region as part of the "Bunbury 2000" transport study. That study does include an examination of school bus operations, however it is not known at this time if there will be any effect on school bus operators.
- (2) Answered by (1) above.

2191. *This question was postponed.*

MINING: DIAMONDS

Equity Purchase: Approval

2192. Mr PETER JONES, to the Premier:

- (1) Adverting to question 1447 of 1983, has the Bond Corporation Pty. Ltd. yet obtained the necessary shareholder approvals which would allow it to sell Northern Mining Corporation NL to the Western Australian Government?
- (2) When was the approval to purchase Northern Mining Corporation NL obtained, as advised in part (2) of the answer?
- (3) When is the Government's purchase of Northern Mining Corporation NL to be completed by the transfer of capital funds to Bond Corporation?
- (4) Has a formal agreement to purchase yet been signed between the parties concerned?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 29 June 1983.
- (3) Settlement was completed on 11 November 1983.
- (4) Yes.

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Staff: Redundancies

2193. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Adverting to his answer to question 1927 of 1983, what discussions have occurred with the Australian Railways Union regarding further reductions in Westrail staff numbers?
- (2) Is the Government using the Australian Railways Union to advise its members of the discussions or does Westrail intend to directly discuss its staff reduction proposals with those affected before final decisions are made?
- (3) Is it fact that the number of locomotives has been, or is being, reduced from 203 to 125?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "Yes", how many train crew personnel are affected?
- (5) In considering the proposed staff reductions, what numbers are being reduced in the metropolitan area, compared with those in country towns and regional centres?
- (6) What consideration is being given by the Government and Westrail to the effect upon country towns of such massive Westrail retrenchments, compared with the more desirable options of most reductions being in the metropolitan area where alternative employment opportunities are greater?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The unions were informed at the Rail Strategy Seminar at Westrail Centre on 3 November of the options Westrail is exploring. In addition, the Australian Railways Union was addressed on the subject by a senior traffic branch officer at Westrail Centre on 18 November.
- (2) Notes of the 3 November seminar have been distributed widely and managerial staff have been directed to keep staff fully informed of developments. Westrail will fully discuss proposals with individuals affected by them.
- (3) The number of locomotives required will depend on the option finally adopted. Under each option A and B, 125 locomotives will be required and under option C, 179. Unions have been invited

to make submissions and other options affecting the number of locomotives required will be considered.

- (4) Under options A and B approximately 350 train crew will be affected.
- (5) The figures presented at the 3 November seminar were indicative only and at the 18 November meeting relative to traffic branch staff only. It is not possible at present to provide detailed figures showing staff reductions proposed under the headings specified.
- (6) Westrail's options have been developed with the intention of improving the operational efficiency and competitiveness of the railway.

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL

Staff: Redundancies

2194. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Where proposals for Westrail staff reductions are concerned, what are total staff numbers presently located at—
 - (a) Bunbury;
 - (b) Albany;
 - (c) Lake Grace;
 - (d) Gnowangerup;
 - (e) Merredin;
 - (f) Wagin?
- (2) Will all the above centres be affected by staff reductions and retrenchments?
- (3) What is the estimated reduction at each of the centres identified in (1)?

Mr GRILL replied:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| (1) (a) Bunbury | 332 |
| (b) Albany | 95 |
| (c) Lake Grace | 19 |
| (d) Gnowangerup | 2 |
| (e) Merredin | 240 |
| (f) Wagin | 36 |
- (2) and (3) All centres will be affected by staff variations. There will be no retrenchments. Detailed planning is not complete but present indications are that there will be small reductions at all of the centres with the possible exception of Albany which may have a small overall increase because of changes in operating patterns.

RAILWAYS: WESTRAIL*Staff: Redundancies*

2195. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With regard to the proposed Westrail staff reductions what consideration has been given by the Government and/or Westrail to redundancy and superannuation payments?
- (2) Is it intended to offer payments for early retirement to those who choose to retire, rather than be forced to relocate at another Westrail country or metropolitan location?
- (3) What discussions regarding this matter have been held with the unions concerned?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) Westrail introduced a voluntary severance scheme for surplus employees in July 1983 and 145 employees have so far taken advantage of the scheme. Westrail is currently reviewing that scheme and exploring other alternatives for early retirement of surplus employees.
- (2) Westrail's efforts will continue to be directed at developing acceptable severance schemes and minimising relocations. Where relocations are necessary appropriate financial and other assistance will be provided to affected employees.
- (3) Unions were informed of the options Westrail is exploring at the Rail Strategy Seminar held at the Westrail Centre on 3 November. In addition to the 145 people who have left Westrail under the provisions of the voluntary severance scheme, many other employees have been interviewed by Westrail personnel officers.

MINING: DIAMONDS*Equity Purchase: Royalty Pre-payment*

2196. Mr PETER JONES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Have the Ashton joint venturers made payment to the Government in accordance with the pre-paid royalty arrangement of \$50 million in exchange for the waiver of the townsite building obligation?

- (2) If so, what funds have been received?
- (3) Has any joint venturer not made the necessary payment?
- (4) If so, which one?
- (5) If no payment has been received from any one of the joint venturers, what separate arrangements have been made and for what reason?
- (6) When will a further capital payment be received from the Ashton joint venturers?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) to (5) Arrangements have been made with the Argyle diamond mine joint venture to vary the structure and timing of payments of the additional royalty as provided in clause 29B of the Diamond (Argyle Diamond Mines Joint Venture) Agreement Act 1981-83.

The additional royalty of \$50 000 000 will be paid by the joint venture in the following instalments—

- (i) Payment of \$16.51 million to be made within seven days after the date of approval of the kimberlite mining proposals by the Minister;
- (ii) As to the balance, payment of \$24.99 million within 45 days after the date of approval of the mining proposals and the payment of \$8.5 million on or before the 31 May 1984.

It is understood that the joint venture partners are to make arrangements between themselves as to their respective individual payments to meet these instalments.

As provided in the varied agreement, interest will be payable on any unpaid amounts after the expiry of seven days after the approval of the mining proposals.

The first instalment of \$16.51 million was paid in full by 10 November and comprised the following—

CRA Limited

	\$
The Zinc Corporation	8 255 850.90
New Broken Hill	
Consolidated	5 944 149.10
	<hr/>
	14 200 000.00

Ashton

Ashton Mining Ltd.	669 847.00
Tanaust Pty. Ltd.	252 513.00
A.O. (Australia) Pty. Ltd.	137 640.00
	<hr/>
	1 060 000.00

Northern Mining
Corporation NL \$1 250 000.00

- (6) Further payments are expected on or around 17 December with the final instalment on or before 31 May 1984, as detailed above.

