

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 7th November, 1979

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Leader of the House), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [4.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments proposed in this Bill involve 14 different sections and one schedule of the Road Traffic Act, 1974-1979. They are designed to correct certain anomalies which have become evident as a result of decisions and recommendations made by the court.

Included also are other amendments to give effect to suggestions which have been submitted by members of Parliament, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations, the National Safety Council, the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities, and by officers of the Road Traffic Authority and traffic patrol concerned with the enforcement of traffic laws and the licensing of drivers and vehicles.

All the proposals contained in the Bill have been considered by the Road Traffic Authority and recommended for adoption.

The amendment to section 5 of the principal Act is to add an interpretation of the expression "repealed Act". This is necessary to clarify that the expression relates to the Traffic Act, 1919-1974, as repealed by section 4.

Although the Traffic (Licensing) Regulations provide for a fee of \$20 to be charged annually for the continued use of dealers' plates, it has been found that there is no authority within the Act to charge this fee. The amendment to section 26 will rectify this anomaly.

Section 29 of the principal Act is to be repealed and re-enacted for the purpose of extending the

vehicle inspection provisions. This proposal is related to an amendment to section 111 which appears later in the Bill.

For more than 12 months past the Road Traffic Authority has conducted a pilot scheme in three country towns, where vehicle inspections are carried out by private garages and the cost of each inspection has been met by the authority. The pilot scheme has been very successful from every point of view and to extend it would enable inspections to be carried out efficiently in many areas where neither the local authority nor the Road Traffic Authority has suitable inspection facilities.

To permit the extension of the scheme, it is necessary for the Act to be amended to allow for regulations authorising the Road Traffic Authority to examine and test vehicles and approve and reject the licensing, renewal, or transfer of vehicles; to require vehicles already licensed to be repaired, altered, or modified, and to prevent the use of those not conforming with the vehicle standards regulations; to prescribe fees for inspections and testing of vehicles; and to empower persons, whether they be officers of the authority or not, to prohibit or restrict the use of substandard vehicles.

Section 46 of the Act provides that where an expired motor driver's licence is renewed within 12 months of the date of expiry, the renewal has the effect of validating the licence for the balance of that 12-month period only. With the introduction of renewal periods greater than 12 months, the Bill allows for the validation of periods greater than 12 months.

The Road Traffic Authority has the authority to refuse to renew a driver's licence because, among other reasons, of the number and nature of the driver's convictions. During court proceedings at appeals against such refusal, court records which indicate convictions for offences which could have been dealt with by infringement, but which have, in fact, been heard in court and periods of suspension have been imposed may not be produced. This situation will be rectified by the proposed amendment to section 48.

The Road Traffic Act at present requires that, where the aggregate value of an accident exceeds \$100, it must be reported. The Road Traffic Authority has researched the position and, after considering all factors, including the need to retain sufficient accident data for Main Roads Department purposes and the authority's research projects, it is proposed to amend the Act to raise the \$100 figure to \$300.

The Act currently provides that before a person may be required to submit to a breath test, breath analysing equipment must be available within 40 kilometres.

A person may be required to submit to a blood test provided this can be accomplished within four hours of the occurrence of the event leading to the demand.

In remote areas of the State, suspect drivers apprehended more than 40 kilometres from breath analysing apparatus are required to submit to a blood test, even though the driver may have preferred a breath test.

There is no reason to retain the 40-kilometre limit applicable to breath tests provided, of course, the test can be accomplished within four hours and the Bill proposes to amend the Act in this regard.

There are existing provisions in the Act for an increasing penalty scale for first, second, and third offences for persons convicted of drink-driving charges, but, for the purposes of assessing whether the offence is a primary or subsequent conviction, no provision is made to consider prior convictions for refusing to take a breath or blood test. The converse situation exists also, encouraging a recidivist drink-driver offender to refuse a test, believing that he would fail, and thereby escape the mandatory penalties applicable to subsequent offences.

The proposed amendment allows for previous convictions for drink driving or test refusal to be taken into account in assessing penalties for either of those offences.

Breathalyser operators are presently required to attend court personally to give evidence relating to the standard procedures of conduct of the test and the results of the test, evidence of their qualifications, and certification of the apparatus used.

The amendment to section 70 is designed to allow for the presentation of such prima facie evidence to be made in certificate form. The economical advantages of presenting evidence of a like nature are enjoyed currently by Government Chemical Laboratories and Public Health Department officers, medical practitioners, and analysts.

Instances are now occurring in the courts whereby persons whose motor drivers' licences have been suspended for a traffic offence other than a second or third drink-driving offence, are immediately making a special application for and being granted an extraordinary licence.

The proposed amendment to section 76 will serve to impose periods that drivers convicted of drink-related offences must wait before they may apply for extraordinary licences. The waiting periods vary in accordance with the severity of the offence and take into account previous convictions for other drink-related driving offences.

The amendment proposes a minimum waiting period of 21 days after any offence and ranges up to a four-month period that a driver convicted of his second or third offence under section 63 must wait before applying for an extraordinary licence.

It was thought previously that a minimum 21-day waiting period had been provided for in the Justices Act (Extraordinary Licences) Regulations, but the courts have recently ruled these provisions to be *ultra vires* with the result that there is no effective legislation to prevent a person whose driver's licence has been suspended for a traffic offence—other than a second or third drink-driving offence—from immediately making a special application for and being granted an extraordinary licence.

Waiting periods for some offences are already prescribed by section 76 of the principal Act, but it is now proposed to extend the provisions of the subsection to include all drink-related driving offences.

The grounds available to courts to cancel an extraordinary licence are presently too restrictive. The Bill proposes to extend these grounds to include consideration of the character of the licence holder and the number and nature of convictions incurred by him since the granting of the extraordinary licence.

Instances have come to the notice of enforcement authorities of replica or imitation number plates being attached to vehicles and the Act at present falls short of preventing this practice. The amendment to section 97 is intended to rectify this situation.

For many years in prosecutions against persons who have failed to effect the transfer of a vehicle licence, evidence of the ownership of the vehicle at the relevant time, according to the records maintained by the Road Traffic Authority, was in the form of a certificate issued by the clerk in charge of vehicle records. Recently this procedure has been ruled invalid and an amendment is sought to allow for the production of a suitable certificate of ownership for the purposes of prosecution under the Road Traffic Act and other Statutes. Such certificate would serve as prima facie evidence of the facts stated.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in the past in taking the necessary court action

within the statutory time limitation to enforce compliance with those sections of the Act dealing with transfers of vehicle licences and registration plate offences.

By the very nature of the offences, the evidence required to institute proceedings does not become available until the prescribed time limitation has expired or is close to expiry, thereby negating any further action.

To facilitate the necessary action against persons so offending, it is proposed to extend the time available for prosecution from six months to two years.

Regulations made under provisions of the Road Traffic Act impose responsibilities on the owners of vehicles in certain circumstances. Recently, however, this imposition has been held to be *ultra vires* the Act and the Bill seeks to allow for this anomaly to be rectified.

Drivers of passenger vehicles have been obliged to obtain a separate driver's licence in addition to their ordinary licence, involving extra work for the Road Traffic Authority and a small fee payable by the driver. The Bill proposes, by deletion of the reference to passenger vehicle licences in the second schedule to the Act, to facilitate the inclusion of these classes in an ordinary licence.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the Opposition).

RESERVES BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 6th November.

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [4.53 p.m.]: This Bill contains a number of proposals for adjustments in the reservation of various portions of land covering many parts of the State. It would be impossible for any one member to be familiar with all the locations included in the Bill and to be in a position to give a considered judgment on the propositions put forward.

For example, I am not one of those who has been fortunate enough to have spent time at Kalbarri, which I understand is a delightful place for a holiday. I have not as yet had the opportunity to discuss the Bill with my colleagues, to obtain their views on it. So, although I may indicate my general support for the Bill, it may well be that my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly may express very different views.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: They do not come from there, either.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I hardly think Mr Tozer's interjection is relevant. I have a relative who has spent a number of years as a businessman in Kalbarri.

Clause 2 seeks to use portion of Reserve No. 27004 as a waste water treatment works site for the town of Kalbarri, which offers the possibility that the water could be used by the nearby golf course. That is a very sensible recycling of a waste product and, in principle, I do not object to the proposal. Whether the most satisfactory site has been selected is a different question on which I have no opinion to offer.

Clause 5 seeks to set aside an area of 40,873.2 hectares from land 26 miles south-east of Merredin to form a reserve for the conservation of flora and fauna. In reading this clause, and the remarks which accompany it, I could not help thinking of the view of the Environmental Protection Authority on Star Swamp that 100 hectares was not sufficient to guarantee the continuation of the area as a flora and fauna reserve. Yet here we are dealing with an area of slightly under 41 hectares, which somebody believes will be sufficient for that purpose. If we are to believe the EPA, this proposal may well be questionable; perhaps we should in fact be seeking to set aside a larger area than is indicated here if it is to be an effective flora and fauna reserve.

Clause 6 contains a proposal to excise an area of four hectares presently classified as "recreation and camping" and vested in the Denmark Shire Council. We are told the area is used for camping, and by amateur fishermen. The proposed caravan park would be a useful addition to the town's facilities. However, if it is to be given over to a private business to develop, and if those persons will be required in the future to pay some charge for that which, up until now, they have enjoyed free of charge perhaps they may not take it too kindly. In fact, I am sure the amateur fishermen will not be happy about such a situation.

However, there is a need to ensure that suitable areas are set aside for these purposes—in this case, for a caravan park—and for that reason the Opposition supports the proposal.

We would like to be assured that proper consideration has been given to the impact of that use on the surrounding reserve areas and that they will be protected from any ecological damage which may result from the heavier use of that area. With those remarks I indicate my support for the Bill.

THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South—Minister for Lands) [5.01 p.m.]: I hesitated before rising because I thought other members may have wished to speak to this Bill which is very much an electorate Bill rather than a party Bill and one on which members have local knowledge of the areas and the particular reserves in them which are affected. At times it seems we are bringing rather petty things to the Parliament in this Bill when it is considered that we will be excising an area of just 45 square metres for a guidance light and things like that. But it is a requirement of "A"-class reserves that changes must be brought to Parliament. I wonder at times whether we do not use the facility of "A"-class reserves too often and whether it would not be better and just as safe to place areas under "B"-class reserves. This would protect them just as much, but would not create the difficulty of having to bring minor amendments to Parliament.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: It didn't seem to help that little piece of land at Bayswater.

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: That is a typical example. How the devil that ended up an "A"-class reserve I would not know! Of course, it disappeared some years ago. Nevertheless, this is the system we have and we will have more and more Reserves Bills coming to Parliament as we place more and more areas under "A"-class classification. If a Bill such as this is passed fairly easily perhaps it shows there is not the concern about bringing such Bills here, but we reserve the right to comment.

Mr Cloughton did indicate it was a pity the reserve being formed 26 kilometres south-east of the Merredin townsite was not larger than the 41 hectares. Regrettably, that is all the land available; the area surrounding it is open farmland. If more land had been available a larger area would have been set aside; but this area was set aside a considerable time ago. We are merely changing its classification from one type to another.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: I simply raised the question because of the comment I made about Star Swamp and 100 hectares not being enough. However, another option would be to acquire other farmland.

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: The surrounding land is all cleared.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: It could be regenerated and used as a buffer.

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: That is an interesting possibility; but the land has been cleared and it would be difficult to resume it. I thank members for their support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth (Minister for Lands), and transmitted to the Assembly.

LIQUOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 6th November.

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [5.07 p.m.]: I apologise to Mr Pike as I have not really been able to give this Bill the amount of time I would like as I have been fairly busy over the last few days. Perhaps if I had been able to give it further consideration I would not make the comments I am about to make. However, I support the purposes of the Bill. In some ways it may in fact be viewed as an anti-business Bill in that it makes conditions a little more difficult for the persons seeking a licence. However, the balance of advantages are generally against the community in that it is very difficult to become aware of when proposals are being put forward; certainly, if the notice is given on a foilsap-size sign it would be quite easy to overlook that it has actually been placed on a site.

I have had some difficulty in understanding the changes to sections 59 and 59A and the basis in which the member has proposed those changes. In his speech on page 4266 of *Hansard* No. 18 of the 1st November—not the 1st October as shown on the top of the page in the weekly proof copy of *Hansard*—the member said—

Section 90(2) specifically includes section 59 among the sections with which an applicant for a removal must comply. The court therefore insists that a certificate from the local health authority for the district must be filed before it will hear a removal application.

The local authority provides the information on a form, a copy of which I have here. It reads in part as follows—

I,
 being*for the
Local Health Authority
 HEREBY CERTIFY that the premises
 known as.....
 and situate at.....

- (a) conform in every respect to the Health Act, 1911, to the relevant Act relating to sewerage and drainage and to any by-laws or regulations made under those Acts or the Local Government Act, 1960;
 or
- (b) can be made to conform with the abovementioned Acts, regulations and by-laws if the following requirements were carried out.

The local authorities in my electorate inform me they have had no difficulty handling applications under those conditions. If there is a problem in respect of new buildings, to which Mr Pike referred, the authorities thought this might be dealt with by an addition to the form from which I have just quoted, enabling a local authority to certify that any premises to be constructed would have to satisfy the requirements of the above Act, etc. The form would then have sections (a), (b), and then (c).

However, Mr Pike said there was no problem with a completely new proposal where a licence did not already exist. There was a problem when the proposal was for a removal of a licence. He said—

However, the problem arises where the premises to which the removal is sought are premises which have not yet been constructed or have not yet been adapted to make them suitable to receive a licence. In that situation, some local authorities refuse to issue a certificate by virtue of the fact that they cannot confirm that non-existent premises comply with all the relevant Acts and by-laws.

As I said, the local authorities indicated that had been no problem to them.

The changes being made to section 59 in part add a requirement that an application for the removal of a licence must also be provided with a provisional licence. That is what I understand to be the purpose of the amendments to section 59; it is a reference to the removal of a licence. It seems to be dealing with a different sort of problem altogether.

If we look at section 59A of the Act—which was included in the Act of 1977—we will see that 59A (3) reads as follows—

(3) It shall be the duty of the local authority responsible for town planning matters for the district in which the premises are situate to furnish a certificate to an applicant for the purposes of this section as soon as is reasonably practicable after being so requested, and where the Court is satisfied that such a certificate has been requested but has not been so furnished the Court may proceed to hear the application notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.

If the problem is that there are some local authorities which have been difficult by not providing the required certificate, what we need is a provision which requires them to do so, or if they continue to refuse to grant the certificate, we need a provision which allows the court to proceed.

The act of simply amending section 59 to include the reference to the removal certificate does not appear to cover the problem. However, I will not oppose the Bill; I think the amendments are obviously desirable, but I raise that matter simply to express a point of view which I arrived at after a cursory examination of the legislation.

THE HON. R. G. PIKE (North Metropolitan) [5.16 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the House for his explanation of the reason for the Cabinet's support of this Bill. I also thank the Hon. Roy Cloughton for his first comment in which he said he supported the purposes of the Bill. However, I do not agree with his other comment regarding businesses because one of the major requirements of the Bill is to facilitate the transfer of an existing liquor licence holding to an alternative location. In fact, this particular section has been very much welcomed by the liquor trade and I understand it is very appreciative of the fact that it makes a transfer easier to facilitate.

With respect to the Hon. Roy Cloughton's question on the amendment to section 59A, perhaps I should say to him at this point that I was concerned about it also during the drafting of the Bill, so much so that members will recall that after the first Bill was presented it was subsequently looked at by the Crown Law Department. I then withdrew the Bill so that it could be made clear. I say to the Hon. Roy Cloughton in particular and also to the House that the contents of this Bill are essentially the same as the contents of the first Bill. The Hon. Roy Cloughton made the comment that the local

authority should be made to issue a certificate. I understand that part to be mandatory already and there is no problem in regard to the issue of a certificate where the conditions have been met. Section 59A(1) of the principal Act reads in part as follows—

The Court shall not proceed to hear an application for a licence, the removal of a licence, or for a provisional certificate for a licence...