MINING: DIAMONDS

Equity Purchase: Consultants

2197. Mr PETER JONES, to the Premier:

- (1) Adverting to question 1416 of 1983 concerning purchase of Northern Mining Corporation NL, has the Government yet finalised any arrangements as referred to in part (2) of the answer?
- (2) How will the fees referred to form part of the consultancy arrangement?
- (3) Are any other companies or finance houses, apart from L. R. Connell and Partners, being considered for a consultancy arrangement with the Government?
- (4) In considering such an arrangement as indicated in part (2) of the answer, by what method, assessment or reference, has L. R. Connell and Partners been chosen ahead of other national and international financial institutions?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The member will appreciate that the consultancy to which he refers involves contractual arrangements, the details of which are expected to be completed shortly.
- (2) No fees have been paid or will be paid until the detailed contractual arrangements have been finalised.
- (3) Yes. Consistent with the practice of our conservative predecessors, the Government has and will continue to engage local and international consultants according to the particular needs of our State in the matter under consideration.
- (4) It is the Government's policy that local firms with superior commercial know-

ledge, expertise and experience should be engaged by the State where possible.

The firm of L. R. Connell and Partners fulfilled all these criteria which together with their superior local knowledge, provided significant advantages in the context of the unique structure of the diamond industry and the exigencies associated with finalising the negotiations concerning mining proposals to facilitate an early start to stage two of the Argyle project.

FUEL AND ENERGY: STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

Staff: Narrogin and Wagin

2198. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) With regard to State Energy Commission personnel, how many are stationed at—
 - (a) Narrogin;
 - (b) Wagin?
- (2) What categories of staff are involved?
- (3) Are any staff reductions proposed for either Narrogin or Wagin?
- (4) Are any staff increases proposed for Narrogin resulting from construction of the Muja-Kalgoorlie transmission line?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2)
 - (a) Narrogin—21 (5 salaried 16 wages);
 - (b) Wagin—11 (3 salaried 8 wages).
- (3) No.
- (4) No.

HOSPITALS: OSBORNE PARK AND WANNEROO

Medical Practitioners: Salaried and Sessional

2199. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many general practitioners and specialist doctors have responded to the Government's invitation to give resident and sessional service at—
 - (a) Osborne Park Hospital;
 - (b) Wanneroo Hospital?
- (2) Now that the date for applications to be in has passed, what are the names and the qualifications of each of the doctors

who have responded by application to the Government's advertised invitation?

Mr HODGE replied:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| (1) (a) General practitioners..... | 76 |
| specialists | 86 |
| (b) general practitioners..... | 20 |
| specialists | 41 |

NOTE: Some specialists and general practitioners have applied for positions at both Osborne Park and Wanneroo Hospitals.

- (2) The processing of the applications by the respective appointments committees is being undertaken at present. Until the appointment committees have considered and submitted their recommendations the names and qualifications of applicants are confidential and will not be released.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

Roleystone District High School

2200. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware I arranged, on behalf of parents and school representatives, with the Metropolitan Transport Trust, for a trust representative to meet with parent representatives at Roleystone District High School at 9 a.m. on Friday, 18 November 1983 to discuss rearranged bus routes which adversely affect some being transported to school?
- (2) Did he advise that the Metropolitan Transport Trust representative should not meet with the Roleystone parents' group without the request for such a meeting coming to him for approval?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "No", will he please explain how arrangements made on 11 November 1983 with and accepted by the Metropolitan Transport Trust were cancelled and the first advice given to me was at the 18 November meeting that the arrangements for a Metropolitan Transport Trust representative to attend had to be made through him?
- (4) Will he apologise to the Roleystone parents' representatives for the discourtesy and also give an explanation of his direction in this case which is in contradiction to his own commitment to the

Legislative Assembly regarding members visiting port authorities?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) I am aware that the member made a request to the Metropolitan Transport Trust for an officer to attend the meeting.
- (2) Yes. All agencies within my portfolio have been asked to direct requests from members concerning policy matters to my office.

I understand this is generally in line with instructions issued some time ago by my predecessor.

- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) I understand the MTT has apologised to the school for not being able to attend the meeting.

The reference to members visiting port authorities is not understood.

ROADS

Pilbara

2201. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of a previous Government commitment to advance a \$24 million five year additional road programme in the Pilbara by accepting \$12 million advance payment under agreement from Hamersley Iron Ltd to be matched by extra Treasury funds?
- (2) What amount is still due to be found by Treasury to make up the \$12 million commitment?
- (3) Is it a fact that the Government has reneged on the previous agreement and has required the Main Roads Department in the 1983-84 roads programme to find the State's contribution from general road funds?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) I am aware of the arrangement in general terms. As I understand the position, Hamersley Iron made an advance payment on royalties and the Main Roads Department made a commitment of \$12 million. This enabled a five year \$24 million programme to be undertaken in the Pilbara.
- (2) \$2.5 million.

- (3) No. However, the 1983-84 contribution from CRF has been deferred owing to the financial position in which the Government found itself, but will be reviewed in the preparation of the 1984-85 estimates.

EXPLOSIVES DEPOT

Cockburn: Transfer

2202. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When is the actual transfer of the explosives depot in Cockburn expected to occur?
- (2) What capital has been allowed for this transfer, and where in the capital Budget?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Expected in late 1984.
- (2) None in 1983-84 Budget.

KINGS PARK

Employment Creating Scheme: Funds

2203. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Lands and Surveys:

Could he please give information about the projects and jobs that the \$521 820 allocated under the wage pause programme to Kings Park Board was or will be utilised, viz—

- (a) What are these projects/jobs;
- (b) how many people were or are going to be employed additionally to do them;
- (c) what is the duration of this employment per person?

Mr McIVER replied:

The sum of \$521 820 has been allocated to Kings Park Board under the wage pause programme to carry out the following—

- (a) (i) construction of a system of recreational dual use pedestrian and cycle paths traversing Kings Park to improve access also for wheelchairs and pushers reducing conflict with motor traffic;
- (ii) construction of footpaths with better access for wheelchairs, for example the upgraded

nature trail, whose recent opening by the Hon. Keith Wilson was attended by the Hon. Andrew Mensaros;

- (iii) construction of a dual use path near the western boundary of Kings Park for recreation and to reduce traffic hazards for those cycling or walking to and from their homes, workplaces, etc;
- (iv) general landscaping and construction of toddlers, and beginners, cycle track and combined fitness track and sensory trail at the Hale recreation area (former Hale Oval);
- (v) general landscaping of surroundings of Lawrence Pavillion (former bowling club) to provide an enclosed playground for small children and those with disabilities and feature gardens for general enjoyment;

- (b) The number of persons varies from 14 to 17 at any one time.
- (c) The total employment provided will be 965 person weeks. The engagement will be up to 60 weeks per person, but varying in individual cases.

STATE FINANCE

Financial Institutions Duty: "Self-financing Plan"

2204. Mr MENSAROS, to the Treasurer:

Adverting to his comments during the Committee stages of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Budget debate, would he please describe in detail the "self-financing" plan by Treasury to cover the expenditure emerging with handling the new financial institutions duty tax?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The introduction of the new financial institutions duty will of course raise considerably more revenue than the costs involved in providing additional staff required to administer the new duty. Moreover, the abolition of other stamp duties will mean that staff currently employed in administering these duties can be released for work associated with financial institutions duty.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE***Appointment: Discretionary Decision***

2205. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

So that members may keep faith with their constituents, would the Attorney General please inform the House about the exact conditions upon which his discretionary decision is based to recommend the appointment of an application to the commission of the peace to the Governor?