Herein lies the member's confusion because this deals with town planning and I can understand the honourable member's point of view because in the first instance it confused me also.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: I actually read clause 3.

The Hon. R. G. PIKE: I make the point that the guts of the section is the new provision for a provisional certificate for the removal of a licence. The clause provides this, and this is actually a quite separate ball game in respect of the industry. I emphasise the point that it is quite a different definition and therefore it is the reason for the amendment. If, in fact, a provisional certificate for the removal of a licence was already included in the section the main amendment would not be necessary and that is the opinion of the Crown Law Department and likewise the opinion of the Licensing Court. I ask the House to support the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by the Hon. R. G. Pike, and transmitted to the Assembly.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)

Consideration of Tabled Paper

Debate resumed from the 6th November.

THE HON. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [5.24 p.m.]: I wish to make a few comments on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and also on some matters that have caused me concern during my time in this House.

If one looks at the Estimates of receipts and expenditure of the Consolidated Revenue Fund on page 14, under the heading, "Taxation", one finds that by far the largest amount received by the

Treasury is from pay-roll tax. The figure in the Estimates for 1979-80 is \$164 million. Compared with last year's figure there is a difference of \$12 million.

The next largest sum of money received is under the heading, "Mining—Royalties and Lease and Other Rentals" with an amount of \$62 615 445, and \$72.718 million is the estimate for 1979-80. Of this estimate, the figure for iron ore royalties is \$52.227 million. Those two items constitute the largest amounts received from any one source. There is another source of interest to me and I am sure it will interest members also.

THE PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the honourable member to speak up and ask other members to cease their audible conversation because the *Hansard* reporter is having difficulty hearing.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Another item which attracted my attention on page 14 was betting taxes. There was a total receipt of \$14 685 110 for the year 1978-79 and the estimate for 1979-80 is \$15.7 million. That is quite a considerable amount of money. It is not wasted on different forms of betting; that is the amount of money the Government collects. One could say it is a considerable figure.

If we turn to page 62 of the *Financial Statement* we find that the taxation per head of population for betting amounted to \$12. That figure will give members, and perhaps those who do not contribute to that form of betting tax, some idea of how much is spent on betting.

I was always under the impression that the State did not promote gambling or betting, but I notice agencies or constituted bodies are established to run different forms of betting. I remember a full-page advertisement in the newspaper explaining how to mark Lotto cards and also an explanation on how to bet with the TAB. It appears one has to be an Einstein now to bet with the TAB, with its new system.

Therefore, it appears that these agencies do promote betting and it also is evident from the amount that is collected in taxes. It is quite a considerable sum to be paid by a chosen few who indulge in that sort of activity.

On page 30 of the Estimates under the heading of "Salaries" we find the Joint House Committee is responsible for electorate offices and some of the staff of Parliament. There are 63 clerk-typists in electorate offices, and three secretary-stenographers. The estimate is \$625 500 for 1979-80 for clerk-typists in the electorate offices, and the \$555 914 was the actual expenditure for the year 1978-79.

I remember when I first joined Parliament there were two clerk-typists in a pool responsible for the work of all members. There were no electorate offices in those days and on some occasions I found it more expedient to have a typewriter supplied to type letters for myself. I am not saying that was good, but I am just pointing out the conditions then and the position as it is now.

I wonder whether these 63 electorate offices, which cost the State \$625 500 a year, serve a useful purpose for the constituents of members who occupy them.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: It all depends whether they are electorate offices or electioneering offices.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Yes; it does depend on whether they are electorate offices or electoral offices. That is a good point. I find that one clerk-typist is responsible for each electorate office. When a member has an office in this House, he has to share a typist and, in some cases, even share an office. So there is a wide disparity in the services provided for members, and I question whether the electorate offices are necessary.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: How much do the 14 Press secretaries cost?

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: That is not the question, Mr Cooley.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I am not discussing Press secretaries; I am discussing electorate offices as I know them, and I doubt very much whether they serve the purpose for which they were originally established. They provide an elaborate service which we do not require.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: For political purposes they are necessary.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I agree.

The Hon. W. M. Piesse: Did you say the cost is about \$600 000?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Yes, but that does not include the rent or the cost of the establishment of the offices. It is merely the amount paid to the clerk-typists. It is one area which I consider requires further study. These offices are not warranted and, in some cases, are being abused.

It has been said—but not to me—that in some cases the telephone number of the branch office of a political party is the same telephone number as that of an electorate office. If this is the case, it certainly represents a misuse of the offices. I have never agreed that the electorate offices are necessary, and I still do not believe they are.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Neither do I. In many cases the electorate offices also are air-conditioned.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Are many being misused in the way you are indicating?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I do not know. I have been told it is the case, but I have not confirmed the statement. It has been said that the electorate offices are being used by political parties as their offices and that the telephone number for the political party is the same as that of certain electorate offices. However, so much for electorate offices. I wished to draw the matter to the attention of the House.

While still on the subject of the Parliament, I wish to deal with the Joint Library Committee. When I first came to Parliament, we had only one Librarian, who was Mr Davis. Now we have two Librarians, one library assistant, one clerk, and one typist. I am not saying that demands are not being made by members. Probably we have a new breed of members now who require a more elaborate service than that which used to be available in days gone by. However, I question whether the service is of any more value to members than the service we had previously.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Obviously you have not been using the Library lately or you would realise it is far superior to what it was in the early days.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I did not say it was not superior; of course it is.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: What did you say?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I am merely comparing the situation in the Library with what it used to be when I first came here and I am questioning whether we need a big Library.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: It depends on what you require of the Library. If you merely want to read a novel in the weekend, you would have been all right with the old service.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I cannot recall any submissions being made by members to that effect. We have a Joint Library Committee.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Passing on to further items, I notice that the total amount for the London Agency is \$990 000, or nearly \$1 million. I do not question that amount, but, in comparison, the estimated expenditure for the Tokyo Agency is only \$223 000. With the amount of business we conduct with Japan, I would have thought the Tokyo Agency would have more money allocated to it than is allocated to the London Agency. No doubt there is a good explanation for the difference, but it is something which occurred to me when I was considering the items.

Further on in the items of expenditure, I find a total of 119 charitable and other public bodies receive allocations. The largest amount paid out was to the St. John Ambulance Association, the expenditure for which last year was \$2.606 million, and the estimate for 1979-80 is \$2 765 500. The next biggest last year was \$1 708 500 to the Australian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, and the estimate for this year is \$1.192 million.

The next one of importance is Ngai-a Home, which last year received \$1 050 600, and this year the estimate is \$1.131 million. The next biggest is the Spastic Welfare Association for which the estimate this year and the expenditure last year in each case was \$950 000.

When I went through the list of various organisations which receive grants from the Government, I wondered how any organisation was ever missed. In fact I have not even heard of some of the organisations involved. Obviously many people do a great deal of voluntary work for these organisations which are helped by the Government.

I wish to refer to one aspect of the work done by the St. John Ambulance Association and about which there has been a great deal of controversy. I refer to the St. John Ambulance aerial service whose deficit of \$170 000 was passed over to the Medical Department. I cannot understand why this service is necessary when we already have the Royal Flying Doctor Service. For the life of me I cannot understand why we need the two services and why the St. John Ambulance Association entered the aerial ambulance field. Why cannot it arrange for the RFDS to do any aerial work which is necessary? Aeroplanes are expensive to operate and I do not believe anyone has ever been seriously disadvantaged by having to accept the services of the RFDS instead of those of the St. John Ambulance aerial service. I question the necessity for the two services.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: I think they have a reciprocal arrangement for a joint service.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I sincerely hope so, although I still do not know why it is necessary for there to be two services.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: It is an integrated service.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Let us hope it works a bit more efficiently than it has done in the past. A great deal of argument has occurred over the operation of the two services.

Under the heading "Subsidies and Concessions", items 174 to 178 deal with

pensioners' travel concessions. The subheadings are as follows—

Annual Free Trip South to Pensioners
Residing in the North-West

Reimbursements to Country Bus Services

Reimbursements to MTT

Reimbursements to Railway Department.

The biggest amount paid out last year involved reimbursement to the MTT and the total was \$2 422 600. This year the estimate is \$2.423 million. The total amount involved in these concessions is \$3.5 million.

In addition, of course, we have just undertaken to provide help to another 8 500 pensioners who will be receiving supporting parents' benefits, or who will benefit under increased Commonwealth eligibility. This will involve another \$381 000 for a half year, and \$672 000 for a full year will be paid. This brings the total for this financial year to approximately \$4.5 million.

People should be made aware of what the Government pays out because we do hear a great deal of criticism of the Government. People say that it is not helping enough. Of course no-one ever has enough of anything, but it is worth noting that the Government is paying out over \$4 million in concessions to pensioners.

Further on in the Estimates I find the Metropolitan Transport Trust is to have an estimated contribution of nearly \$25 million in 1979-80 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund; and the metropolitan rail system is to receive an estimated contribution of \$10.5 million from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. It will be seen they are most expensive items. I am not saying the country will be disadvantaged as a result of those contributions; I must be fair and point out that country water supplies will be subsidised this year by an amount roughly equivalent to the Metropolitan Transport Trust subsidy.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Plus the SEC.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: However, I thought it wise to bring those matters to the notice of the House. Not everyone is able to study the Budget papers at length, and these matters may be of interest to people who happen to read *Hansard*.

The *Financial Statement* is a most comprehensive document. On page 32 it shows the taxation estimate of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for 1979-80, compared with receipts for previous years back to 1975-76. Once again, by far the biggest tax item is pay-roll tax, which this year is estimated to be \$164.1 million, whereas it was \$110 341 349 in 1975-76. Obviously pay-roll tax is the main source of

taxation revenue. Stamp duty has increased from \$44 201 734 in 1975-76 to an estimated \$71.9 million in 1979-80.

A table in the *Financial Statement* relates taxation receipts to the population. It shows that pay-roll tax per head of population during the year 1978-79 amounted to \$124. Various forms of stamp duty amounted to \$53 per head of population.

Betting tax is estimated to be \$15 million in 1979-80, whereas in 1975-76 it was \$11 069 748. That tax continues to rise steadily. I do not think the tax has increased; perhaps more people indulge in betting.

I thought it interesting that the two largest items of expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund at page 34 of the document are education, estimated to be \$370.682 million in 1979-80, and medical, health, and mental health services, which are estimated to be \$375.065 million. On page 36 of the document a functional analysis and cost per head of population can be found. We find that education expenditure is estimated to be \$346.51 per head of population in the current financial year, while public health expenditure is estimated to be \$303.97 this year.

I turn now to Mr McKenzie's favourite subject: railways. Estimated expenditure in the current financial year is \$169.121 million, whereas expenditure in 1975-76 was \$114.368 million. Expenditure on this item has increased each year. Proposed expenditure in the current year is up by \$18 million over last year. Contrary to the belief held by some that the railways are running down, I think that shows money is being spent on our railway system. For the information of members I would like to read a Press release issued by the Minister for Transport on the 24th October, 1979. It is as follows—

The Minister for Transport, Mr Cyril Rushton, today launched his strongest attack yet on the Labor Opposition for what he claims is its persistent gross misrepresentation to the public concerning the State's railway system.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Davies, and its spokesman on transport matters, Mr McIver, have been persistently claiming that the State Government 'has neglected the railway system and allowed it to run down'.

Speaking when officially opening the 1979 Demonstration of Rail Plant and Machinery at Forrestfield, Mr Rushton said he wished the display, and the massive Kewdale-Forrestfield railway complex and its operations could be seen by all Western

Australians, and certainly those who in ignorance or for political purposes were claiming that the State's railway system was being neglected and was being allowed to run down.

He said nothing could be further from the facts and truth.

"Surely the presence and operation of the Kewdale Freight Terminal and this Forrestfield Marshalling Yard, the \$100-million five-year 503-km Kwinana-Koolyanobbing standard gauge re-sleepering/re-railing project, and the \$100-million expenditure of capital funds on improvements and upgrading of the State's railway system since 1974 prove otherwise," he said.

"Surely, too, do:

the 80 km Eneabba-Dongara railway for transport of mineral sands opened in 1975 at a cost of \$9.2-million;

the upgrading of the 259 km Kalgoorlie-Leonora railway for the Agnew nickel traffic which began in 1976 and will be completed next year at a cost of \$5.8-million;

the \$4.7-million upgrading and re-railing of the Brunswick-Collie line for the increased coal traffic;

the \$2-million track upgrading and signalling system improvement on the 91 km Pinjarra-Picton line for alumina traffic;

the \$0.7-million dual gauge connection between Kenwick Junction and the Canning Vale industrial area constructed in 1978;

the \$1.2-million track maintenance work on the Amery-Kalannie line during the past three years;

the \$2.5-million spent on general maintenance and improvement programmes on the Perth-Armadale and Perth-Midland suburban passenger lines during the past two years;

the work now proceeding on direct rail access between the upper south west main line and the lower south west line to Manjimup to enable through-trains to by-pass Bunbury next year;

the proposed renewal of the 28 km track between Mundijong and Kwinana scheduled to start in about two years;

the acquisition of 11 new mainline locomotives in the past five years at a cost of \$6.6-million;

the calling of tenders this year for a batch of up to 13 locomotives as part of a programme of replacement of X-class lightline locomotives used for general goods movement;

the construction at a cost of \$10-million of 250 special purpose wagons, including 90 for the haulage of grain;

the \$300,000 maintenance and refurbishing programme currently under way on the Australind train coaches;

the provision of 11 new railway station buildings at various country centre stations in the past five years;

the new parcels depot at Roe Street in Perth, and upgraded parcel facilities at Mullewa and Kewdale;

the acquisition and refurbishing of a substantial building at Narrogin for district administration purposes;

the expenditure of about \$1-million on further improvements to facilities and other ancillary equipment at the Midland Workshops, with further upgrading of amenities envisaged for 1981;

the purchase of 10 new suburban passenger rail cars currently in hand, and planned expenditure of up to \$13-million in the 1979/84 five-year urban public transport improvement programme for purchase of additional rail cars, bus-train transfer facilities, and provision of car parks at suburban railway stations; and,

many other projects.

I am sorry if I have bored the House, but I thought I should bring to the notice of members the expenditure on railways.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We are happy to put up with it. This is probably your last major speech in this place.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: It is going to be a beauty, is it not?

People should hear more about what is going on instead of hearing the Government being denigrated for what it is allegedly not doing in respect of the railways. People say the railway system is running into disrepair and disuse; but I cannot agree with that. The figures I have quoted and the statement made by the Minister indicate

that the Government is interested in the railways system. The Minister for Transport issued another Press release, which gives further details.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: That is why the Mullewa-Meekatharra service and the Perth-Fremantle passenger service have disappeared.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: That has nothing to do with it.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: No, you do not attach importance to that.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: The Marble Bar-Port Hedland line also was closed.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: The rail system has been reduced by about 1 500 kilometres.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Labor members crossed the floor to vote with Liberal members for the closure of the Brookton-Corrigin line.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Worse than that was the total lack of expenditure by the Tonkin Government.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: The Mullewa-Meekatharra line had served its useful purpose. As Mr McKenzie is well aware, that line was built for a specific purpose, and it was not built to last. It was laid along the easiest route and it followed watercourses in some places. While the engineers of those days did not have modern equipment, it must be accepted that if the line were to be rebuilt, it would have to be rerouted.

That is the situation which exists also in relation to roads. The North West Coastal Highway followed a route different from that followed by the old road, because the old road followed watercourses. In the old days, the teams followed the places where there was feed. That was the easiest course to follow.

The Mullewa-Meekatharra railway served its useful purpose. When the line was closed, the Premier gave an undertaking that no project would suffer because of the lack of a railway. If a project were viable, it would be brought to fruition in the Murchison.

When the undertaking was given, it made sense to be rid of the railway that was there. It was not attracting any freight. It could not continue as it was. Its situation was caused by the previous Governments which did not see the necessity of keeping the line in good condition. The line reached the stage where it could no longer be used.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: Do you support a railway to the northern part of the State?

Sitting suspended from 6.02 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Prior to the tea suspension I was speaking about railways. By way of interjection, Mr McKenzie asked whether I would support the building of a railway to the north. I would certainly support such a proposition if in fact a railway to the north were necessary. I would support the construction of a railway anywhere in Australia if it were needed; but I do not support the construction and maintenance of railways which are not needed.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: You are saying then that the Meekatharra-Mullewa line was not needed, are you?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I am.

I should like to turn now to the matter of school dental therapy centres. On page 19 of the *Financial Statement* the following passage appears—

A total of 68 school dental therapy centres have been built and commissioned during the last three years. These facilities are now established in 81 Government primary schools throughout the State and in co-operation with 19 mobile units reach approximately 70 per cent of the student population in both government and non-government primary schools.

I understand also we will be building another 20 dental therapy centres and five of those will be situated in country areas. Most of the dental therapy centres in Western Australia have been established in primary schools and they have influenced greatly the amount of dental decay found in the teeth of young children.

Of course, there has been much controversy regarding fluoridation of water supplies. Some people consider this to be an infringement of one's rights. I should like to quote an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on Thursday, the 25th October. It is headed "Fluoride denial a mischief—doctor" and reads as follows—

CANBERRA: The Director-General of Health, Dr Gwyn Howells, strongly supported fluoridation of water supplies in his annual report tabled in the Federal Parliament yesterday.

"Authorities that deny those benefits to their people can, I believe, be accused of a far greater mischief than imposing their will on the unwilling," Dr Howells said.

All domestic water supplies contained naturally occurring fluoride, usually in inadequate amounts, and fluoridation was only an adjustment to a beneficial level, he said.

He discounted claims by two American biochemists, Dr John Yiamouyiannis and Dr Dean Burk who found that fluoridation caused increased mortality from cancer.

Dr Howells said that the safety and efficacy of fluoridation had been tested thoroughly in Australia in the past 30 years.

Studies in several countries had produced strikingly consistent results in relation to the health of children and adults.

"Numerous studies by respected organisations and individual researchers have failed to detect any adverse effects on general health where fluoride occurs naturally in optimum quantities or is added to water supplies at one part per million," he said.

'VOCAL MINORITY'

The vocal minority who opposed fluoridation based their opposition on fears of adverse effects on health or the proposition that governments did not have the right to impose mass medication, he said.

They overlooked the fact that several other chemical substances such as copper sulphate, chlorine and calcium were routinely added to water supplies to help maintain quality and safety.

Yet fluoridation, which might be the most thoroughly studied community-health measure of recent history and was of immense benefit to dental health, was subject to virulent attacks on the ground that it was an unwarranted encroachment on individual liberty.

He said scientific studies in the United States and Britain that specifically examined the claims found that the study was statistically invalid and did not substantiate their claims.

Dr Howells also quoted the views of Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council which, with the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Dental Association and the Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations, had strongly endorsed the safety and efficacy of fluoridation.

"The unanimous endorsement of these bodies is typical of the unanimity shown by similar respected, reputable bodies in many other countries of the world," he said.

Fluoride's few implacable opponents could not remotely conceive that they might be the only ones out of step, he said.

They appeared to believe that the reputable scientific and medical bodies of the world had joined in some gigantic sinister conspiracy to poison water drinkers for purposes unknown.

Of course, that will not lay the matter to rest. Carnarvon has had a great deal of natural fluoride in the water and it has not been necessary to fluoridate the water there, because the amount of fluoride already in the water was quite adequate. In fact, at one time there was too much fluoride in the water and some of it had to be removed. However, the amount of fluoride in the water in Carnarvon now is below the level needed to guard against tooth decay, as a result of which provision is being made to add fluoride. This has not been done yet.

I have obtained an assurance from the Public Works Department that it has not, in fact, added fluoride to the water at Carnarvon up to this stage. Despite that statement, people are claiming they are suffering from the effects of the addition of fluoride to the water. People say they are certain that the Public Works Department is adding fluoride to the water. It is beyond me to convince these people that, in fact, that is not the case. One tells such people that fluoride is not being added to the water, but they assume it is.

My mind was put to rest on the matter of the fluoridation of the water supply some years ago when a dental survey was conducted in Carnarvon by a dentist from the Medical Department. I cannot recall the name of the man who carried out the survey. He was amazed at the lack of dental care required by the people he examined. This man returned to the area at a later stage to follow up the survey he had conducted.

The Hon. R. J. L. Williams: It was Professor Kailis, head of the Dental School in Perth.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: When this man returned to the area he found the level of tooth decay to be as low as it had been previously. The quantity of natural fluoride in the water afforded protection against tooth decay in that area. I do not believe the health of anyone there suffered as a result of the amount of fluoride in the water.

I have spoken to some of the residents of Carnarvon, a number of whom are in their 80s, and they have said they do not believe the amount of fluoride in the water has affected their health during the years they have lived there. I shall certainly support the addition of fluoride to the water if it is required. However, that matter must be decided by the local authority and the people who live in the area must agree to it. A referendum was conducted in New South Wales

on the matter and an overwhelming majority voted in favour of adding fluoride to the water supply.

I should like to refer to some matters which affect the areas I represent; that is, Carnarvon and the Murchison-Eyre electorate. First of all I should like to refer to the transverse rail and slipway which is nearing completion at the small boat harbour in Carnarvon. This will enable three vessels to be serviced at one time and is a great improvement on the single cradle which has been the only facility available and which was able to deal with only one vessel at a time. This will be a great boon to the people in the area. It will enable boats to be serviced there and goes hand in hand with the dredging of the approaches to the harbour, thus obviating the need for some of the larger boats to travel to Fremantle for annual servicing. That is one matter which is coming to fruition.

Many people have claimed to be responsible for the construction of the small boat harbour, but in fact I believe the Liberal Government took the first initiative and researched the idea. However, I am not sure who was responsible for getting it under way, but certainly the Liberal Government completed it.

A lead light is to be installed at Peron Peninsula in Shark Bay. It will serve as a navigational light and will enable better policing of the prawn nursery. One would imagine that people whose livelihood depends on the efficient operation of the prawn nursery would be at great pains to protect it; but it appears that, in fact, they are extremely eager to move into the area where the young prawns are situated. A great deal of criticism is levelled at the activities of the department. I understand, however, that the department is concerned only with the resource itself. It is not concerned with the economics of fishing.

If one fishes for young prawns one will catch a large number of low weight, but if one fishes when the prawns are older—they are an annual crop—one will catch fewer prawns, but they will be of greater weight. From the economic point of view it is better to wait until the prawns are of a good marketable size before catching them. However, some fishermen do not seem to share that philosophy.

No-one will admit he is to blame and the blame is always thrown on the shoulders of other people. Some of the private operators blame the company and the company blames the private operators. The fact of the matter is young prawns are taken. Therefore, the installation of the navigational

light will enable the prawn nursery to be policed more effectively. People will not be able to say they did not know where the boundary line was. People should not have too much trouble determining the location of the boundary line at the present time; but the installation of the light will enable more effective policing to take place.

A new bore is to be put down in the town of Denham. As members probably are aware we have a reverse osmosis desalination plant installed at the town of Denham—often referred to as Shark Bay. That town depends entirely on one bore for its drinking water. Members can imagine the disastrous consequences if that bore were to break down. The people in the town of Denham would have to revert to rainwater tanks for their drinking water. The new bore will stabilise the future supply of water fed into the desalination plant. The plant is very effective. It was a pilot plant, and the first to be tested in the field. It has worked very satisfactorily and has met all expectations.

The Carnarvon ground water supply for irrigation purposes depends on the Gascoyne River. Additional money is to be spent to complete that irrigation system. The storage of the Gascoyne River extends east to Rocky Pool. I do not know what is planned for the future. It is possible a small dam will be constructed at Rocky Pool capable of holding a 12-months' supply of water. However, that would allow the river to recharge which would make available at least three years' supply of water instead of the present two-years' supply.

I believe the answer to the water supply problem at Carnarvon is an atomic blast to create a large deep water storage area. A problem is associated with increased salinity and evaporation with shallow storage facilities. Until we are able to get deep water storage we will continue to be confronted with the problem of evaporation and high salinity. We should get the American Atomic Commission to look into the feasibility of blasting a deep storage reservoir.

Some members in this House may recall a film which was shown at Carnarvon. It concerned an experiment carried out in Russia where a problem existed similar to the problem we have in Carnarvon. In Russia they blasted a deep hole and created a lake. There were no harmful effects and within 12 months there were no signs of radioactivity.

We have heard talk about piping water from the Ord Dam, or from the Fitzroy River. In fact, someone suggested that water should come from the Fortescue River. Much of the water which

flows in the Gascoyne River still goes out to sea and the river cannot be dammed successfully in order to hold back a sufficient quantity of water. Again I suggest that a deep hole should be blasted so that water can be stored in sufficient quantity.

A sum of money is to be made available to upgrade and reballast the Leonora-Kalgoorlie railway in the Lower North Province. This railway was converted to standard gauge when the Poseidon mine came into production. I think the agreement was with the Windarra nickel company. At that time I questioned whether we were being penny wise and pound foolish by putting in a line which would not last. It was a makeshift job, and as we have now learnt, a large sum of money is required to upgrade it. I believe a sum of \$5 million will be necessary to complete the project and even with that expenditure the line will not be fully upgraded. The weight of the rail will not be sufficient to carry the loads which I hope will come from the area.

The Leonora Hospital has now been completed. When the Hon. Norman Baxter was Minister for Health the plans were drawn up for the Leonora Hospital. That building has now come to pass and we visited it recently when the Eastern Goldfields Development Committee met at Leonora and looked at the progress which was being made. Certainly, the hospital is an acquisition to the area and it was desperately needed.

In passing, I would like to mention I received a letter from Senator Rocher. In the Federal House he spoke to a debate regarding road grants to the States. Senator Rocher deserves some praise because he certainly took up the cudgel on behalf of Western Australia as far as road funds are concerned. I suggest that those who have not read the article concerning the debate should do so, and study it. Senator Rocher, amongst other things, said—

Whilst nearly 18 per cent of total funding in the financial year ended 30 June 1969 could not be reasonably maintained, I seriously questioned the appropriateness of the current level of funding for Western Australia.

To add fuel to the fire of my concern, the report of the Bureau of Transport Economics entitled 'An Assessment of the Australian Road System 1979' recommends further savage reductions, to less than nine per cent of total road funds for Western Australia in the future. From my reading of that BTE report—I emphasise my reading because I defy any layman completely to absorb its contents—it seems that its recommendations

are heavily oriented to road user benefits. I submit to the Senate that this is a very narrow approach. For example, it ignores the contribution made by Western Australia to the nation's economy and the vital role of a viable road system in maintaining and improving that contribution.

I commend Senator Rocher on the action he took.

I will now get on to a subject which I have discussed with the Minister for Works on a number of occasions. I refer to country sewerage schemes.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You rather surprise me that you are not talking about the North-West Shelf development.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: What has that to do with my remarks?

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: This is one of your last speeches in Parliament and I thought you would mention that matter.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: That is in Mr Tozer's territory.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You are not allowed to talk about it?

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: Give him time.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I will leave that subject to Mr Tozer.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Is he better informed than you?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: He is not better informed. I have two eyes with which to read and I also have a brain. I suggest the member opposite sit quietly and I will continue to speak about country sewerage schemes.

There should be some flexibility in the setting of rates. I mentioned this matter recently when speaking to a land valuation Bill, which was for the purpose of introducing gross annual rental values. On that occasion the Minister replied that local authorities are able to vary their rate in the dollar on properties in their areas. However, under the provisions of the Act in order that a sewerage scheme might be subsidised the maximum rate in the dollar must be charged, which is 15c.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Only if they want the full subsidy.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I am aware of that. I have taken out some figures which are not absolutely accurate. They refer to the town of Carnarvon, where I live, and they were provided by the local treasurer.

Annual rental values have risen by 2½ to three times, on average, over and above what they were in 1971. That is over a period of eight years.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Some have risen by up to five times.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Some have increased by 400 per cent.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is over a 10-year period.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I do not know whether we should have subsidised country sewerage schemes. On the figures worked out recently, if we have a further revaluation we will lose something like \$80 000 subsidy from the Public Works Department. If the new rates are charged, the subsidy will be only \$1 000.

I do not think that it is fair and equitable that we should have to forgo \$85 000. Certainly, we should forgo a proportion or a share of that money, but the estimate I have worked out is too steep. For that reason I make a plea that the Act should be amended so that the rate in the dollar can be varied from the inflexible figure of 15c in the dollar on the estimated annual rental value which will apply when the new Act comes into force. The application of the gross rental value system will add an additional 66 per cent.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Carnarvon can vary that rate.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: That is right, but then Carnarvon will not receive the subsidy. I am suggesting that Carnarvon should apply to sewerage rating the principle of shire rating. If a certain sum of money is required to provide community facilities, the shire charges so many cents in the dollar in order to raise that sum of money.

When the agreement was reached in the first place, no-one envisaged that the rates would rise by 2½ to three times, otherwise there would have been second thoughts about the scheme. Certainly, I would have thought twice about it. The scheme had to be installed, but some flexibility has to be built in in order that the burden of increasing rates might be shared.

Another matter in relation to the country sewerage scheme is this: I cannot understand why we must have the maximum rate in the dollar on the estimated rental value. Surely in a small area the capital cost of the scheme can be arrived at and a charge per service made. The operating cost would be known and I cannot understand why it is not possible to do that. It might be difficult in the metropolitan region where a wide area is served, but in a small town which has a country sewerage

scheme I cannot understand why a charge per service cannot be made.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: As with the old pan system.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: So you would charge an old pensioner living alone the same amount as you would charge a husband and wife with a family of eight children?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: If the service were there, yes. No doubt pensioner concessions and rebates would be made.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is possible.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I bring this matter forward once again and ask that some consideration be given to it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Your proposal has been looked at.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: It should be looked at again. I hope it has not been shelved as being impracticable. I think it would be practicable.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It has its share of inequities.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Probably not as many as the other one.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Does it cost any more?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The theory is you can afford to. Each has anomalies, that is the trouble.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I ask that consideration be given to the matter.

I mention another subject which is causing me great concern. Last year Mr Moore, Mr Masters, and I were in the Murchison area and visited the Mt. Magnet police station. It is a reasonably new police station, having been opened for only a few years, and we were appalled at its condition. As a matter of fact, it is nothing short of a miracle that it is still standing. I do not know who is responsible for its condition, but it is a disgrace. I do not know whether the problem was inadequate supervision. If it was erected by a shonky builder, supervision should have been more thorough. If it is necessary to sit on the doorstep while building is in progress, so be it. I hope that kind of thing does not happen again. I bring to the notice of the House what happens with some buildings.

While on the subject of shonky jobs, I refer back to a debate which took place in this House on the 14th December, 1973, in connection with a Reserves Bill. On page 6368 of *Hansard* for that year I had this to say—

I also support the Bill. There is just one clause in the Bill that affects the province I

represent, and this relates to an area in the Carnarvon district. I refer to a reserve that was originally granted in 1909. The history of this reserve is that the title was vested in a group of trustees in 1909. In 1958 the shire was granted power to lease the land to the local tennis club. In 1964 with the expansion of the school at Carnarvon it was desired to include this reserve in the school site to enable extension of the school to take place and to provide a sports ground.

However, trouble was experienced because of the doubt as to where the tennis club would be re-established, and through the instigation of Mr Norton, the member for Gascoyne, the area was changed into an "A"-class reserve.