Mr GRILL replied:

Apart from exceptional circumstances the following criteria for appointments to the commission of the peace and exclusions from eligibility are as follows:—

Criteria for Appointment—

- (1) Australian citizenship, and a minimum of 12 months' residence in Western Australia.
- (2) A willingness and capacity to fulfill the full duties of a justice of the peace if called upon.
- (3) Good character, record and reputation, including preferably a record of community service.
- (4) A perceived need for additional justices in the area of the applicant's residence or work.

Exclusions—

- (a) Persons not resident in the State.
- (b) Persons with a record of criminal or serious traffic convictions.
- (c) Situations where appointment would result in a conflict of interests.
- (d) Persons over 65 or under 25 years of age.

EDUCATION: NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS***Working Party: Membership and Terms of Reference***

2206. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When was the working party reportedly set up by the Australian Education

Council to advise about controls for non-Government schools established?

- (2) Who are the Western Australian members of this working party?
- (3) What was the working party's terms of reference?
- (4) What were their main recommendations?
- (5) What is the Government's attitude towards implementation of such recommendations in Western Australia?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) At the June 1980 meeting of the Australian Education Council, it was agreed that the States and the Commonwealth should hold discussions about the registration of non-Government schools.
- (2) Mr J. Davies, assistant director-general (primary).
- (3) Discussions have been directed towards identification of different procedures used in States and Territories and to formulate guidelines which might assist in the development of registration procedures in the future. At the same time Western Australia has been examining its own practices.
- (4) and (5) While the report has been accepted as approaching a final draft, the working party is being asked to modify some aspects of the suggested guidelines. The recommendation fully accepted by the Australian Education Council is the obligation of Governments to protect the rights of children to an adequate standard of education and hence make it mandatory for all non-Government schools to gain registration in order to operate and enrol students. The Government accepts this principle and will further examine other guidelines at a future time when the modified report is presented at a future AEC meeting.

HOUSING: LAND

Sales: Smith Corporation Pty. Ltd.

2207. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Referring to the high quality sales pamphlet by the State Housing Commission entitled "Investments Opportunities Perth W.A.", could he please explain the role of the private enterprise company, Smith Corporation Pty. Ltd., printed on the pamphlet?
- (2) Should a private estate agent have clients interested in any of the offered land, would he receive commission if a sale is executed?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) I thank the member for his comments regarding the high quality of the pamphlet.
As the house has already been advised, Smith Corporation is employed as consultant to the Government on land and housing matters.
Mr Smith has a substantial knowledge of the industry and can give advice to the Minister on proposals put forward, on development commitments proposed, and their suitability.
- (2) A private estate agent would not receive commission on a sale from the State Housing Commission. He could be entitled to a purchasing commission from the buyer, but this is a matter for negotiation between the agent and his client.

ROAD: ROCHDALE ROAD

Inquiry: Membership and Terms of Reference

2208. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) When was the inquiry established which, according to his previous statements, will recommend to the Government, amongst other things, the solution to the Rochdale Road traffic problem?
- (2) Who are the members of the inquiry panel?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of the inquiry?
- (4) Has the inquiry produced a progress report yet?
- (5) When is the inquiry expected and/or required to hand in its final report?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) to (4) At no stage have I announced that an inquiry had been established. I have

always said that one would be. The establishment of a task force to examine the western suburbs study has been the subject of extensive consultation and discussions by my officers and affected authorities.

An announcement of members and terms of reference can be expected in the near future.

- (5) Although the precise dates are yet to be determined it is my intention that the task force reports by 30 June 1984.

WATER RESOURCES: DAM

Harding River: Contract Price

2209. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What is the total contract price for the construction of the Harding River dam?
- (2) What works does the contract comprise?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) \$10 919 717.90, plus provision for escalation, payments for day works and variations.
- (2) Construction of the main embankment, auxiliary embankment, spillway, intake tower, outlet culverts, the pump station building, and ancillary works connected with the above items.

WATER RESOURCES: DAM

Harding River: Contract Price

2210. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What proportion of the total contract price and ancillary costs for the Harding River dam, have been and are expected to be borne by the Commonwealth Government, shown in financial yearly details?
- (2) What is the type of the Commonwealth contribution (grant, loan etc.) and what are the conditions?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) 1981-82—19%
1982-83—26%
1983-84—50%
1984-85—50%

The proportions in 1981-82 and 1982-83 were influenced by the contribution by

Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd.

- (2) The contribution is a grant conditional on being matched dollar for dollar with State funds.

WATER RESOURCES: DAM

Harding River: Progress Payment

2211. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) In connection with the Harding River dam construction how much was expended on the construction contract as progress payment or similar to the contractor in 1982-83?
- (2) How much is expected to be expended as per (1) above in 1983-84 and the following years?
- (3) What ancillary costs, other than in-house professional and clerical time, have been expended in connection with the building of the dam in 1982-83?
- (4) How much is expected to be spent as per (3) above in 1983-84 and the following year?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) Progress payments to the contractor in 1982-83 totalled \$1 636 555.
- (2) Contract payments in 1983-84 are anticipated to be \$5 674 000 and in 1984-85 are anticipated to be \$5 174 000.
- (3) \$2 958 016.
- (4) Answered by (2)

CULTURAL AFFAIRS: FILMS

Western Australian Film Council: Grant

2212. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Economic Development and Technology:

Why has the grant to the Western Australian Film Council for the year ending 30 June 1984 been reduced to \$90 000 following expenditure on this item of \$283 000 for the year ended 30 June 1983?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The estimate for 1983-84 of \$90 000 is for administration expenses (including salaries) only and represents an increase of \$7 000 over the corresponding figure for 1982-83.

No allocation has been made for transfer of funds to the Governmental Trust Fund "W.A. Film Council Trust Fund" at Treasury for investment in films because the existing balance in the trust fund is considered to be adequate for this purpose.

MINING

Tenements: Rentals

2213. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When will the increased mining tenement rentals referred to in question 1817 of 27 October 1983 come into effect?
- (2) Which mining industry groups did the Minister consult in relation to these amendments?
- (3) When did these consultations take place?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) I refer the member to the information provided in the Minister for Mines' letter to him dated 7/11/1983.
- (2) Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.
Chamber of Mines of Western Australia Inc.
Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association.
- (3) On a number of dates in October 1983.

MINING: ACT

Amendment: Consultations

2214. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) In relation to the amendments to the Mining Act 1978-1982 currently before the Legislative Assembly, which mining industry or other groups did the Minister consult in relation to these amendments?
- (2) When did these consultations take place?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer given to question 2213.

DRAINAGE*Rates: Murdoch Electorate*

2215. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Water Resources:

Referring to question 2039 of 16 November 1983, what was the drainage rate, and minimum charge, within the Murdoch electorate in November—

- (a) 1982;
- (b) 1981;
- (c) 1980;
- (d) 1979?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (a) 1.15 cents in \$ of gross rental value—minimum charge \$15.00;
- (b) 1.05 cents in \$ of gross rental value—minimum charge \$10.00;
- (c) 1.00 cent in \$ of gross rental value—minimum charge \$5.00;
- (d) 2.20 cents in \$ of gross rental value—minimum charge 50c.