It was apparently because of this disagreement with the tennis club and the authorities that in 1967 the area was declared a Class "A" reserve, and now it seems the wheel has made a complete turn for in 1973 the land is to be part of the school after all. With the expansion of the school the playing fields have been absorbed, and it is essential for the reserve to be included in the school grounds.

The land has reverted to the school and the tennis club has re-established itself with new courts and a new clubhouse. But the tennis courts which were retained by the school are an absolute disgrace. They have been let go to rack and ruin and I cannot understand the reason for abandoning the courts when the club was looking after them. If the school needed them, I do not know why it has not made use of them. Nothing has been done to them since they were taken over, which I think is a sad state of affairs. It was up to the Education Department to look after them well and ensure they did not become an eyesore, as they are now.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: What is the parents and citizens' association doing about it?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Nothing.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: Why?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: While speaking about the Gascoyne and the Murchison, I must mention the serious drought which exists in those areas. It is probably the most serious drought the district has ever experienced. I really do not know what the answer will be. It appalls me to think what might happen if it does not rain next year. God forbid that it does not. Even when it does rain, I do not know how we will get these places back into production and get stock on them; and I do not know what the people will live on in the

meantime until their farms return to a viable situation. Loans will help, but they are only loans. I do not know which way the people in the areas affected will be able to turn. The situation is serious and no matter what is done it will be quite inadequate. It will have a disastrous effect on the Gascoyne and the upper end of the Murchison, in the Murchison-Eyre electorate. I do not know how the people keep going in the circumstances.

The Jennings report has just been issued and the people concerned have been making a study of it in various meetings throughout the area. The report gives no formula to solve the problems. It is a matter of cold, hard, economics to operate the stations in the area and there are no bright lights on the horizon. The report recommends some very tough medicine and it remains to be seen how many of the recommendations can be implemented.

I now come to pornographic literature—I do not have any here. In the report of the Royal Commission he conducted Lord Longford said that if one had pornography served up continually one accepted it as the norm. I am very much afraid that is what has happened. Some years ago when I discussed this matter at length I referred to Lord Longford.

In an aeroplane—not of one of the normal airlines—on which I travelled the other day there were many glossy magazines. I read an article in one of them and I defy anyone to say it was an article he would like to read. It is beyond my comprehension how anyone could write it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: How do you know?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I said it is beyond my comprehension. I could not write such rubbish. I have knocked around a fair bit; I have probably done the things most people do and some things which some people have not done. In the days when it was a serious matter to have pornographic literature or pictures, they could be obtained, but they were not sought because of the penalties which went with their possession. We now have them served up in glossy magazines, looking very attractive. When I spoke about this matter on a previous occasion I produced some papers which had been banned by the Censor. I said it would not be long before they were accepted as normal, and one can now find in glossy magazines articles one would be ashamed to read.

I do not think it does anybody any good to read this rubbish. I call it rubbish because it is not the sort of literature I would take home to read and it is not written in the language I would use in my

place. I am a normal person; I am not a tin god. I observe a few rules and I abide by them in company. I do not use the language of the gutter. It behoves people to remember where they are. The expressions I hear these days appall me. When young people read this rubbish they begin to think it is the way others normally talk. I do not approve of it and I never will. That is the matter of literature. These days, if a book does not contain an explicit explanation of the sexual act, it will not become a best seller.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: And it has to be in the first paragraph.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Turning from that matter, I refer to a letter which appeared on page 38 of *The West Australian* of the 13th October. It was headed, "TV promotion of sex films", and it reads—

L. G. Evans, Beecham Road, Mt Claremont: The repeated advertising of sexual encounters as promotional material for forthcoming television programmes is offensive to many viewers who do not watch these movies.

Complaints to members of State Parliament are futile for the Premier's Department replied: "The content and standard of television programmes is the responsibility of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, a Commonwealth instrumentality."

So much for our State politicians and their moral standards of decency.

The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal deliberately avoids the issue, saying: "The tribunal sees the standards as a way in which children may be protected, while still preserving the rights of adults to view more sophisticated materials if they so choose."

I am sure many families have chosen not to view this so-called sophisticated material and our rights should be equally respected by not being constantly subjected to these segments of degrading sexual episodes.

Programme standards determined by the Censorship Board state: "Good taste and common sense shall be observed in all programming and programmes will not be harmful to the well-being of the general community."

The commercial stations would have us believe that in attracting the impressionable age group 13 to 17 by despicable sex advertising no harm is being done—the increasing crime rate can be laid at their doorsteps.

As a first step there should be proper public representation on the Censorship Board in WA to see that commercial stations adhere to proper ethical standards.

It is time a united stand was taken to eradicate this evil creeping into our homes and polluting our family life and all that we hold sacred.

In the television segment of the *Daily News* of Tuesday, the 23rd October, an article written by Alison Fox under the heading "Candid documentary on massage parlours" reads as follows—

"A male is a hunter. He's born that way. He'll always hunt for a little bit of crumpet."

That and other statements by a Melbourne prostitute will have many wives stealing suspicious glances at their husbands tonight if they watch Channel Seven's 9.45 documentary "The Parlour Game."

For husbands are among the main surreptitious clients of massage parlours, we are told by an assembly of young and not-so-young women who reveal their faces, their views and sometimes their bodies for the Melbourne-produced programme.

"The Parlour Game" is surprising for this reason—that the women identify themselves so openly—and because some of their clients do, too.

Channel Seven is beginning to build a reputation for sexually-candid programmes after its recent Penthouse Centrefold documentary.

So switch off or switch channels if you are not one for that kind of viewing and don't say you haven't been warned.

Tonight's hour-long show takes us on a tour of Melbourne massage parlours, shows us the private lives of the girls and hears their views.

The positive rather than any negative sides are shown, including money rewards of \$300 to \$1 000 a week (depending on "status"), ability to travel at whim, comfortable flats, nice clothes, the gloss of nightlife and airports.

The girls appear healthy, happy and to enjoy their work.

They are even accorded a degree of respectability.

There is little in the film, except what the imagination may suggest, to deter anyone

from contemplating a career in a massage parlour.

With which some viewers will argue violently and others retort: "Why should there be?"

However "The Parlour Game" does not set out to preach but to tell us what actually does go on.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: It was not as good as it was made out to be.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Your speeches always seem to be much more exciting when you get on to the subject of pornography.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: The article continues—

And this it certainly does with camera shots of the parlours themselves, of a girl caressing a man (identifiable) in a bubble bath, oil-massaging of another on a couch (also identifiable), semi-nude dancing for a third (ditto) and other film footage for which the usual adjective is "candid."

There is also a look at the state of the law, the police and a very brief history of prostitution.

The documentary's ostensible message is that prostitution won't go away.

But you, the viewer can go away and on Channel Two there's the opposite kind of approach to man-woman encounters with David Niven ushering out the Goldwyn classic series with his 1948 romantic movie, "Enchantment."

I presume the type of advertising clips shown prior to the screening of "The Parlour Game" were the ones referred to in *The West Australian* of the 13th October. I am fully aware that the people do not have to see these programmes. However, there is no way they can avoid the advertising clips prior to the screening of the programme, because before one knows what is happening, it is on the screen and lasts only a few seconds.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Do you get a replay?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Mr Ferry will have to watch this type of show for himself, if he wants to.

It is time we examined our priorities in regard to the screening of this type of programme. It is no good just my saying it; no-one will take any notice of what I have to say.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You will probably be on the front page of the newspaper tomorrow.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: There is no way in the world that will happen! About 10 months ago, after I had raised the subject of pornography, Mr Dans said that we were about 10 years behind America and people were just starting to say they had had enough of pornography in that country. Probably, it will take another few years before we turn the full circle in this country and get sick and tired of pornography. Either way, it is time we started to take some action to control this menace.

I refer again to the screening of "R"-certificate films at drive-in theatres. I can recall the operators of drive-in theatres giving an undertaking to the Government that "R"-certificate films would not be screened at drive-in theatres. At that time, drive-in theatres were considered to be family entertainment; they did not need this type of film.

Now, of course, drive-in theatre operators say that if they do not screen "R"-certificate films, no-one turns up to watch the show. What is more, the films are visible to motorists and people outside the theatre; anyone can look at what is going on. That is no good for the people outside in the street, or for the people inside the drive-in theatres. If these operators insist on screening "R"-certificate films at their drive-in theatres, they should be required to enclose their premises.

I suppose all members received a submission from the Australian Council on Smoking and Health under the signature of Dr Elphick.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You are not going to start on beer, are you?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: No, I am talking only about smoking now. If the evidence contained in this submission is correct, there is no doubt there is cause for great concern at the health risk presented by smoking. I used to smoke, but I gave it up on Victory Pacific day; I have felt better since I gave it up, but I do not know whether it damaged my health. Some people continue smoking all their lives, and it does not seem to damage their health at all. However, statistics indicate smoking has a detrimental effect on community health.

I should like to quote a few sections of this submission. Under the heading "Smoking Rates and Trends in Australia" the following statement appears—

Children 9-16—Between 1971 and 1975 the numbers of heavier smokers among 12-13 year old Sydney Schoolchildren:

More than tripled for boys;

Increased almost five times for girls.

The current estimated juvenile tobacco market is annually \$40,000,000 (Aust. wide).

Under the heading "Australian Doctors", the following statement is made—

Overall 14% are smokers (survey 1975), compared with national averages of 40% for men and 31% for women respectively. This reflects their conviction regarding the health effects of smoking.

I would have thought that given the risks of smoking, there would not be any doctors smoking, let alone 14 per cent.

Under the heading "Deaths", the following statement is made—

Major causal factor in 40,000 Australian deaths annually (National Heart Foundation estimate).

Wholly responsible for 12,000 Australian deaths annually (30 per day) or about 1,000 per year in W.A.

Comparisons:

*More than 3 times the road toll

*More Australians die from smoking in two days than died in the Vietnam war in 1 year

Of recent times, many letters concerning smoking have been written to the Press by different people. A headmaster supported the restriction of sports promotion by the tobacco industry proposed by the Sports Federation. Another letter referred to smoking statistics and compared smoking with drinking. We had an alcohol versus tobacco argument. That is something which would be very dear to Mr Cooley's heart; he would be able to produce a good argument on that point!

An article under the heading "Smoking watchdog chief is academic" appeared in *The West Australian* on the 3rd November, and stated as follows—

The State Government has appointed a leading academic and administrator, Dr H. Williams, to head the committee to monitor cigarette advertising in WA

Dr Williams will retire at the end of this year as director of the WA Institute of Technology.

The committee, which includes two doctors, is expected to make its first report to the Minister for Health, Mr Young, within six months.

The article goes on to list the members of the committee, which includes not only non-smokers, but also the smokers, represented by the Director of the Tobacco Institute of Australia (Mr B. C.

Simpson). No doubt he will be looking closely at submissions placed before the committee.

I am sure we will not be able to achieve a total ban on cigarette advertising, once again because of the vast sums of money involved in advertising revenue to the media and in the various promotional activities undertaken by tobacco companies. It might be more advisable to set our sights on easing tobacco advertising. It would be just as impossible to stop people smoking as it would be to stop people drinking, so we should aim for a compromise.

Mr President, this small saga is gradually coming to an end. Before I conclude, I wish to pay tribute to a gentleman who has been the Chairman of the Carnarvon Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association for some 21 years. I refer to Wilfred Dennis Marr, who is more commonly known as "Dennis". He came to Australia from Jamaica after the war, and worked for some years as tropical adviser to the Queensland Department of Agriculture before coming to Western Australia and taking up the position of tropical adviser at the Carnarvon-Gascoyne research station.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He has the same history as Frank Wise except that he did not go into politics.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: He is in the same business as Mr Frank Wise. Mr Marr subsequently resigned from the Department of Agriculture and went on growing bananas, whereas Mr Wise went into the political field. In 1958 he was elected President of the Carnarvon Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, a position he held for 21 years until his retirement this year. They were 21 years of faithful service.

There was quite an article written about him in the *Northern Times*. It was written by the secretary of the association and listed many of his achievements. Mr Marr was one of the architects of the Banana Insurance Compensation Trust Fund; he was one of the original members of the Carnarvon River Advisory Committee, a body still in existence; he was the architect of the now successful Gascoyne Transport Co-operative; he is a member of the local shire; and he is a justice of the peace.

One thing not mentioned about Dennis Marr was that back in the late 1950s or early 1960s we were transporting produce to Perth markets; produce such as bananas and small vegetable crops. We were also transporting beans to Adelaide, sometimes by air, and we were arranging to have some go by rail. The produce coming to Perth was carted by road. We disposed

of the system of going by road to Geraldton and then by rail to Perth. During this period there was a differential rate charged for bananas and vegetables and from memory it was between \$6 and \$8 a ton. In those days it was £3 or £4. The charge for vegetables was more than it was for bananas.

As a result of the introduction of another transport company—Sadliers—we were able to take the beans direct to South Australia. There was a sole franchise company operating between Carnarvon and Perth. This new company was able to operate because it was taking the beans interstate and under section 92 of the Constitution, it was not bound to be licensed to cart those goods from Carnarvon provided it took them straight through to their destination in South Australia. This was done by means of transporting the beans down to Kalgoorlie, carrying them by rail to Port Pirie, and then by road to Adelaide.

As a result of that transport company carting some of the produce, the local company saw fit to lower its prices for the cartage of vegetables to the same price charged for the cartage of bananas. The price saved, was somewhere between \$6 and \$8 per ton or in those days £3 and £4. If one considers the tonnage of produce carted over those years—I would imagine about 20 years—and works on the lower figure of 10 000 tons a year of small vegetable crops, on which there was a saving of some \$6 or \$8 a ton, one can see the district was saved a considerable amount of money because of Mr Marr's efforts to introduce Sadliers to take our beans to Adelaide. Subsequently, further arrangements were made with Sadliers for the local company to take produce from Carnarvon to Perth at reduced rates which would then be taken by Sadliers by road to Kalgoorlie and then by rail to Port Pirie and on to Adelaide. The savings to the district would amount to perhaps millions of dollars because of the actions taken by Mr Marr. If he deserves praise for nothing else he deserves it for the action he took on that occasion.

I thank Mr Dennis Marr for the services he has given to the district, for the foresight he has shown, and for the unstinting energy he has given in service to the industry in the irrigated areas of Carnarvon. With those few remarks I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. C. TOZER (North) [8.37 p.m.]: I support the motion that tabled paper No. 337 be noted. I note the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure with the same satisfaction I have noted them over the last several years since Sir Charles Court has been Premier and Treasurer of this State. It is a good, sound, well-conceived

Budget again this year and it has the added quality of being a balanced Budget.

Having said that, it is inevitable there will be some minor aspects of the document with which I would have some argument, but this does not mean I condemn it; viewed as a whole it is a good Budget.

Mr President, you may have noticed in recent years I have tended to use the opportunity given to me by the debate of the appropriations to examine a particular subject in close detail. Tonight I have decided not to do that. I had a great range of topics I wanted to go through in respect of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure; however, it seems time would not permit me to cover all those things, so I have settled for several topics.

I want to speak about some Government officers in the Kimberley. I shall refer then to Police Sergeant Malcolm Cole. I intend to mention Aboriginal funding and employment. I shall speak about Wittenoom, and then speak very briefly on new federalism.

Firstly, I shall comment on officers in the Kimberley region.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Officers or offices?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I am speaking of officers of the State Public Service. We heard my colleague, the Hon. Bill Withers, the other night, but I believe there is more to be said. In general terms we have too many officers who are paid by the Western Australian taxpayers who are not giving 100 per cent of their effort to their employers. In fact, there are too many of these people who are actually and deliberately working against the best interests and the policies of the Government, their employer.

If I make comments like that, clearly I must give illustrations to substantiate the sort of activities about which I am talking. The first person who springs to mind, because he was discussed by Mr Withers, is Mr Stan Davey. Stan Davey at Fitzroy Crossing puts out a newsletter. The copy which came to my hands could be said to be nothing other than a criticism or a condemnation of policies of the Western Australian State Government. This State Government employee had the gall, the cheek, to send a copy of the newsletter to his departmental head with an endorsement in his handwriting at the top which read something like, "This is the unofficial policy of the Department for Community Welfare as implemented in the field." They might not be the exact words, but that was the meaning. It is no wonder Mr Mayne was

obliged to write to Mr Davey and say, "Government officers are not permitted to make statements like those contained in the pamphlet."

I move onto a second case which relates to another community adviser at Fitzroy Crossing. This man does far more than advise. I wonder how far a person can, in fact, go in giving advice? I shall cite a particular instance to illustrate what I want to say. When Senator Chaney, the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs visited the Noonkanbah Station he met with the people there and listened to and discussed their problems in an effort to try to overcome them. The spokesman for this group is Mr Dickie Skinner. I do not think he is one of the elders of his tribe; but he is chairman of the community council and appointed by the people to speak on their behalf.

At the meeting with the Federal Minister this community adviser was sitting at Mr Skinner's elbow all the time and prompting him in quite an outrageous manner. I noted this from the other side of the audience and decided I would move round and sit next to our friend, the community adviser. But in no way did that embarrass him; he just kept on going in the same manner.

He was advising Mr Skinner to advocate things that were directly contrary to the law of Western Australia and in conflict with the policies adopted by the State Government and which he was there, in the field, to implement. These were matters relating to land tenure, mining, trespass generally, law and order, and other such things. Yet here was a Government officer prompting the Aboriginal person to argue a particular case to the Federal Minister.

I have no concern for the political affiliations of any community welfare adviser or anyone else. However, I do care when the advice such a person is giving as part of his normal duties is in direct conflict with the policies set for him to be implemented.

I tried to look for a parallel to illustrate the sort of thing that happened. I thought of a bricklayer and his labourer building a wall. In the old days, the labourer would carry the bricks in a hod on his shoulders up a ladder to the bricklayer. I imagined the labourer then returning down the ladder and knocking out a few bricks each trip, hoping eventually the wall would fall. This is what this community adviser was doing; he was deliberately setting about making certain the Government's policies were not being implemented and, in fact, hoping the Government would collapse.

I do not mind what political affiliation these people have, but if in fact a person finds it

impossible to live with the policies of his employer—the Government—that man should leave.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: You would have many resignations.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I move now to a case of an anthropologist who, after a number of years of subversive activities, was eased out of the Community Health Department. He is now back in the Kimberley and has a grant from the Institute of Aboriginal Studies; everyone in Australia is paying this man's salary. This man regards it as his mission in life to destroy the principles that this Government and the Commonwealth Government are pursuing. He is deliberately poisoning the minds of the Aborigines against the policies we may be laying down and laws we are passing in this Parliament. He is now working, under the auspices of the Institute of Aboriginal Studies, for the Kimberley Land Council.

The fourth case I have to mention is the one of a responsible officer working in the Kimberley—I might add that he is not at Fitzroy Crossing. This man wrote a letter to his Minister telling the Minister that he should resign. That is what this fellow did and he is still working in his job, and is still working in that department. What is more to the point, he probably goes round skiting about what he did.

I just wonder why we tolerate such a thing and why any Minister or any Government would put up with this intolerable state of affairs. As Liberals, we are just too soft and too gentlemanly about this whole deal. Our ethical standards are such that we would prefer not to take positive action. We are stupid to the utmost degree. They call us conservatives, but I suggest we are consummate, bloody idiots, in view of what we permit to happen with Government officers.

There is no other Government in the world which would accept the position we permit in the north of Western Australia at the moment. This has been going on for years and looks like going on for many more years. What is more, I am quite certain there is no way in the world the Opposition would permit people working in the field to undermine the policies it was implementing.

The influence of these people is tremendous and most of them are in the welfare-oriented field. They deal with Aborigines in their daily work and handle the cheques that are issued for social security, unemployment benefits, age and invalid pensions, family allowance, etc.

Let us not be deluded. These people use their position of influence. Aboriginal people have no real comprehension of what that piece of paper or cheque from the Social Security Department is for. They do not know what it is for or where it comes from. It is a sort of "manna from heaven" with which they can buy food, hire a taxi, and maybe buy some grog.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: Surely the Government should educate them.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: So, directly, or by inference, these people—these welfare-oriented officers—tell these unsophisticated people with whom they deal that the cheque will be fatter with the ALP Government, but it will be curtailed or even withdrawn by the Liberals.

This influence is a result of the daily contact and propaganda passed out all the time. It is this helping hand for the people—and I agree with Mr Withers, by and large they are dedicated in their task: They have a sort of missionary zeal—and, of course, they have the responsibility of passing on that "manna from heaven".

We as parliamentary representatives visit these people as often as we can. We visit the Aborigines as much or even more than other constituents in our province. We certainly devote a great deal more time to the Aborigines than to our other constituents, by correspondence and by arguing with Ministers on a Commonwealth or State level. The Hon. David Wordsworth may agree with what I am saying. He thinks we are crazy and are driving him mad and perhaps we are because land happens to be a very controversial question.

If we believe the Aborigine deserves support for any land issue he receives our total support.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: I will back you up there.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: And, of course, we put forward the views of the Aborigines by speaking in this Parliament. The results of our efforts are there to be seen, but these unsophisticated people cannot relate the houses, hospitals, health care, water supplies, or the station properties purchased in any way to the performance of their members of Parliament. There is no way they can directly relate those efforts to Ridge, Sodeman, Withers, or Tozer. They are things that just happen. They do not know how they happen.

When I look at the capital works programme and see what has been spent, I find the amount is truly colossal. However, it is almost impossible to get the Aborigines and their communities to cotton onto the way Governments are financed. I have deliberately set about trying to do this at a bush meeting in the Pilbara. I asked the people

who they thought would pay for the school and the houses and who would provide the money to run the community. They said, "The Government". I asked, "All right, where does the Government get its money?" The answer was that the Government has lots of money. I said that someone has to give that money to the Government and that it was the white people in Port Hedland, Karratha, and Roebourne who provided that money. I said I did not think they were paying any taxes to pay for the buildings and so the money being spent was being provided by the white people in the rest of Australia. It is not easy to explain this in a manner they can understand.

When the Hon. Bill Withers was speaking the other day he described the Kimberley Land Council newsletter as anti-Government propaganda, or words to that effect. I have a copy of the council's journal for members to read if they wish. On the front page is a photograph of people confronting Government officers and mining officials at the gate of Noonkanbah Station. This newsletter is making heroes of those people who are deliberately blocking the public access road, and they are preventing a properly authorised mineral exploration to proceed. It is more than anti-Government; it is incitement to break the law.

This Kimberley Land Council is not a formal organisation; it is not a statutory or incorporated body at all. It is just a group of people who are financed, at least in part, by the World Council of Churches and these are the people who are helping to undermine the Government in the northern part of the country.

Another point that the Hon. Bill Withers alluded to is that the information in this paper is not the voice of Aborigines; it is the voice of the advisers. It is the voice of the legal aid officers, the community advisers, and people from other Government departments, such as the anthropologist to whom I referred. Of course there are others not necessarily associated with the Government.

On the 9th July I received this letter from the Kimberley Land Council. It reads as follows—

The Kimberley Land Council is in the process of preparing the next edition of our Newsletter. It will include an article on the policies for Aboriginal affairs of the candidates for the North Province and the Kimberley. We feel that this will help our people to know who their candidates are well in advance of the next election.

We are therefore inviting you to write a short piece (no more than 100 words) briefly outlining your policies for Aboriginal people in the north, focusing perhaps on land rights, education, health and/or housing. We would also like to print an accompanying photo—the one on your letterhead would be adequate.

I do not have a photo on my letterhead.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Do you think you could say it all in 100 words?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: To continue—

The Newsletter is distributed to all subscribers and to all the Kimberley Aboriginal communities and organisations. We also plan to produce a tape cassette of the newsletter for the benefit of illiterate people.

Naturally, I was delighted to receive such a letter. I responded as quickly as I could and, for Mr Baxter's benefit, I did so in 115 words, I think.

This is what I sent to the Kimberley Land Council newsletter for publication—

The Liberal Party Aboriginal Policy—to which I subscribe—is well illustrated by performance since Sir Charles Court became Premier.

Housing: Every house at the villages of Looma, One Arm Point, Fitzroy Crossing and Go Go, plus great numbers in all Kimberley towns, have been built by the Court Government.

Health: A health service is now delivered to all communities. The infant mortality rate is progressively falling.

Education: Equal education opportunities for all citizens. This includes funds for non-Government schools.

I might mention that in the North Province we now have three non-Government schools run by Aboriginal communities. It is a matter which needs further discussion, but perhaps not tonight. To continue—

Land: Excepting Pantijan (Mowanjumb Community) a Liberal Government has transferred all of the pastoral leases held by Aboriginal communities. In the Kimberley, Aborigines now occupy twelve cattle properties and a number of smaller blocks of land.

Liberals believe that the same laws should apply equally to all land holders—black or white.

That is what I sent to the editor of the Kimberley Land Council newsletter. The person who sent a letter to me and to whom I directed my lessons is Mr Jimmy Bieundurry, who is a good, solid man. He comes from the Fitzroy River area and was with the Looma community when I first knew him. He now resides in Derby. He is a member of the National Aboriginal Conference and the Aboriginal Lands Trust. I have great admiration for Jimmy Bieundurry and I have a feeling he thinks well of me. But the office next door to his is occupied by Philip Vincent, the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service officer and he has close communication with the Community Welfare Department and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Jimmy Bieundurry is not able to withstand the pressures exerted by these people.

However, the important point is that after writing that information for the newsletter, I found it was not printed. The date of the letter was the 9th July and the newsletter was printed in August. The information sent by Alan Ridge also was not printed. In fairness I must say that the information sent by Ernie Bridge and Peter Dowding was not published either, but their information did not need to be published because it was available a hundred times over already. The reason for non-publication given to me on the telephone—not by Jimmy Bieundurry himself, but by a little girl in his office who perhaps has strong political leanings—was that there may be other candidates. The fact is the material supplied by Ridge and Tozer is not what this particular journal wished to publish. It might somehow have tended to balance the scales, but that is not what the editor wants.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is that a religious document?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: No, it is not. The Kimberley Land Council newsletter seems to be financed in part at least by the World Council of Churches.

Perhaps it is felt I have tended to paint every officer associated with welfare activities with the same black brush, but that is not so at all. I suggest at least 50 per cent of the officers are honest, hard-working, and loyal.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Are you saying 50 per cent are not honest or loyal?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Yes, I am.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I hope people note what you are saying.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I suggest some officers are faithfully carrying out their duties.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: And the rest are dishonest and disloyal.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: They are hard-working and loyal and they have dedication and ability equal to that of the disloyal people.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Disloyal to what?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: They have the common sense to separate their political leanings from their workaday life, and for some unknown reason the other people do not have that ability or desire. As I said previously, I do not give a tinker's cuss about a man's political affiliations—he can please himself—but when his affiliations prevent him from serving his employer loyally and in a proper manner, it is not good enough. He must carry out his allotted task loyally and to the best of his ability. He cannot work in the worst interests of his employer; he must work in the best interests of his employer.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: How is he not doing that?

The Hon. W. R. Withers: By telling lies. How about that?

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Are 50 per cent telling lies? I do not think you would say that.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I have said more than 50 per cent are loyal, trustworthy officers who are faithfully doing their duty.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You have already changed your ground. You had better make sure of what you are saying because you are making some pretty rough accusations.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What he has said is crystal clear.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: He said 50 per cent were disloyal.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You know what he is saying is accurate.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I do not know that at all.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: At the time the transfer of Mr Stan Davey hit the headlines, one, Mike West, of the Derby community welfare office, rang round all the Kimberley and Pilbara offices, no doubt at the taxpayers' expense—we know Mike West well from Halls Creek days. He was calling on the officers in the other regional and town offices to go out on strike because Mr Davey was being transferred. The response he got almost uniformly round all the other stations was, "What the hell has Stan Davey got to do with us?" They did not strike, and that was to the credit of the officers, but much to the chagrin of the

northern community. Many people said, "Hooray! We hope the strike is permanent." Most people believe this is one community service we can do without.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: That was said by many people. I can verify that.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: While speaking about Government officers in the north and in the Kimberley, I now want to refer to Malcolm Cole, sergeant of police. First of all I want to detail his record. In 1962 as a young constable he was posted to Broome. In 1962 he went to Wyndham; in 1965, to Port Hedland and Goldsworthy; in 1966 he went back to Port Hedland; in 1967 he went back to Broome; and in 1969 he was in Kambalda. I omitted to mention that in 1964 and 1968 he had a short term in Perth. In 1970 he was at Paraburdoo; in 1971 he went to Perth; and in 1975 he was at Cockatoo Island. By this time he had been married and was commencing a family. In 1977 he went back to Derby, when he was promoted to second-class sergeant; he was the second officer at the Derby police station. In 1978 he went to Fitzroy Crossing.

Sergeant Cole has had 17 years' service, with three short spells in Perth. He has been at eight stations in the North Province. He is a real servant of the north, and it is all too difficult to get any Government officer to go to the north and stay in the service as Sergeant Cole has.

Sergeant Malcolm Cole is a tough copper. He is the sort of man who is needed in a tough situation. If there was an assignment where the going might get rough, the various Commissioners of Police over the years sent Malcolm Cole. He was at Port Hedland during the construction era of the iron ore projects. I think members will remember the Duke of Edinburgh's Study Conference report about Port Hedland during the construction period; it was published throughout the length and breadth of Australia and indicated the chaotic conditions which existed there when families were living in packing cases on the beach and so on. It was a tough construction period, and that is where Constable Cole found himself. When the Goldsworthy project got off the ground there was a construction camp and it was young Constable Cole who was sent there.

During one of the short periods when he was away from the north in 1969, he was sent to Kambalda during the construction period there. Then in 1970 Constable Cole was back at Paraburdoo when it was a construction camp.

Long before I entered Parliament I met this police officer in the north of Western Australia. He was a cheerful man going about his business.

He was young, single, and confident of his own ability to carry out his allotted task; and that is what he did. At Paraburdoo—and I suppose at Kambalda, although I was not there—at the Esplanade or the Pier Hotel at Port Hedland or the canteen at Goldsworthy during the construction periods, if a big fettler or rigger came at a policeman with a bottle raised to crash across his head, there was only one thing to do; that is, put a bunch of fives straight between the eyes and hit him hard enough to drop him. Constable Cole was the only person there to keep law and order, and he could not do that from a hospital bed or, indeed, from a coffin. Under certain circumstances there is only one way to act in rough-houses, and that is to play rough. Constable Cole met the specifications and did an excellent job in very tough conditions. It just happens the construction camp environment, with a hard-working, hard-drinking all-male community needs such a man as Malcolm Cole.

An equally tough assignment became vacant at Fitzroy Crossing, and sure enough the newly-promoted Sergeant Malcolm Cole got the job. It must be remembered that this man had been at Wyndham, Derby, Broome, and Port Hedland. He had an enormous amount of experience with Aborigines. He knew them and they knew him.

Instead of dealing with a mad-drunk, tough construction worker with a bottle in his hand, Sergeant Cole now had to deal with a drink-crazed Aboriginal with a length of four by two in his hand.

Sometimes, inevitably, an officer has to handle things in the same way. The unfortunate situation is that in such an environment it is usually not a one-man attack. If the first stupid fellow is not stopped, a mob of others want to join in. If he is stopped, the others quickly back off. It is unfortunate, but true.

I do not condone strong-arm tactics by any police officer unless they are essential, but equally I do not condone police officers being beaten to a pulp.