FUEL AND ENERGY: ELECTRICITY*Power Stations: Muja*

2216. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

What proportion of expenditure committed to the Muja "D" power station contract has been spent in—

- (a) Western Australia;
- (b) Australia;
- (c) overseas?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The approximate proportion of the expenditure committed to the Muja "D" power station is—

- (a) Western Australian—55 per cent;
- (b) other Australian—25 per cent;
- (c) overseas—20 per cent.

HOUSING*Land: Leeming*

2217. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Government made a decision on how and when the State Housing Commission will dispose of or develop its land holdings in Leeming?
- (2) If so, what is that decision?

(3) If the land is to be sold, how is it to be disposed of and by whom?

(4) If any private agent or non-Government consultant is involved in the sale, what is the basis of their remuneration or commission on the sale of the land?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes, as set out in the brochure which I have made available to the members of the Parliament.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) The land will be sold by the State Housing Commission and no commission will be paid.

HOUSING: LAND*Report*

2218. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) When did the Government receive its special report on State Housing Commission land holdings from its consultant on land matters?
- (2) What decisions have been made as a result of the report?
- (3) Will the report be made public?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) At the end of September.
- (2) The report and its recommendations have been accepted by the Government.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Government has accepted the report and its recommendations. The report includes a strategy for the marketing of State Housing Commission land holdings.

HOUSING: LAND*Willetton: Public Open Space*

2219. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) With the State Housing Commission Willetton subdivision in total, what amount of land was the commission obliged to contribute as public open space?
- (2) What proportion has been contributed?

- (3) Does the State Housing Commission contribute this public open space to the City of Canning, or is the council paid for the public open space?
- (4) If it is paid, on what basis is that calculation made?
- (5) Is it normal for private developers to be paid on this basis for public open space contributions?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) In accordance with Town Planning Board conditions of approval, the State Housing Commission is obliged to provide a total of 7.502 8 hectares.
- (2) Stage 1 development contributed 1.541 8 hectares. The balance of the development will provide the remainder to comply with subdivisional conditions.
- (3) and (4) Under town planning scheme 24, public open space contributions made by subdividers are subject to scheme cost adjustments. Where an imbalance occurs and cash adjustment is necessary the market value of the land forms the basis of adjustment.
- (5) Where imbalance of contribution occurs—yes.

HOUSING: LAND

Willetton: Lincoln Primary School Site

2220. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) As the Minister for Education has indicated that the Lincoln primary school site in Willetton is no longer required, when will the State Housing Commission commence to subdivide this land for residential use?
- (2) How many lots is it estimated that such a subdivision will produce?
- (3) What will be the method of sale of these lots?
- (4) How many of these lots will be for State Housing Commission rental tenants?
- (5) How many of these lots will be for sale for State Housing Commission clients?
- (6) Is any part of this subdivision planned to have townhouse type development therein?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) The State Housing Commission has not received confirmation that the Lincoln

primary school site is no longer required as a school site.

- (2) Expected yield from subdivision would be 40 single residential lots and two duplex lots.
- (3) to (6) No townhouse development is planned and such matters as numbers of commission rental houses, commission purchase houses or methods of disposal of developed lots, have not yet been determined.

MINING

Hard Rock Minerals: Training School

2221. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Referring to question 1680 of 20 October 1983, with whom or with which groups has the matter of establishing a training school for hard rock miners been discussed?
- (2) When were these discussions held?
- (3) When is it likely that the decision to establish such a school will be made?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (3) The Minister for Mines has indicated he has nothing further to add to his comments contained in the answer to question 1680.

FUEL AND ENERGY

Act: Amendment

2222. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Referring to question 101 of 26 July 1983, when will the Government complete its consideration of whether or not it will be moving to amend the Fuel and Energy Act of 1974, as reported in March?
- (2) If this is to be in due course, what is causing the delay in completing the consideration?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The matter is still under consideration.

TOWN PLANNING

Canning: Ministerial Approval

2223. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) In relation to the City of Canning town planning scheme No 31, has it yet received ministerial approval?
- (2) Is a potential or proposed school site included in the scheme?
- (3) Will water be provided to all lots within the scheme?
- (4) If the scheme has not been approved, what is the current status of the scheme and when is it likely to receive the necessary approval?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Lots below 2 hectares will have a reticulated water supply, those over 2 hectares will not.
- (4) The scheme has been examined by the Town Planning Board and on November 5 last, I advised the council of certain modifications to be carried out subject to which preliminary approval will be granted.

2224. *This question was postponed.*

FUEL AND ENERGY

State Energy Commission: Employee Participation

2225. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Referring to question 1409 of 11 October 1983, which unions have discussed employee participation with the State Energy Commission?
- (2) When?
- (3) When is it expected that the discussions will conclude and decisions relating to the report made?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) I refer the member to the reply to question 262. All relevant unions have been in discussions which have been held on occasions with the State Energy Commission and on other occasions with the Minister.
- (3) No date has been set.

MINING: ACT

Inquiry: Submissions

2226. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Referring to question 1717 of 25 October 1983, have "any other matters" yet been referred to the committee formed to inquire into certain aspects of the Mining Act 1978-1982?
- (2) If so, what are those matters?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) The Minister has referred no matters to the committee under this term of reference.
- (2) Not applicable.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER

South-west: Local Participation

2227. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Economic Development and Technology:

- (1) Referring to question 2041 of 16 November 1983, concerning membership of work party for aluminium smelter task force, will he include some private industry representatives on this work party to ensure the maximum possible Western Australian participation in the proposed smelter and power station projects?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The work party will establish the appropriate mechanism involving representatives of private industry and the unions to ensure the maximum possible Western Australian participation in the proposed smelter and power station project.

L. R. CONNELL AND PARTNERS

Consultancy Arrangements: Assessment of Capacity

2228. Mr PETER JONES, to the Premier:

- (1) Adverting to his answer to part (3) of question 1945 of 1983 and in considering the possibility of a consultancy arrangement with L. R. Connell and Partners what assessment is being made of the capacities, experience and personnel of the firm concerned?
- (2) Who is advising the Government in the above consultancy?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The consultancy arrangements between L. R. Connell and Partners and the State are based on an assessment of the firm's commercial experience, expertise and performance.
- (2) The principals of L. R. Connell and Partners; namely, Mr L. R. Connell and Mr J. P. Walsh.

- (4) Unused capacity was a factor in the Board's decision.
- (5) The Government would not wish to direct any statutory body to initiate an activity which they had demonstrated was not economic.
- (6) A sales depot is required in Narrogin for the distribution of eggs.
- (7) The Government actively supports economically sound proposals which promote decentralisation.

POULTRY

Eggs: Narrogin Egg Board

2229. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Referring to his advice to the Narrogin Town Council on the closure of the Egg Marketing Board's grading operations in Narrogin, dated 21 September 1983, did the Egg Marketing Board prepare a detailed assessment of the submission received from the Narrogin Town Council?
- (2) Will he provide a detailed assessment of how the board is able to advise that costs will increase by \$56 130 if the Narrogin operations continue as proposed by the Narrogin Town Council?
- (3) Have the Palmyra grading operations unused capacity?
- (4) If so, did this factor influence the Government's decision?
- (5) Why is the Government unable to direct the Egg Marketing Board to support whatever may be the Government policy from time to time?
- (6) If, as his letter states the board has a statutory obligation to maintain economic efficiency, why is it not withdrawing all functions to Palmyra?
- (7) By what method, and to what degree, is the Government proposing to vigorously support and expand decentralisation and country employment, if it is not proposed to intervene in a decision such as has been made by the Egg Marketing Board?