Sergeant Malcolm Cole is no better and no worse than any of his predecessors in office at Fitzroy Crossing, and I have known many of them. It is inevitable that sometimes trouble occurs in the conditions prevailing at Fitzroy Crossing. Sociologists tell us that Aborigines cannot take alcoholic liquor in excess, and at Fitzroy Crossing they have lashings of cash and no meaningful occupation. I am sad to relate that that is the case, and I am making every effort to ensure it is changed. The Aborigines have ready access to places where they can obtain liquor.

Sociologists tell us also that under the influence of alcoholic liquor an Aboriginal is apt to go quite berserk. One only has to attend an outpatients clinic at any of our hospitals to see a number of cases of broken skulls, arms, and legs. My colleague, Mr Withers, will confirm this.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Yes, and burns from their being thrown in the fire.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: It is rather interesting to note that before Malcolm Cole was ever appointed to Fitzroy Crossing, the same people who hawked a petition around a few months ago hawked another petition around to try to prevent his posting to Fitzroy Crossing. I wonder whether that was a fair go.

I suggest that if Malcolm Cole has been given an adverse report in regard to his work at Fitzroy Crossing, the same report could have been made about any of his predecessors there if the same sort of witch-hunt had been worked up.

The officer before Sergeant Cole was Frank Westerside, a genial fellow with a large family. He is a big man, and on occasions he had to deal firmly with some of the people he was handling in the paddy wagon or in the lock-up. The same thing applied with Trevor Sharrett, John Graysmark, and others. When I lived in Derby many years ago the station officer there had the reputation of being a tough hombre. He was tough, but he was fair, and I suggest he was rather like Malcolm Cole is now. This man is now a very senior commissioned officer. He is highly respected because he understands the application of law particularly under the circumstances to which I am referring.

When the Attorney General was in Fitzroy Crossing just a few weeks ago, a meeting of the Aboriginal people was held. All the community groups were represented, and represented well. Mr Medcalf was introduced to these people as Western Australia's No. 1 lawman—the most important man in relation to law and order in the community in Western Australia. I suggest this is a good description.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: The Chief Justice might not agree.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: That is how he was introduced. The Attorney General met with the representatives from all the communities in the Fitzroy Valley—certainly those between Noonkanbah, and Christmas Creek, and Gogo. Representatives of all the Aboriginal communities within 150 miles of Fitzroy Crossing sat around and talked freely with Mr Medcalf. Not one word was said by the Aborigines about Sergeant Malcolm Cole. Not one word was spoken about

the behaviour of any police officer. Not one word was spoken about law and order as it is applied in Fitzroy Crossing at this stage.

This was an ideal opportunity for every man to have his say. Mr Medcalf invited them to come forward and state their cases, but no-one did that. Perhaps it was because Magistrate Terry Syddall was in Mr Medcalf's party; he understands that if there is any roughing up, there is a jolly good reason for it. What is more, the Aborigines themselves understand this fact; they understand it only too well. I have never known any Aboriginal to hold a grudge against any police officer because of the manner in which the police officer may have had to deal with him the night before. That is not the way of the Aborigines. So the petition did not come from these people; it came from the Stan Daveys, the Doug McAulays, and others.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: And possibly from Philip Vincent.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I am sorry. I should have mentioned that—primarily the petition came from Philip Vincent, I suggest.

In summing up my remarks about Malcolm Cole, I would like to say that he has never shirked a responsibility. He meets every problem front on, and there is no trace of racism in his actions. His respect and his feelings for human beings were exactly the same at Paraburdoo, at Goldsworthy, at Fitzroy Crossing, or at Cockatoo Island. I would be one of the very many people in the North Province who have known Malcolm Cole over the 17 years he has been there. They wish him well in his new post, and I trust that he and his young family enjoy their life, wherever they go, free from the hassle and unfair harassment of the "advisers" to the Aboriginal people.

When I commenced my speech, I did not intend to get bogged down on problems relating to Aborigines. However, I do wish to refer to two or three other matters. On page 19 of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure appears the Specific Purpose Grants from the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Now you have a real chance to paint a black picture.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I would like to quickly run through the items under the heading of, "Aboriginal Advancement Programme". They are as follows—

	\$
Agriculture	209 000
Community Welfare	802 000
Education	2 485 000

	\$
Office of the North West	139 000
Public Health	5 920 000
Aboriginal Lands Trust	27 000

I note another \$202 000 allocated to the ALT under payments to State authorities: From the Commonwealth alone \$9 566 000 is allocated for Aborigines. Of course, that is a State figure, but I suggest that the largest percentage of it is used in the North Province. I am quoting these figures to illustrate to the people who do not quite understand the point that a great deal of money is being devoted to the people to whom I am referring.

I have here the Department of Aboriginal Affairs programme for 1979-80. My secretary in my office at Karratha has collated all the information from many pieces of paper and consolidated it in one table. Forty communities are listed here and allocations are made under the headings of training, cultural recreation and sporting activities, town management and public utilities, enterprises, welfare, employment, education, health, housing, and then a total figure is given. In all, \$4 782 900 is allocated to the various communities for the community councils to spend on their various activities.

I do not intend to devote a great deal of time to this matter, but I have circled two or three allocations that I believe are worth mentioning. The Warmun Community at Turkey Creek, for example, was allocated \$67 000 under the heading of "Town management and public utilities". Under the same heading the Mowanjum Community is allocated \$167 500. The Balgo Aboriginal Community is allocated \$27 000 for training.

The Oombulgurri Aboriginal Association is allocated \$209 500 under the heading of "Town management and public utilities", and under that heading the Bardi Aboriginal Association at One Arm Point is allocated \$96 700.

I spoke of 40 different communities, but it is interesting to note that the Nomads Charitable and Education Foundation at Strelley via Port Hedland and the Strelley Pastoral Company/Housing Society via Port Hedland are the same organisation. They have been allocated \$48 800 for town management, \$51 000 for enterprises, and \$199 000 for education. I would like to refer to education generally in a moment.

The Pandanus Park Community, a group which is around the Willare Bridge on the Fitzroy River, was allocated \$113 900 for enterprises. It will be close to Mr Withers' heart to know that the

Djaru-Gidja Aboriginal Association at Kununurra has been allocated \$102 100 for enterprises.

In the field of education, I note the following allocations—

	\$
Oombulgurri	28 000
Strelley	109 000
Noonkanbah	52 700

I have discussed this matter at length with the Minister for Education, and also by way of correspondence. I suggested to him that the State may well be abrogating its responsibility in not providing an educational service to these communities. At Strelley a school is operated through this allocation and other funds. The Nomads Charitable and Education Foundation is really centred on a Melbourne University.

Noonkanbah has \$52 700 allocated to it for education. It is interesting to note that when the Noonkanbah school was being set up, the Strelley community contributed \$500 a week towards the running of that school. They have lashings of money!

I move to the heading of housing. Again I will not go through the whole lot. We find that Mowanjum has \$520 000 allocated to it this year. That is great, because it needs the continuity of the building programme. The same thing can be said of Beagle Bay and Balgo—\$170 000 for both places. It is important that the housing programmes have continuity. The Mugarinya people will receive \$100 000.

At La Grange, when I visited the area with Senator Chaney, I told him, "You will see here the best Aboriginal housing programme in Western Australia." As we came away from our inspection he said, "It's the best Aboriginal housing programme in Australia." They have \$242 000 to continue with their project. The Lombardina community has \$133 000.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Do you know at Mowanjum \$60 000 of that amount was in architects' fees for 12 homes?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I might mention that at La Grange practically everything for the houses was made on site. The houses are made of brick, and the bricks are made on site—mixed, compacted, cured, and then laid by the Aborigines. The steel trusses on the roof are welded by the people themselves. Under the direction of only one State Housing Commission supervisor, the complete job is done. It is really an excellent project.

Mr Claughton referred to the fact that \$60 000 in the Mowanjum project were spent on architects' fees. This would not be surprising. I

am sure it would cost the Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction considerably more than that for its projects. Members will recall when I spoke on Beagle Bay in this regard. Do not forget that for the Mowanjum project we have \$525 000 this financial year, but it is an ongoing programme. This is not the first annual allocation and the amount provided will not complete it.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Have they changed the design of those new homes at all?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: To my knowledge, no.

I have outlined the programme. Goodness knows what else there is in it. I do not have time to go through it and give members the details. I do note that some major programmes are not included. When I refer to "major programmes" I am thinking of the community housing programmes at Fitzroy Crossing, Gogo, and Christmas Creek. The reason they are not included in this programme is that they are being carried out by the SHC. When one looks at the Budget, one finds that there is an allocation of expenditure of \$10. That is the only money allocated, because it is an independent commission. The major programmes are at Fitzroy Crossing, Christmas Creek, and Gogo. There would not be very much activity at Looma because the project is coming to an end.

In all, we see the best part of \$5 million being spent by these communities on the activities I have outlined. It adds up to a great deal of money.

Before I leave the question of Aborigines, I want to refer to something discussed by the Hon. Norman Moore and the Hon. Neil McNeill the other evening. They made very good comments on employment generally. I was particularly impressed with the comment by the Hon. Neil McNeill when he referred to the fact that, as yet, any depression that we have in Australia is not affecting the breadwinner to a major extent. In summary, he said we had a new class of unemployed. He referred particularly to youth and the womenfolk.

He pointed out that the nature of unemployment in this so-called recession is such that it does not create destitute families, or is not yet creating destitute families because, if a boy, for example, is unemployed probably his father and mother are in employment. So it goes on. The really destitute families are not very easy to find.

When Mr Neil McNeill referred to these two groups—youth and women—he missed out a very important group. The group I am thinking of comes within the same category about which Mr

McNeill was talking. I am referring to the Aboriginal unemployed. Six or seven years ago there were very few Aborigines registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service and in receipt of unemployment benefits.

In the North Province now we find that registered at the Broome office there are 1 508 unemployed people of whom 1 107 are Aboriginal, or 73 per cent. At the Port Hedland office there are 1 068 registered unemployed, of whom 494 are Aborigines, or 46 per cent. Therefore, in the North Province we are looking at 2 576 unemployed persons, including 1 601 Aborigines, or 62 per cent of the total.

I looked further at Carnarvon, Geraldton, and Kalgoorlie because I thought those places would have a significant number of Aborigines unemployed. For Carnarvon we find 227 unemployed, of whom 111 are Aborigines; Geraldton, 1 358, of whom 283 are Aborigines; and Kalgoorlie, 991, of whom 315 are Aborigines. Taking these five CES offices alone, we find 5 202 unemployed people, of whom 2 310 are Aborigines, or 44 per cent of the total.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Is there any reason why they keep separate figures for Aborigines?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I can suggest only that Mr Cooley direct his inquiry to the Commonwealth Employment Service.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Do you think, on these stations as the tribes are returning to the stations, they will ever change—that there will be opportunities for them that will allow those numbers of people to get jobs again?

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Are you referring to where the Aborigines are taking the stations over?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I will discuss this with Mr Wordsworth later. I am not answering interjections from this side, so I will not answer them from the other side.

I suggest that the unemployed Aborigines represent 0.5 per cent or thereabouts of the work force in Western Australia. That is a very significant figure.

A decade ago these people were living in happy communities on stations. They were employed when work was available. They were excellent stockmen and, generally speaking, very good station hands. The women were working in the home or in the kitchen garden. They were happy communities that existed on those stations, although the pastoral award wages were low, but family support was considerable.

Time has changed all that. All they are now are statistics. They are unemployed. They are paid to sit down and do nothing. It has been made easy for them to be registered for unemployment benefits because of the number of Government officers round the place. After all, if one can get good money for nothing, who wants to work?

These people have lashings of money. I am suggesting there is no way I can obtain an accurate figure—that over \$7.5 million are paid in social security payments to Aborigines in the North Province.

When a pension is worked out from someone living in a city or a country town, it is calculated to meet the cost of rental, rates, water, power, and many other things.

The Aboriginal pensioners or unemployed Aborigines do not, for the most part, have to meet the costs I have mentioned. Therefore they have a great deal of money. It could be said that the whole economy of places like Onslow, Marble Bar, Fitzroy Crossing, and Halls Creek depend on the Aboriginal cheques. I would suggest that Aborigines are the most important economic factor in some of these towns.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I know one or two businesses would collapse without them.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: There is no doubt about that at all.

I will digress from my theme for a moment. The other day I heard a Russian scientist speaking on the radio. He made a statement something like this: "Statistics are like a drunken man leaning on a street light pole. Both provide good support, but shed very little light." Mrs Vaughan produced some statistics the other night. She said there was a reduction of 500 people in the work force from 1977 to 1979.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: She quoted them. The Australian Bureau of Statistics produced the figures.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The Hon. Norman Moore said that there were 62 700 more people in employment between 1974 and 1979. Both of them were quite right in what they said. Then Mr Moore read from a policy speech in which it was stated that 100 000 additional jobs would be created by 1984. I will bet that, as usual, the Premier will be right.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: He has to create a lot more jobs than he has in the last three years.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The fact remains that Western Australia has increased its work force in the last six very difficult years while other States,

except Queensland, have remained virtually static, or have gone backwards.

I now wish to discuss Wittenoom. Over the period I have been in this place you, Mr President, and some of the members may have noticed I have a great affinity for the older, smaller places in the north. I refer to places like Wittenoom, Marble Bar, Onslow, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, and Nullagine, and places like Derby and Wyndham. These are the places where I feel I am more at ease. The people are not so demanding; they are the real northerners. Quite frankly, I am greatly attracted to these old towns. Without question, they are poorly endowed, in most cases, in the physical sense. Of all of these places, it is Wittenoom which needs people to take a genuine interest in it.

On page 55 of the Budget document I find that the last item under the heading of "Other State Services" under the Treasurer's vote for 1979-80 is the Wittenoom Assistance Scheme with an allocation of \$90 000. Although no allocation was made last year, \$10 000 was spent on this scheme.

It is desirable to refer to the Wittenoom story, the recent happenings there, and my own involvement in the matter. In 1966 ABA closed its asbestos mining operation in Wittenoom. There seemed little reason for the survival of the town, but it struggled on. A few small-time entrepreneurs continued in the fields of accommodation and stores catering for tourism. During this period the asbestos tailings remained.

Early in 1978 there was a spate of disturbing publicity about Wittenoom. It gained impetus when Professor Hobbs from the WA University School of Medicine, who was involved in a research programme, contributed to feature articles in the Press and this created much public comment.

The result of this was that we entered into a phase in which there was great pressure from the townspeople and others that the Government should reach a decision on the future of Wittenoom. Naturally, as a parliamentary representative of the area, I became deeply involved in the matter.

In April, 1978 I made a long submission to the Premier. This thick file I have in my hand is not my Wittenoom file. It is just a subfile which relates to dealings in respect of asbestos dust at Wittenoom.

In this letter of April, 1978 which I wrote to the Premier I spoke of the emotive and damaging publicity in relation to Wittenoom. I spoke also of the health risks; the rumour relating to the possible closure or relocation of the town; tourism;

transport and roads; public works; and matters concerning the SEC.

I should like to quote a paragraph from that submission. Members should not forget it was written in April, 1978. The paragraph reads as follows—

Without the benefit of expert health advice, I personally, am quite confident that there is no insurmountable reason why Wittenoom should not continue to survive and play the important role in the future of the Pilbara that we have always envisaged for it.

I should point out here that, as an officer, I had worked beside the then Minister for the North-West (then Mr Charles Court) and we had clearly defined precepts as to where we were going. To continue—

This town almost certainly will emerge as the tourist capital of the Pilbara region within the next decade, provided we do not let it wither and die in the current temporary phase of rumour and uncertainty.

At the end of the submission I said—

May I urge you, in concert with your Ministers, to make a positive statement as soon as it is practicable.

A copy of that submission went to all Ministers directly concerned and there were seven of them. It was sent also to the town of Wittenoom and in fact it was displayed on the notice board there for quite some time.

I do not know whether I can take complete credit for it, but I certainly believe that submission was a contributing factor to the creation of the Cabinet subcommittee to inquire into this matter. That subcommittee comprised the Minister for Health, the Minister for Mines, and the Minister for Labour and Industry.

The town came under intense scrutiny not only from the Press, but also from many other people. A more comprehensive programme of monitoring of airborne fibre took place. In Perth there was an almost non-stop series of meetings with Ministers, the Premier, officers from the Health Department, and others; and my colleagues and myself were deeply involved. There was correspondence between the Premier and Ministers and a great deal of publicity in the newspapers.

I can recall only one sensible and complete story which appeared during that period. That article was by a Mr Peter Trott. Most of the reports were highly emotive and not very well informed.

On the 22nd June, the Cabinet subcommittee which was made up of Messrs. Ridge, Mensaros, and Grayden, visited Wittenoom. The following weekend a short editorial appeared in *The Sunday Times*. It reads as follows—

Statements made by the Minister for Health, Mr Ridge, following his visit to Wittenoom this week must have allayed many fears.

Mr Ridge said he did not believe it was necessary to find a new townsite for the 200 people in the district because of the threat of asbestos-created diseases.

What was not given great publicity during the visit of Mr Ridge and two other Ministers, Mr Mensaros (Industrial Development) and Mr Grayden (Labour and Industry) was that they were accompanied by the Public Health Commissioner, Dr McNulty. Since he is an acknowledged . . .

It is a very poor copy and difficult to read. It refers to the fact that Dr McNulty was greatly experienced in the field of occupational health and asbestos-related diseases. Therefore, the conclusions reached by the Ministers were reached on the very best advice.

During this period, negotiation, discussion, and examination of the matter proceeded. On the 12th and 13th October a top-level Government team of officers went to Wittenoom. The team comprised top engineers, top health people, and the best men in their particular fields. This did not bring immediate results, and on the 31st October a petition was sent to the Premier and others by the people of Wittenoom. It was sent also to the West Pilbara Shire Council. The petition sought resolution of the matter. The people wanted the question mark which hovered over the town to be removed.

On the 2nd November the Premier advised the members of the community by letter that he would visit Wittenoom and, if he personally could not attend, he would send the Minister for Health.

On the same day I sent a letter to the Minister for Health. This followed an indication that, in fact, a Government decision had been made. It is important that members should know the nature of the comment I made in this letter. It is a five-page submission, so I will not read it; but I should like to quote a paragraph as follows—

I am really quite shocked and disappointed that it should be necessary for you to recommend this Cabinet Minute for adoption.

That set out my position very clearly; but I made the qualification that I acknowledged I had been demanding a positive and authoritative statement and that was, in fact, what was being given. In addition, I stated that I did not find it easy to argue with expert medical advice.

However, I went on to tell the Minister for Health about the problems which had been created in the tourist industry. It has to be recognised that, when we refer to the tourist industry in the Pilbara, we are talking not only about Wittenoom; but we are also talking about the whole Pilbara tourist trade.

In fact Wittenoom is the linchpin of all the tours that pass through the Pilbara. Without Wittenoom there would be no tours. The hotel and motel in Wittenoom cater for three and, on occasions, four coaches a night. During the months of May, June, July, August, September, and probably into April and October one would be lucky to find half a dozen nights when there was not at least one tour stopping in Wittenoom. On many nights three coaches stop there. Many of these coaches stay at Wittenoom for three or four days. If we take that period out of the middle of a Pilbara tour, one does not have a tour at all. There is precious little to be seen at Port Hedland. It is interesting to go to Marble Bar; but the Hamersley Range is of real interest and that is what one sees when one goes to Wittenoom.

In this submission I spoke about the roads and the importance of the location of a national highway. I spoke about the situation in regard to Government staff and tried to impress upon the Minister for Health that local government could do something about derelict Wittenoom.

I explained to the Minister that the pastoral industry needed a service centre of some sort and Wittenoom provided that service for the tablelands pastoralists. Of course, the annual race meeting at Wittenoom is probably one of the outstanding features on the Pilbara social calendar. What a pity it would be to dispose of that.

The Government seemed to be suggesting a phased demise of the town. I felt that was completely impossible and it had to be all or nothing; but if it was going to be "all", adequate compensation had to be made to the townspeople. I was quite sure the Government was not providing for that.

In this submission I spoke also about health and criticised the method of monitoring airborne fibre. I was disappointed to learn that the medical people said no matter what they did to cover the tailings or cart them away, they could not

guarantee complete immunity from airborne fibre. I respectfully suggested that no-one anywhere can give such a guarantee.

I drew the Minister's attention to the fact that only one person living in the town of Wittenoom who had not been working in the mine or the mill had been known to have contracted mesothelioma. I suggested that, with reasonable remedial action, the hazard could be minimised and brought within safe limits.

I will read the conclusion of my letter, which was as follows—

In conclusion may I state, in all sincerity, that I consider the most practical and the cheapest solution to the Wittenoom problem is to positively move in with \$1 million to spend—

That figure came from information supplied by Government officers. To continue—

—and set the scene for the natural expansion in the next decade which will see the town assume its logical and pre-destined role as the tourist centre of Western Australia. The location of Wittenoom on the National Highway, in immediate proximity to the greatest tourist area in the State, is ideal. A prosperous Wittenoom centrally situated in a circle of thriving modern mining townsites but not directly associated with a particular mining venture, would complement the others and give balance to the total present and future Pilbara developmental concept.

It is worthy of consideration as an alternative to the negative and unworkable proposal put forward by the top level committee sent by Cabinet to look at the Wittenoom situation on October 12 and 13, 1978.

That was a last desperate bid to urge the Government not to make such a blunder. Everyone knows that this bid also was unsuccessful.

On the 29th November, 1978, the Minister for Health visited Wittenoom. He gave the people what, in fact, turned out to be—as I had forecast—unacceptable terms for the closure of the town. There were inadequate repositioning allowances, there was no compensation, it was not made known what was to become of the tourist industry, and clearly the people were not prepared to accept the elimination of Government services over a period of 12 months. However, that is what the Government did and that is where the situation rested for a while.

Six weeks later I was in Wittenoom again and I spent two days examining the situation as closely as I could. Again I felt compelled to describe to the Premier where I felt the Government was in error. In an eight-page submission I pointed out that Wittenoom, for the first time in its life, had become a united town; a town that wanted to go some place. In fact, the Government had provided a *cause celebre* around which the town could muster its forces. In my letter of the 19th April I said—

In my April 19, 1978 letter to you, I advocated an engineering solution to the Wittenoom problem but, mainly—on behalf of the townspeople—I sought an authoritative air-clearing statement. This could be said to have been given by Mr Young on November 29, 1978, but it is a fair commentary on human nature to note that any such statement is only welcomed if it reflects one's own opinion.

Unfortunately, the Government's "statement" has not been welcomed. I trust that my report will explain why this is so.

I brought the Premier up to date and I told him I thought the situation could be retrieved. I emphasised, in fact—because I knew it was dear to the heart of our Premier—that the demise of Wittenoom would be a severe blow to the balanced development of the Pilbara region. I drew attention to the crazy monitoring of the health hazard which had taken place. One of the dust collectors was attached to the back of a car which was driven around the streets in order to determine the dust problems on the corners. One has only to ride on the back of a utility to know what quantity of dust would have been collected.

There was no immediate response to my letter, but the actions which followed seemed to indicate things were on the mend.

I will read from a letter to which I referred earlier, written by Dr Cumpston, as follows—

During my discussions with people in Wittenoom I repeatedly stated that the risk of developing mesothelioma resulting solely from residence in Wittenoom was slight.

This is Dr Cumpston speaking. To continue—

Only one case has ever been recorded in a person who had not worked at, or lived near, the mine site and this was in a person who played in mine tailings as a child.

The occurrence of this case resulting from close contact with mine tailings in childhood led me to state that the risk to children is greater than the slight risk to adults.

However, the magnitude of this risk must be assessed in accordance with the fact that of all the children who have ever grown up in Wittenoom, we have only learned of this one case.

No wonder the people of Wittenoom questioned the Government decision, and certainly I did. It was about this time that the Minister for Tourism tended to be offended because I suggested he might not know as much about his game as he thought he did, as it related to Wittenoom. However, he demonstrated that he did know all about it. It may well have been the fact that the Minister for Tourism was included on the new Cabinet subcommittee which had been created that at last a little bit of light was visible at the end of the tunnel. This is what we had to reach.

The new Cabinet subcommittee consisted of the Premier, the Minister for Tourism, and the Minister for Health. During this period about which I am speaking—from November, 1978 to August, 1979—the Wittenoom Working Committee was operating. It consisted of a group which was in direct contact with the Government—sometimes not very amicably. The PR consultant, David Oser, was helping—or hindering—to find a solution, and in the preparation of a report.

The outcome of this long period of waiting was that on the 3rd August, 1979, the Minister for Health (Mr Young) and the Minister for Tourism (Mr MacKinnon) visited Wittenoom and gave to the people of Wittenoom the news for which they had been fighting. The Premier apologised for the fact that he was not able to attend personally on that occasion, and he did want to do so.

Let me make it quite clear that the Government did not withdraw in any shape or form from its position with respect to the health risk, but the Government agreed that as long as there was a community to be serviced at Wittenoom, those services would continue. That is what the people required.

Perhaps I might have been able to say, at that time, "I told you so", but that was not my feeling. My feeling was that the task was not, in act, finished, but was just beginning. The real work, the real job which had to be done, was to commence from that time. The task was to fall mainly on the people of Wittenoom. However, those people will be lost unless they receive positive and genuine support from both the State Government and the local authority—the West Pilbara Shire Council in this instance.

If we are to succeed in this long haul back to viability, there will have to be a real effort by many people living in Wittenoom.

On the day of the visit by the Minister for Health and the Minister for Tourism, the 8th August, it was agreed with the local people to create three committees—a works committee, a health committee, and a tourism committee. The first two mentioned committees were to consist of four locally elected people from Wittenoom, one nominee from the State Government, and one nominee from the West Pilbara Shire Council. Of course, a councillor represented the Wittenoom ward of the West Pilbara Shire Council. As far as the Government officers were concerned, the Government appointed Mr Ken Bartley, the District Engineer of the Public Works Department, and it also appointed a senior officer from the occupational health department. The West Pilbara Shire Council is expected to appoint its health surveyor and works supervisor respectively.

After some procrastination, the committees have started to meet and I wish them well. They will need all the support they can get, and they will get all the support I am able to give them personally.

All local people concerned with tourism comprise the tourist committee and I ask the Minister please to ensure that, in fact, there is an involvement by the Department of Tourism in the operation of the committee.

Irrespective of the difficulties which the people of Wittenoom have experienced, in dealing with the Government, I feel we should have great admiration for Mr Frank Soter. He should be congratulated for the effort he has made as chairman of the Wittenoom Working Committee. He has done an outstanding job with his group of people. With all the faults which have occurred, there has never been the slightest doubt about the genuine endeavours of the committee. Each action which the committee has taken has been aimed at achieving the best result for the town of Wittenoom as the committee sees it.

There is no doubt in my mind that the town of Wittenoom can be resurrected and again made into the pleasant oasis it used to be in a very harsh terrain which existed prior to 1966 when the asbestos mine closed. With the making of roads Wittenoom is destined to become the greatest tourist destination in the Pilbara. I suggest that in the long term it will be far greater than Alice Springs because it has so much more to offer. Alice Springs has grown from a very

small beginning to a town of 15 000 or more people, due almost entirely to tourism.

I suggest that within a decade of the sealing of the national highway past Wittenoom we will have to increase our hotel-motel beds fourfold, and we will have to increase our caravan parking and camping areas 10-fold. That is an indication of the degree of confidence I have in what will happen as time goes by. I am aware that my forecast might come unstuck because of future fuel shortages, but I certainly hope that will not be the case.

When Texasgulf, along with Hanwright, were discussing the use of Wittenoom as a work force dormitory town for the Marandoo development, planner Terry Martin prepared a very modern design for the town. He changed the conventional "Union Jack" type of subdivision into a series of loops and cul-de-sacs. It was very attractive indeed.

I suggest that as work is carried out to remove the health hazard it should be done to a well-conceived and well-formulated plan which needs to be presented. I am not saying that the plan presented by Terry Martin is the only plan, but it is practicable and it could be applied.

There is no doubt in my mind that the West Pilbara Shire Council should immediately serve orders on the dilapidated buildings in the town. I think a total of 86 buildings come under that category.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Incidentally, Wittenoom's importance is really greater as a focal point than as a destination.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Personally, I think its importance is as a destination.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: In the tourist field its importance is greater as a hub or focal point than as a destination.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I do not want to argue with the Leader of the House.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You are not; you are arguing with experts on tourism.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: However, I will say for the benefit of those experts that people come and spend three, four, or five days in Wittenoom. Sometimes family groups spend much longer there. To me that makes it a tourist destination. Certainly, as I described earlier, it is the linchpin for the whole of the Pilbara tourist travel industry.

I was in the process of saying that the West Pilbara Shire Council should move in immediately and serve orders to have derelict buildings removed. It should provide an option to

people like Hancock and Wright that the houses be either renovated or removed. Perhaps they can be sold cheaply to people who will, in fact, guarantee to renovate them. But at least they must not be left in their present derelict and dilapidated state.

The West Pilbara Shire Council is not the destitute local authority it was in the days when it was the Tablelands Shire and the Ashburton Shire. It has a large amount of revenue coming from places such as Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica; and the syphoning off of a small amount of that revenue has made Onslow such a lovely town, with well-ordered streets, trees, parks, and kerbs painted white. That is the sort of treatment the West Pilbara Shire Council must be prepared to give Wittenoom. Only a small proportion of the total revenue of the shire would be required at least to make a start on this project.

Certainly Wittenoom has been sadly neglected in recent years. I spoke of the fact that \$90 000 is listed in the Premier's vote under the heading of "Wittenoom Assistance Scheme". I am glad; that is fine. However, it is only a start. The State must share financially, at least, in this programme to resurrect Wittenoom. Before the final decision was made not to terminate the existence of Wittenoom, I suggested to the Cabinet subcommittee that avenues were available through which funds could be obtained.

I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the West Pilbara Shire Council has received this year \$390 454 from the Grants Commission. Element A of the grant, which is arrived at on a weighted per capita formula, amounts to \$365 000. Element B, which is determined on a needs basis, amounts to \$69 000. In addition, of course, there is the local authorities' assistance fund grant of \$15 000, which is based on a formula and met from State revenue.

I suggest the special needs of Wittenoom must be recognised by the Grants Commission when disbursing grant funds next year. I suggest as a starting point—and I do not believe this is at all unreal—that Element B of the Grants Commission grant should contain a special allocation of at least \$250 000 to Wittenoom for next year and the year after. This grant should be made to the West Pilbara Shire Council on the understanding that it is devoted to the resurrection of the town.

The three committees to which I referred a short while ago will be presenting proposals almost immediately. The current allocation of \$90 000 will allow preliminary work to

commence; and the shire might be able to do a little more. With the assurance that a sum of at least \$250 000 will be available in each of the next two years, and some of this would become available on the 1st July, 1980, I suggest the shire could make a real job of it.

If such a grant cannot be made under the terms of the Grants Commission, I suggest the State Treasury must inject funds directly to enable the task to be carried out. The people of Wittenoom do not expect things to be handed to them on a silver salver. The few businessmen who cater for the tourist industry will make their contribution through their own effort and enterprise, and perhaps, if necessary, in dollars. However, they deserve and must have the full support of the shire council and the State Government. Those two tiers of Government cannot sit back and expect things to happen, any more than the townspeople can.

In Wittenoom, as in all other places, things do not happen of their own volition; someone must make them happen. So, if I have a message for the Government at this time, it is that it must encourage and assist the plans that come forward, and then make every practical effort to facilitate their implementation. I would urge the West Pilbara Shire Council not to shirk what is a clear municipal responsibility. It must allocate funds and a works effort specifically for Wittenoom because of its peculiar and special needs. It must make a contribution from revenue and from any other sources available to it. The shire must canvass the Grants Commission and/or the Treasury to establish the need for special consideration to handle the huge task ahead.