Mr EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I will arrange for the board to provide detailed costings to the member.
- (3) There is some seasonal unused capacity.

STATE FINANCE

Financial Institutions Duty: Double Taxing

2230. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

Has he made a formal request to other Premiers to find the solution to the double taxing which will occur if a financial institutions duty is introduced in Western Australia?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Yes.

STATE FINANCE

Stamp Duty: Declared Rate of Interest

2231. Mr COURT to the Premier:

What is the "declared" rate of interest this year when transactions become liable for stamp duty under the credit business provisions contained in the Stamp Act?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

17.75%.

STATE FINANCE

Stamp Duty: Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes

2232. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) How much stamp duty was collected in the year ended 30 June 1983 applying to the issue and discounting of bills of exchange and promissory notes?
- (2) How much is it estimated will be collected up until 31 December 1983 when it is proposed this duty be discontinued?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) No separate statistics are maintained to provide this information.
- (2) As for (1).

STATE FINANCE

Stamp Duty: Loan Duty

2233. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) How much stamp duty was collected in the year ended 30 June 1983 applying to credit business and instalment purchase agreements. (112K loan duty)?
- (2) How much stamp duty is it estimated will be collected up until 31 December 1983 when it is proposed these stamp duties be abolished?
- (3) What different stamp duties make up the balance of \$17 800 000 listed under credit facilities in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) No separate statistics are maintained to provide this information.
- (2) As for (1).
- (3) Loans, discount transactions, credit arrangements, rental business, hire purchase and credit purchase agreements up to 31 December, 1983 and after that date only rental business.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

Metropolitan Transport Trust: Annual Report

2234. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

When will the Metropolitan Transport Trust annual report be tabled?

Mr GRILLI replied:

Later this session.

STOCK: PIGS

Nyabing Pastoral Company

2235. Mr OLD, to the Minister Representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is the Minister aware
 - (a) The Nyabing Pastoral Co. has one of the largest intensive piggeries in Western Australia, running approximately 2 000 breeding sows and turning off some 400 pigs per week;

- (b) its operations are currently being curtailed by a delay in the provision of three phase power because of its inability to provide satisfactory effluent disposal and pumping of adequate supplies of water;
 - (c) employment of more staff is being curtailed because the single men's quarters are not connected to electricity;
 - (d) that the properties have paid \$60 000 to the State Energy Commission to cover the cost of connection and provided a compound for the housing of transformers?
- (2) If so, what steps has the Minister taken to expedite the connection of this important decentralised industry?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The matter is being investigated and the member will be advised by letter in due course.

HOUSING

Tambellup

2236. Mr OLD, to the Minister for Housing:

What has been the cost of maintenance on the following houses in the Tambellup townsite over the past three years—(i.e. 30 June 1981, 1982, 1983)—

- (a) lot 238;
- (b) lot 244;
- (c) lot 313;
- (d) lot 323;
- (e) lot 339; and
- (f) lot 359?

Mr WILSON replied:

(a) Lot 238—

	\$
1981	290
1982	1 225
1983	155;

(b) lot 244—

	\$
1981	955
1982	1 070
1983	1 185;

(c) lot 313—

	\$
1981	155
1982	160
1983	300;

(d) lot 323—

	\$
1981	250
1982	150
1983	225;

HOUSING

Busseton, Dunsborough, and Margaret River:
Applications

2237. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many applications have been received by the State Housing Commission for—

(a) one-bedroomed;

(b) two-bedroomed;

(c) three-bedroomed;

(d) four-bedroomed,

accommodation at—

(i) Margaret River;

(ii) Dunsborough, and

(iii) Busseton,

in each year since 1980?

Mr WILSON replied:

(a) to (d)

MARGARET RIVER

C/S Rental

1980-81

1981-82

1982-83

TOTAL

Aboriginal Housing

1980-81

1981-82

1982-83

TOTAL

TOTAL ABORIGINAL HOUSING
AND C/S RENTAL

1980-81

1981-82

1982-83

TOTAL

DUNSBOROUGH—No Applications.

BUSSETON

C/S Rental

1980-81

1981-82

1982-83

TOTAL

Aboriginal Housing

1980-81

1981-82

1982-83

TOTAL

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

S.P.	P.C.	1BR	2BR	3BR	4BR	5BR	TOTAL
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2	1	1	7	8			19
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	----

1	1		10	4			16
---	---	--	----	---	--	--	----

	2	1	11	9			23
--	---	---	----	---	--	--	----

3	4	2	28	21	—	—	58
---	---	---	----	----	---	---	----

				1			1
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	---

							Nil
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-----

				2			2
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	---

—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2	1	1	7	9			20
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	----

1	1		10	4			16
---	---	--	----	---	--	--	----

	2	1	11	11			25
--	---	---	----	----	--	--	----

3	4	2	28	24	—	—	61
---	---	---	----	----	---	---	----

S.P.	P.C.	1BR	2BR	3BR	4BR	5BR	TOTAL
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23	10	17	38	43	2		133
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13	9	3	33	56	3		117
----	---	---	----	----	---	--	-----

14	7	3	46	44	1		115
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50	26	23	117	143	6	—	365
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			2	6			8
--	--	--	---	---	--	--	---

		1	3	2			6
--	--	---	---	---	--	--	---

		3	3	4			10
--	--	---	---	---	--	--	----

—	—	4	8	12	—	—	24
---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----

TOTAL ABORIGINAL HOUSING
AND C/S RENTAL

1980-81	23	10	17	40	49	2	141
1981-82	13	9	4	36	58	3	123
1982-83	14	7	6	49	48	1	125
TOTAL	50	26	27	125	155	6	389

HOUSING

Bunbury: Building Programme

2238. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the State Housing Commission building programme in the Bunbury area in each year since 1980?
- (2) What is the number, by category, and estimated expenditure of the commission's 1983-84 building programme?

Mr WILSON replied:

For the town of Bunbury—

Commonwealth/State

- (1) 1980-81
13 x 2 BR town houses
- 1981-82
10 x 2 BR duplex
13 x 3 BR single detached houses
4 x 3 BR duplex
- 1982-83
8 x 2 BR duplex
4 x 3 BR single detached houses
2 x 3 BR duplex

Commonwealth/State

- (2) 1983-84
10 x A.P.U.s
8 x 2 BR duplex
16 x 2 BR town houses
20 x 3 BR single detached houses
estimated construction cost:
\$1 629 509

Aboriginal Housing

- 1 x 3 BR single detached house
2 x 4 BR single detached houses
2 x 3 BR single detached houses
- 1 x 4 BR single detached house
1 x 4 BR single detached house
- 2 x 3 BR single detached houses
- 2 x 4 BR single detached houses
\$193 406

HOUSING

Boyanup and Dardanup: Building Programme

2239. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Housing:

What is the Commission's 1983-84 building programme and estimated expenditure for—

- (a) Boyanup;
- (b) Dardanup?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (a) and (b) There are no houses programmed for construction at Boyanup and Dardanup in 1983-84.

2240. *This question was postponed.*

TIMBER

Mill: Quinninup

2241. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) (a) Is it a fact that Kella Nominees Pty Ltd, which is developing Quinninup as tourist resort, is operating a bush mill;
- (b) if so, what sort of permit or licence has been granted to the company to operate the mill?

- (2) Is it proposed that the company operates more mills; if so, how many?
- (3) (a) Is it getting any timber from State forest or Crown land;
- (b) if so, from what locations is it getting its timber;
- (c) what species is it permitted to take;
- (d) what volume of the species is it permitted to take per year;
- (e) what royalties is it paying;
- (f) are there any conditions imposed on the company by the Forests Department and if so, what are they;
- (g) what supervision is provided by Forests Department officers?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) (a) Yes, under the name of the Quininnup Timber Corporation Ltd.
- (b) The company has no right to supplies of sawlogs from State forest. It purchases logs from a salvage operator authorised to collect sub-standard material on State forest which has been left by licensed general purpose sawmillers and which would otherwise be wasted.
- (2) Not known but logs would only be available from salvage operators.
- (3) (a) to (e) Answered by (1) (b);
- (f) all logs accepted at the mill must be branded with an appropriate private property brand or royalty paid brand. They are required to submit an annual return of logs received.
- (g) Irregular spot checks are made at the mill landing to ensure logs are correctly branded.

WOOD CHIPPING

Log Dumps

2242. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) In relation to "pits" or logs dumps established by the WA Chip and Pulp Co Pty Ltd and/or the Forests Department in the woodchip licence area, how many are there?
- (2) What are their locations?
- (3) What is the estimated volume or number of logs contained in each one?

- (4) which of them contain logs that were felled—
 - (a) up to 12 months ago;
 - (b) 12 to 24 months ago;
 - (c) more than 24 months ago?
- (5) Do they contain logs that could be used for timber and, if so, will the millable logs be made available to sawmills?
- (6) Why have these logs been stockpiled?
- (7) Were any of the logs stockpiled so that a larger volume of logs could be removed from the Shannon basin before it was closed to logging?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) One, established by WA Chip and Pulp Co. Pty Ltd.
- (2) Swamp Road—Nairn block.
- (3) Approximately 2 100 m³ but currently logs are being carted from this stockpile.
- (4) (a) None.
- (b) Swamp Road—Nairn block.
- (c) Swamp Road—Nairn block.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) To prevent undesirable effects on forest soils when logging under winter conditions and to enable coupes to be regenerated.
- (7) No.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: DISPUTE

Electrical Trades Union: Industrial Sabotage

548. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of newspaper reports which state that the Building Workers Union is deliberately sabotaging public works by carrying out construction in such a way as to fail to provide for conduit pipes for electricity supply in public buildings under construction? This is being done in support of the Electrical Trades Union strike.
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that the reports point to the potential cost to the State arising from this deliberate sabotage of public works as ultimately being hundreds of thousands of dollars?

- (3) If the Minister is aware of these matters, can he advise what action is being taken by the Minister and the Government to bring this sabotage to an end?
- (4) Will the Government be supporting the proceedings in the Industrial Commission aimed at getting the men back to work?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) to (4) The Public Works Department is most conscious of the strikes by the ETU and departmental officers have had discussions with the workers involved. The situation has also been brought to the notice of my ministerial colleague, the Minister for Industrial Relations.

We are endeavouring to play our part in resolving the problems. However, it is not within my portfolio to resolve these problems. We are conscious of the facts and are doing everything possible to resolve the strikes. At this stage I do not know what steps have been taken by my department with regard to direct action on the unions involved.

I assure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition everything possible is being done to resolve the matter.

Mr Hassell: If hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage is being done there is a need for urgent intervention.

Mr McIVER: We are conscious of that but it is not within the ambit of my portfolio to resolve the problem. It will be brought to the notice of the people taking responsibility for that area.

MEAT: LAMB

Marketing Board: Referendum

549. Mr TROY, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Is there any truth in the rural Press report which claims that substantial funds came from Eastern States organisations to support the "No" vote campaign in the recent lamb marketing referendum?

Mr EVANS replied:

The Government now has direct evidence that Eastern States meat industry sources supported the major campaign against the Lamb Marketing Board with up to \$28 000. This can be regarded as

substantial interference in a Western Australian issue.

The "No" case in the referendum mentioned was strongly supported by a heavy advertising campaign, in particular from the meat processing section of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation of Australia.

The "No" vote campaign far outweighed the "Yes" vote campaign, conducted primarily by the Primary Industry Association which, through its medium the *Farmers Weekly*, pointed out that it did not have funds to match the number of full page advertisements being lodged by its opposition.

Figures which have come to hand recently indicate that the Western Australian division of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation spent a total of \$28 000 on the referendum campaign plus its action against the board over the agency contracts.

It is interesting to note that the Western Australian division of the MATF was reimbursed, in full, from its national office funds.

This is part of a circular distributed to MATF meatworks members—

The cost of the action taken on behalf of members in this matter and the referendum campaign amounted to \$28 000.00.

It is pleasing to advise, however, that we have received full reimbursement of such costs, from National Office funds, consequent to our delegates at the recent Hobart Convention convincing members of the Federal Executive Committee that the meat marketing problems with which we were and are presently beset is a matter of national concern.

It is above the signature of the secretary of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation.

Evidently, the national office considers the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board something of a threat to its interests, possibly because many Eastern States lamb producers are very dissatisfied with the marketing system they operate under at present.

Interference in a State matter in this way is intolerable and unacceptable.

It was evident from the recent referendum that a clear majority of genuine Western Australian lamb producers favoured continuation of the board under its present charter.

I have for tabling, with your kind permission, Mr Deputy Speaker, a copy of the circular letter to which I have referred.

The circular was tabled (see paper No. 492).

PUBLIC WORKS: DEPARTMENT

Architects: Points System

550. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the points system for allocating work to architects from the Public Works Department been changed?
- (2) If so, what system is currently operating for the allocation of those works?

Mr McIVER replied:

- (1) and (2) There has been no change in regard to the points system for allocating work to the architectural system of the Public Works Department. In fact it has been expanded since the change of Government, and there is no change whatsoever.

TRANSPORT

Courier Services: Franchising

551. Mrs BUCHANAN, to the Minister for Transport:

Is the Minister aware of recent Press reports concerning the practice of franchising courier services, and if so, does he contemplate any action by the Government?

Mr GRILL replied:

Yes, I am aware of the recent unfavourable coverage given in the Press to the operations of certain courier services and am concerned at the lack of protection given to persons who purchase franchises from such firms.

Inquiries I have initiated through the Transport Commission tend to indicate

that the recent dispute between some operators and management may be the result of the firm's propensity to sell more franchises than there is work available.

I will be looking closely at the possible need to introduce some form of control or monitoring of the activities of the present rash of courier operators.