To my friends in Wittenoom I have this advice: "Stick with it; the task is not over, but is just beginning. I know you will achieve what you set out to achieve."

Finally, I wish to make a brief comment on the matter of new federalism, to which both the Hon. F. E. McKenzie and the Hon. D. K. Dans referred. They said it had failed. I do not know what they expected.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: They expected it to fail.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Clearly a new policy on federalism in Australia can have no effect on the world financial situation. If the Commonwealth Government is forced to keep a tight rein on expenditure to keep the country from bankruptcy, how can we reasonably expect Commonwealth grants to escalate vastly? What I am saying to Mr McKenzie and Mr Dans is that

these things are just not related to new federalism, as they tried to indicate.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: The grants have been vastly de-escalated.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Just listen to what I have to say.

One policy initiative has been introduced under the banner of new federalism and that is the one of which I have just been speaking. I refer to the item introduced to provide a percentage of income tax revenue direct to the local authorities of Australia. This is the money of which I have been speaking; the Grants Commission disburses it to the local authorities. I want the Grants Commission to give full consideration to the special needs of Wittenoom.

The Prime Minister undertook that during the life of his Government 2 per cent of income tax revenue would be allocated direct to local government. This was a startling new initiative which was introduced under the new federalism scheme. Funds allocated direct to local authorities in Western Australia under this scheme have been as follows—

	\$
1976-77	13 162 000
1977-78	15 523 807
1978-79	16 847 000
1979-80	20 820 657

That money has been provided to Western Australian local authorities without any strings attached to it by the Federal Government. No-one associated with local government would not join in giving three cheers for that policy initiative under the new federalism programme.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: Does it go direct to local authorities, or is it allocated by the State Government?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I do not know that that is terribly significant. Obviously we do not want some bureaucrat in Canberra telling us which local authorities are deserving of funds. There is no way in the world that would be acceptable to Western Australia.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: It should be based on need.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: We have a Grants Commission that has been properly set up under a Statute, and it is charged with the responsibility of disbursing some of this money under a weighted per capita formula—that is, element A of the grant—and some to cope with the essential needs of local authorities throughout Western Australia. We do not want people in Canberra

trying to tell us how we should disburse our money.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: Instead of the rates coming down they are still increasing.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: So what? I am not discussing the administration of local government.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: You are telling us how great new federalism is.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I am telling the honourable member that \$20.8 million has been disbursed to Western Australian local authorities this year. That represents 1.75 per cent of the income tax revenue of the nation. Last year it was 1.52 per cent, and next year it will be 2 per cent—as the Prime Minister undertook. How silly would the Prime Minister be to commit himself to spending something like \$25 million a year in Western Australia if he could not do it? He is honouring his promise, and next year we expect to receive 2 per cent of the income tax revenue of the nation. Western Australia's share of the disbursement next year will be in the order of \$25 million.

I would like to indicate to Mr Dans and Mr McKenzie the value of these grants to local authorities in my province. The allocations are as follows—

Shire	\$
Broome	258 312
East Pilbara	373 513
Halls Creek	169 132
Port Hedland	526 772
Roebourne	508 294
West Kimberley	304 068
West Pilbara	390 454
Wyndham-East Kimberley	268 993
	<hr/> 2 799 738

That money is provided by the Commonwealth Government under the new federalism programme to be spent by local authorities in my province. Be assured that this is what I want, and it is what the shire councillors want. Mr McKenzie should ask people associated with local government what they think about the new federalism scheme; and of course, there are other initiatives.

Tonight I had planned to discuss many things embraced within the Budget. I wanted to talk about the progress being made in education, culminating in the post-secondary institutions at Karratha and Port Hedland. For the first time an interim allocation is getting the project in motion. This is wonderful news for the people of the

Pilbara; they will be able to have their apprentices trained in the Pilbara. Not only apprentices, but also many other people will be able to be involved in learning in these post-secondary colleges.

I wanted to talk about ports and waterfront facilities, and about the niggardly allocation provided for the Johns Creek project. An investigation has been carried out, and we had hoped that this year a small boat harbour would be constructed. I can only implore the Minister for Works to give the matter maximum consideration in the next Budget.

An amount of \$8 000 has been provided for an investigation into Withnell Bay. I have suggested in this House that a general purpose berth should be constructed adjacent to the Woodside facility. However, I do not know what \$8 000 will investigate; no doubt it will investigate nothing! What is clear is that we will not get started on the port facilities I hoped we would have.

The fact of the matter is that Woodside, the State Government, and other major industrial concerns in Western Australia are scared stiff of finding themselves in any way associated with a general purpose berth because it would only open the gate to the Waterside Workers' Federation taking over the operation of those facilities and the adjacent industrial facilities of the mining companies.

If any member saw the claims made by the Waterside Workers' Federation to embrace every worker who in some remote way could be associated with the waterfront, he would have been scared to death. No wonder Mr Gayfer had such a fight on his hands. I can hope only that he was fighting the fight that will check the inroads of the Waterside Workers' Federation on the waterfront, on the iron ore berths, on the gas berths, on the salt berths, or wherever it may be.

I also wanted to talk about the Department of Industrial Development. That department now has fewer employees than it had in 1974; that is amazing. Yet we find the Environmental Protection Authority is building up a huge work force. I understand that department now has a staff of 59, not counting the consultants and all the extra people involved. The officers of the Department of Industrial Development are finding themselves bogged down studying environmental impact statements and environmental review and management programmes produced by the EPA. So, while on the one hand, we have the EPA developing into a great organisation and providing environmental reports, on the other, we see officers of the highly skilled Department of Industrial

Development—which is so necessary for the development of Western Australia, but which has adhered to a stated Government policy of restraining staff growth—becoming bogged down worrying about environmental impact statements and the like.

I also wanted to speak about mining royalties. I wanted to discuss the manner in which they should be tied to capital works, such as roads, within a region.

I wanted to talk about the assistance which might be available to locally-based industries, particularly in respect of Government contracts. There seems to be a great deal of scope for a Government to give real incentive to try to encourage decentralised industry.

I wanted to talk about the YWCA, and ask for support for that body in the north. I wanted to talk about Aboriginal employment opportunities.

I wanted to refer to police stations. On the credit side we have a new station at Onslow and a new courthouse at Karratha, which will relieve the pressure on the adjacent police station, but on the debit side we have nothing at Newman, where a sadly overcrowded situation exists.

Associated with that, I wanted to be critical of the Government on the standard of Government buildings which are being constructed in these mining towns. They do not measure up to the standards one would expect, or to what exists around them.

I wanted to talk about the prospects for iron and steel, about communications in the east Kimberley, including the planned microwave link, and about the domestic satellite.

I wanted to suggest we introduce a grievance debate into this Chamber. In addition, I wanted to discuss why some Ministers find it so hard to answer questions or explain why answers should not be given.

These things will have to wait. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. V. J. Ferry.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [10.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 13th November.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.38 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TRAFFIC

Speed Traps: Radar

326. The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does the Road Traffic Authority keep a record of where radar traps are set up in the metropolitan area?
- (2) What RTA officer is responsible for determining where radar traps are set up?
- (3) What are the criteria used in determining where a radar trap is to be set up?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The commissioned officer and senior NCOs in charge of the relief.
- (3) Complaint and accident frequency.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

South-west Regional Development Committee

327. The Hon. W. M. PIESSE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Regional Administration:

In view of the fact that the South-west Regional Development Committee is based on representation from shires in the region—

- (1) Who makes the appointments to the committee?
- (2) Which shires are represented on the committee?
- (3) Who is the appointee said to represent the Collie Shire interests?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Minister for Industrial Development.
- (2) As six members only are appointed for a three-year term from nominees submitted by shires in the region, it is not possible to have nominees of all shires on the committee at any time. Opportunity has been taken over a period to invite all shires to nominate persons for appointment to the committee.

- (3) There is no current member appointed from nominees of the Shire of Collie, and for reasons stated in (2).

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Barnes Road-Huntriss Street-Sackville Terrace Intersection

328. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Minister advise whether traffic lights are to be erected at the intersection of Huntriss Street-Barnes Road-Sackville Terrace, Innaloo?
- (2) If so, when is it expected the lights will be installed?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Not at this stage.
- (2) Priorities are reviewed annually. This site does not rate a high priority at present.

WESFARMERS

Liquid Petroleum Gas Storage Depot

329. The Hon. I. G. PRATT, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that—
 - (a) Wesfarmers have established an LP gas storage depot adjacent to the premises of Rose & Co. in Kwinana, whose equipment includes open furnaces; and
 - (b) the liquefied gas is transported to the depot by tanker and transferred to storage on site?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that Rose & Co. have already been moved once before to accommodate other industry?
- (3) What action is to be taken to ensure the safety of the staff employed at Rose & Co. in the event of a liquefied gas spillage or leak?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) The Minister for Industrial Development understands that the storage depot is being established adjacent to the premises of Rose & Co., and that the liquid gas will be transported to the depot by tanker and transferred on site.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The proposal by Wesfarmers Kleenheat Gas Pty. Ltd, to store bulk LPG at their Kwinana premises has been examined by officers of the Department of Mines and satisfactorily checked to ensure that separation distances are in excess of the minimum required by the draft Western Australian LPG regulations. These proposed regulations are based on the recommendations of the Australian Standards Association—AS 1596 LP Gas Code—which is used also by all other Australian States for the safe location of LPG storage tanks.

TOWN PLANNING: MRPA

Mr Uren: Payment

330. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Referring to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority report for the year ended the 30th June, 1979, does the amount of \$96 171 000 for the year 1973-74, as shown on page 31 under the heading "Land Purchases Roads and Open Space", include the amount of \$32 662.18 paid to Mr Uren for compulsory resumption of land at Bayswater?
- (2) Did a subsequent Supreme Court action invalidate that compulsory resumption?
- (3) If so, what action has been taken to recover moneys paid to Mr Uren?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A counter-claim has been made—Supreme Court action No. 1378.

EDUCATION: UNIVERSITIES AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

External Post-graduate Studies

331. The Hon. W. M. PIESSE, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Education:

What subjects are available for external post-graduate studies supplied by—

- (a) University of Western Australia;
- (b) Murdoch University; and
- (c) Western Australian Institute of Technology?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (a) None, except by special arrangement. In 1979 a student undertook Masters preliminary studies in agronomy.
- (b) Semester subjects proposed to be available in 1980—

*Graduate Diploma in Education**

- E221 Education in Context
- E224 Sociology of Education
- E241 Processes of Learning
- E272 English and Curriculum
- E275 Mathematics and Curriculum
- E222 Australian Education
- E225 History of Education
- E242 Educational Psychology
- E244 Education Measurement
- E261 Curriculum Models

Bachelor of Education

- E426 Contemporary Educational Thought
- E442 Advanced Educational Psychology
- E446 Mathematics Education
- E424 Sociological Perspectives on Education
- E444 Advanced Educational Measurement I
- E471 Classroom Studies 2

*All of these subjects are also available at undergraduate level.

- (c) Semester subjects proposed to be available in 1980—

- Accounting 509
- Accounting 511
- Administration (Educational) 541
- Administration (Education) 542
- Administration (Public) 503
- Advanced Mineral Processing 551
- Advanced Mineral Processing 552

Advanced Mineral Processing 553
 Comparative Educational Administration 543
 Economics 509
 Economics 511
 Economics 512
 Economics (Education) 533
 Electro-optical Analysis 553
 Extractive Metallurgy Project 591
 Extractive Metallurgy Project 592
 Extractive Metallurgy Project 593
 Extractive Metallurgy Project 594
 Finance 509
 Hydro Metallurgy 552
 Industrial Relations 501
 Industrial Relations 502
 Law (Business) 501
 Law (Education) 543
 Law (Administration) 522
 Marketing 503
 Marketing 504
 Organisation 509
 Personnel 501
 Physical Chemistry of Extractive Processes 553
 Politics (Education) 513
 Politics (Education) 503
 Process Control 553
 Quantitative Studies 509
 Research Methods 503
 Science Education Issues 501
 Science Education Research 502
 Science Education Project 591
 Science Education Project 592
 Science Education Seminar 503
 Science Education Seminar 504
 Science Education Thesis Preparation 1-699
 Mathematics Education 503
 Chemistry Education 503
 Science in Sociological Context 561
 Transport Phenomena 552
 Unit Processes 551.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Western Australian Opera Company

332. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

Further to my question 286 of the 30th October, 1979, regarding Mr Abbott's contract with the WA Opera Co., can the Minister confirm that the Opera Co. Board had agreed to renew Mr Abbott's contract and had written to his agent in

June seeking to open negotiations for this purpose?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:
 No.

TRANSPORT

Southern Western Australia Transport Study

333. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Referring to recommendations contained in the Southern Western Australia Transport Study, will the Minister advise what the suggested diesel tax of 8.8c per litre is in today's prices, as the figures quoted were based on 1974-75 prices?
- (2) Would he also update the 0.23c per tonne-km quoted as a suggested road maintenance contribution into today's prices?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

The Minister has received advice from the Director General of Transport that the updated figures are—

- (1) 13.9c.
- (2) 0.36c.

TRANSPORT: NORTHERN SUBURBS

Rapid Transit System

334. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Transport:

In view of the rapidly expanding population in the Shire of Wanneroo, and the national campaign directed at private motorists to conserve fuel, will the Government introduce a rapid transit system to the northern suburbs as soon as possible?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

MTT services to Wanneroo are carefully monitored and extra services provided as the demand grows.

There is insufficient patronage at the present time to warrant rapid transit to Wanneroo.

However, when the Beach Road transfer terminal is completed in 1980-81, rapid transit to and from the city will be

provided to this point. Extension to Joondalup subregional centre will take place as demand dictates.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

State Library Branches

335. The Hon. W. M. PIESSE, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Is the number of books supplied to a country branch of the State Library based on—
 - (a) the number of residents in the local town;
 - (b) the number of ratepayers in the local town; or
 - (c) the number of people in the whole shire?
- (2) Is more than one State Library branch permitted to operate in any one shire?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) The number of books supplied by the Library Board to a local government authority is based on 1.25 per head of population in the service area of the library. In the normal small country local authority, the service area is coterminous with the local government area. Population figures used are those of the 1971 census, except for new libraries in areas established since the 1971 census; for example, mining areas such as the Pilbara. The Library Board would need to be able to purchase 154 000 additional books in order to be able to upgrade stocks to meet 1976 census figures.
- (2) More than one library is established within the one shire if there are widely scattered centres of population each needing public libraries. In the Shire of East Pilbara, for instance, there are libraries at—

Goldsworthy
Marble Bar
Newman
Nullagine
Shay Gap
Telfer.

No other shire has as many as six public libraries, but several have two, three, or four.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Government Subsidy

336. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Did he note in the last Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Parliamentary Newsletter of the 11th October, 1979, that France is to contribute from public funds towards the expenses of major political parties, which President Giscard d'Estaing stated would improve the country's democratic institutions?
- (2) Is he also aware that—
 - (a) West Germany;
Sweden;
Austria;
Denmark;
Finland;
Italy;
Norway;
Canada; and
United States of America;
provide aid to political parties from public funds; and
 - (b) a committee chaired by the Rt. Hon. Lord Houghton of Sowberry set up to investigate financial aid to political parties reported to the British Parliament in August 1976, after a visit to Austria, West Germany, and Sweden, that the public in those countries accepted party subsidies because they "saw the State subsidy as a more attractive alternative than the parties dependence on business interests"?
- (3) In view of the foregoing, will the Government now give consideration to introducing this practice in Western Australia.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) and (b) In the time available I have not been able to confirm the member's statement.
- (3) No. The matter has already been considered by the Government.