The Bill to amend the Trade Descriptions and False Advertising Act introduced this evening by the Minister for Consumer Affairs is a step in the right direction.

SHOPPING

Supermarkets: Computerised Scanners

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

- (1) Does the Minister support the move by the retail outlets to install computerised checkout scanners?
- (2) If so, what action will he take to have them banned?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) I am intrigued to know whether the member for Nedlands would like them banned. It almost seems like an invitation to ban them. Very shortly after becoming Minister for Consumer Affairs, the action of the Victorian Government requiring unit pricing of goods was drawn to my attention, and I received several deputations, including one from the Shop Assistants Union, one from Charlie Carter Pty Ltd and others from the Retail Traders Association. It seemed to me that the best thing to do was to get together a working party consisting of the retailers. I do not mind talking to retailers or to anyone else. I am happy to work. I think that was the problem with the previous Government: it did not want to work.

An Opposition member: We made decisions.

Mr TONKIN: Members opposite did not do anything at all, they just sat there. Look at the Stock Exchange. For seven years the Stock Exchange asked for an answer and it could not get one. I gave one within 21 days, so do not talk about action. That is absolute nonsense.

To get back to the question—

A member: It is continued policy not to take these actions.

Several members interjected.

Mr TONKIN: Does the member want to answer himself? I will sit down.

An Opposition member: Do not become belligerent again.

Mr TONKIN: Has the member learnt a new word?

Several members interjected.

Mr TONKIN: To continue the answer to the member for Nedlands, I therefore decided to establish a working party consisting of representatives of consumer groups such as the Country Women's Association, the Shop Assistants Union, the Retail Traders Association, independent retailers associations and anyone else whom I thought might have something to offer. That working party is looking at the whole situation.

Mr Thompson: Have you been convinced?

Several members interjected.

Mr TONKIN: I think we need to know more about the subject. We need to look at the situation.

Mr Thompson: Do as I did last week and see the display NCR put on.

Mr TONKIN: We need to make sure that the consumer is protected. We need to make sure that the retailers are able to modernise their industry. I do not see the two as necessarily incompatible.

I would like to refer to a report in *The West Australian* which was highly inaccurate and which puts words into my mouth which I never said. I have not bothered to ask for a retraction as it is impossible to get retractions from the newspapers. They fight like mad because they are not big enough to admit when they have made a mistake.

The other day a reporter from *The West Australian* quoted our policy to me and asked what action I was to take. I said, "I am considering the matter." When I looked at *The West Australian* next morning it said that I had ordered an investigation.

I had done nothing of the kind, and that type of blatant distortion of the truth from the news media—

Several members interjected.

Mr TONKIN: To suggest that we are carrying on an investigation in this way is unfair and untrue. I have not ordered an investigation. Charlie Carters came to me months ago and told me of an intended outlet in the Metropolitan area. One has been operating for some time in Katanning.

A member: And Moora.

Mr TONKIN: And Moora. I do not know so much about that one, but we have had no complaints about the one at Katanning. The commissioner has looked at that outlet a couple of times. I want to make it clear that I have not ordered an investigation into the matter. I have a working party representing all sides of the question.

Several members interjected.

Mr TONKIN: The Government will make the decision in due course. I stated that we would have a working party when I met with a group at my office one Saturday afternoon several months ago. I said the best thing would be to have a working party look at the whole question.

Several members interjected.

PUBLIC WORKS: DEPARTMENT

Harbours and Rivers Branch

553. Mr D. L. SMITH, to the Minister for Works:

With the forthcoming merger of the engineering division of the Public Works Department into the new State Water Authority, what is the future of the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the Public Works Department?

Mr McIVER replied:

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

A committee has been established under the chairmanship of the Public Service Board to make recommendations on merging the Harbours and Rivers Branch with the Marine and Harbours Department.

The merger committee will have representations from both the Transport and Works portfolios and it is anticipated it will resolve the matter in time to coincide with the

completed water authority merger in mid-1985.

federation, I would be happy to provide him with a more considered answer.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Disputes: Metropolitan Water Authority

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

- (1) Has any industrial action been experienced on any of the construction projects under the auspices of the Metropolitan Water Authority?
- (2) If so, can the Minister describe such disruption and tell the House where it occurred?
- (3) What measures has the Minister taken to remedy the situation?

Mr TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (3) It depends what the member means by "industrial action". I am not aware of industrial action on any sites under the auspices of the Metropolitan Water Authority, but I cannot vouch that there has been none since I have been Minister.

Mr Mensaros: I mean recently.

Mr TONKIN: I am not aware of any industrial action by representatives of the union concerned. Some discussions have taken place as to whether the provisions of the award which relate to access to sites have been observed properly. I have had discussions with my colleagues, the Minister for Employment and Administrative Services and the Minister for Industrial Relations. I would not call that "industrial action", but in any endeavour where human beings are interacting with other human beings, tension will occur from time to time. In fact, I have seen it even in these hallowed halls on occasions. Therefore, we must accept that tension will occur and it needs goodwill, commonsense, and a degree of tact and maturity to ensure both legitimate points of view are catered for.

If the member for Floreat would like a more certain answer in respect of any industrial dispute which has occurred since I have been Minister for Water Resources, bearing in mind the problem of definition of "industrial action" which has bedevilled our legal system since

HEALTH: DENTAL

Therapy Centres: Additional

555. Mrs WATKINS, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Given the very valuable service provided to the community through the school dental therapy programme and the increased development in the northern corridor, can the Minister advise whether any provision has been made to increase dental therapy services to the Heathridge area which has been serviced only by a mobile dental unit?
- (2) If so, is he in a position to give details of the proposed new service?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) and (2) I am pleased to advise the member that this Government is very conscious of the value of the school dental therapy programme, not only in the cost-saving to parents by the provision of free treatment to primary school children, but also the educational and preventive aspects of the scheme which are equally important.

I am, therefore, very pleased to announce that three new dental therapy centres have been completed and commissioned.

They are located at Attadale, Melville, and Heathridge Primary Schools.

As the clinics form part of the entire school buildings, the Education Department has funded the cost of building the clinics and the cost of equipment at the Heathridge centre. The remaining cost of salaries for staff, operating and other recurrent costs, as well as the equipment for Attadale and Melville centres, has been met by the Public Health Department, in the order of approximately \$100 000 in additional funds this financial year.

Heathridge will be staffed by two therapists on a full-time basis, being in one of the busiest areas of the service, while Melville and Attadale will be operated on a shared basis; that is, half time each.

In addition, the provision of a clinic at Heathridge will release the two-chair

mobile dental unit which has until now serviced the Heathridge school. This mobile unit will be stationed at the new Heathridge centre and will enable the provision of an enhanced mobile service to areas surrounding Heathridge.

These additional three new centres bring the number of dental therapy centres to 138 throughout the State.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: DISPUTE

Electrical Trades Union: Industrial Sabotage

556. Mr PETER JONES, to the Minister for Works:

This question is supplementary to the earlier question regarding the results of industrial action. It is accepted that resolution of industrial problems is not within the Minister's responsibility, but today the Press has mentioned that in a period of up to a month, concrete pours conducted by the Building Workers' Industrial Union have in most, if not all instances, failed to make allowance for the installation of electrical wiring in the new State Energy Commission building which has been

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member should state his question.

Mr PETER JONES: What is the Minister doing about this matter in view of the fact that it is suggested many tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars will have to be paid in order to provide the electrical wiring?

Mr MELVER replied:

The member for Narrogin has answered the question for me. I emphasise that my department is conscious of the direct effect this strike is having on the construction of buildings in this State. We have had several discussions with the branch offices of the Public Works Department and we liaise constantly with the appropriate body known as WAGGERS which was set up by the previous Government. We also have discussions with my colleague, the Minister for Industrial Relations.

We do not have the mechanism nor do we have the power to settle that dispute, but I share the views of the member for Narrogin in this regard and we are very concerned about the situation that has

arisen in this State in relation to the strike. I indicate to the member for Narrogin that a very responsible Government is in office and it will be doing everything in its power to settle this dispute. However, this Government does not intend to approach the matter in the same way as did the previous Government; that is, in a confrontationist way. We will continue the discussions which have been proceeding and I refer the member for Narrogin to a strong statement by my ministerial colleague in another place, the Minister for Industrial Relations, which was made last week. Discussions are continuing and I emphasise that I do not have the power to settle the dispute. The Public Works Department is doing everything possible by way of liaison to bring this dispute to the people concerned and we hope it will be resolved.

PHILLIPS-MERREDIN

Current Status

557. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Phillips-Merredin which I understand was placed in receivership by the previous Government, was sold by the receiver earlier this year with the loss of 30 jobs. Can the Minister please advise the House of the present situation?

Mr EVANS replied:

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

In May 1983, Cabinet approved the recommendation made by the receiver-manager to close the operations of Phillips-Merredin and sell the business. This decision was made following advice from the receiver-manager that the business could not continue under its present structure without incurring further heavy losses.

The business was sold in June 1983 and operations were recommenced at Merredin by the purchaser. The purchaser is in the process of finalising a major marketing contract with International Harvester Company Australia Ltd. which

should ensure the future success of the business. Extra staff had been recruited, including some who had worked previously with Phillips-Merredin, and it is expected the work force will total about 38.

EDUCATION

School Buses: Tender System

558. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In the light of the statement made by the Minister in the House last Thursday that the Government still believed in the open tender system for school bus contracts, is the Minister aware this has caused considerable upset among school bus operators who believed the Minister had dropped the total open tender system earlier this year?
- (2) I understand a letter was sent by the Minister's office as late as September advising that the Minister had dropped the open tender system. I ask: In order to clarify and establish the true situation, will the Minister advise the position at this stage?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) I swear to the House that this is not a Dorothy Dix question, but I am grateful indeed to the member for asking it because it gives me the opportunity to clarify an area of concern which I understand has been deliberately generated amongst the bus contractors by officials of the West Australian Road Transport Association.

Mr Blaikie: Just wait a minute—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister listened in silence to the member's question and the member should allow the Minister to develop his arguments before he interjects.

Mr Blaikie: Okay, but he generated the concern.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PEARCE: I have generated no concern. I kept the House fully informed of the progress of events. I will sketch out the explanation for the benefit of members who wish to represent honestly the situation to the electorates, but regrettably

that cannot be said of all members of this House.

In March of this year the Cabinet made a decision, in light of advice received arising from a report prepared by the Education Department and the Transport Commission, a report commissioned by the previous Government, that the school bus arrangements would go to open tender. Subsequently, approaches were made by the Road Transport Association and a large number of bus contractors, through representations from a number of members of this House. I listened with care and attention to the representations, and as a result of the representations I withheld any action on implementing the open tender system. I started a lengthy series of negotiations with the Road Transport Association to come up with an alternative to the open tender system to meet the Government's objective of a cost efficient system of bus transport for our school children, and at the same time make that system one that was safe and suited to country communities. On behalf of the Government I have gone out of my way not to implement the Cabinet decision and to start negotiations. I have undertaken those negotiations, as has my department, in a spirit of co-operation and integrity. I regret to report that the same spirit of co-operation and integrity has not been shown by the Road Transport Association.

Mr Clarko: Will you explain that?

Mr PEARCE: Yes, I will. I have met with the association twice within the last two weeks in order to finalise the situation so that I could put before the Cabinet a proposition which would reflect a consensus between the industry and the Government about what needed to be done. I made it quite clear to the association that I would listen to its arguments fully and carefully. I caused discussions to take place between the bus transport section of the Education Department and the Road Transport Association. In the end one main area of concern emerged and different propositions were put forward. The bus section of the department, the Transport Commission, and the Treasury, supported a system of return, which meant a flat rate of repayment based on 15 per cent depreciation

and 15 per cent profit repayable over the 15 year life of a bus. The association put up a proposition for a 20 per cent return on capital and a 20 per cent profit with the repayments for the return on capital bulked into the first four or five years of the contract.

I listened carefully to the association and sent its proposition off to the Treasury to be costed so that the cost implications for the Government would be clear. Once they were clear I met again with representatives of the association and went through its case with them. I have told the House about this previously. At that point of the negotiations I said I would put the matter up to the Cabinet and that the association was welcome to put up its own statement of its argument to be placed on the Cabinet minute instead of my paraphrasing that argument. I met with the association on Monday of last week and arranged for its representatives to come in with their papers on Thursday of last week so that I would have the association's documents to be appended to the Cabinet minute. The representatives were to come with their two accountants so that they could be perfectly confident, not only of my understanding the association's argument, but also of my understanding the figures.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister should draw his answer to a close.

Mr Blaikie: It is a very important answer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nonetheless, the Minister should draw his answer to a close.

Mr Clarko: It is an important answer.

Mr PEARCE: It is a difficult matter. I ask you to forebear, Mr Deputy Speaker. I understand that your ruling is in accordance with other rulings of the Chair but I would appreciate the opportunity to finish. I will do so expeditiously.

Mr Blaikie: It concerns all Australia.

Mr PEARCE: When the Road Transport Association officers were to bring the papers they promised they would prepare, instead of doing so they wanted to go over the arguments generally. Therefore I held off putting forward the Cabinet minute for another week, during which the association representatives were to come back to me. I had arranged for a discussion with them tomorrow so that I could put the minute to the Cabinet next Monday as an urgent item as I said to the member for Katanning-Roe I would do. However, a telex was sent out by the association to all bus contractors. What was said in that telex was a deliberate lie, and the association knew perfectly well that it was a deliberate lie.

Members of the House who heard my explanation earlier would know also that it was a deliberate lie. The association said that the Cabinet was committed to the open tender system, and that is simply not true. The association sought to give itself what it saw as a lever in what it believed would be further bargaining tomorrow. It sought to create unrest throughout the whole country. I will not put up with that sort of behaviour by any union. I have cancelled tomorrow's meeting, and the documentation attached to the Cabinet minute will be the documentation prepared by the bus section of the Education Department, the Transport Commission, and the Treasury. If the Road Transport Association wants to reopen discussions on an honest basis, and it shows the level of integrity I have shown in discussions to date, the way is quite open for it to do so provided it makes an appropriate and full apology to the bus operators it represents.