

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 6th April, 1976

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. P. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Acquisition

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Although I understand newspaper reports are not always accurate, would the Minister advise the House whether the report which appears on page 11 of the *Daily News* this afternoon relating to Her Majesty's Theatre is accurate?

(2) On what basis is the Government conducting negotiations with Sir Norman Rydge, for sale or for lease?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

(1) and (2) Mr President, have I your permission to read the newspaper article?

The PRESIDENT: Is it necessary to read the article in order to answer the question?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes, Sir, because I have to ascertain what it actually says before I can say whether or not it is accurate.

The PRESIDENT: The Minister could ask for the question to be placed on the notice paper.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I would like to answer it now if possible.

The PRESIDENT: Very well.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: The article states—

Sydney philanthropist Sir Norman Rydge has declined a suggestion that he donate Her Majesty's Theatre to the State. That is correct; I received the letter this morning. The article continues—

However, it is believed that Sir Norman favours the sale or lease of the theatre to the WA Government.

In actual fact, the information he conveyed to me is that he would favour leasing, but is prepared to

sell. The article goes on to state that I wrote to Sir Norman last month. That is correct. I asked him, as he is a very kind gentleman and is known as a philanthropist, if he could see fit to make a donation of the theatre to the State as a gesture to the performing arts. He has declined to do so because it is part of a family trust.

The article then states that negotiations would now be started with Sir Norman. I would rather such negotiations be conducted by letter or on a personal basis, than through the newspaper. That is the statement I made to the Press, so I feel quite justified in making it to this House also.

2. ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Charitable Collections Act: Licence

The Hon. Lyla ELLIOTT, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) Why did the Chief Secretary refuse to grant the Environment Centre a licence pursuant to the Charitable Collections Act?

(2) What is the precise wording of the Act which, it is claimed, prevented the Government from granting such a licence?

(3) As the Government claims to be in difficult financial circumstances, why does it hinder such a body from helping itself by raising funds?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

I thank Miss Elliott for giving me some prior notice of her intention to ask this question, the answer to which is as follows—

(1) I exercised the discretion allowed me by the Act based on legal advice that the organisation is not one that would come within the definition of "charitable purpose" as defined by the Charitable Collections Act 1946-1949.

(2) Section 11 (3)—"After considering the report of the advisory committee on any application, the Minister may, in his discretion, grant or refuse a licence to any applicant and shall not be liable to any proceedings whatsoever as a consequence of any refusal."

(3) Answered by (2).

3. HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Acquisition

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

In respect of the last part of my previous question, would the Minister advise whether negotiations are on the basis of the sale or lease of the theatre?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

I indicated to Sir Norman Rydge previously that we would not be interested in leasing. He would prefer us to lease because he does not want to lose ownership of the theatre. However, the Government is not interested in leasing. It will be a fairly costly proposition, and ownership is desired. I have conveyed that view to Sir Norman.

4. NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Government Grants

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Western Australian Government financial assistance to independent schools currently amounts to a rate of 23 per cent of expenditure in Government schools?
- (2) Is this amount provided on a per capita basis or does it vary according to "need"?
- (3) Are there other forms of assistance provided by the State Government to independent schools? If so—
 - (a) Will the Minister provide details of the additional forms of assistance?
 - (b) Is a "need basis" applied to the provision of such additional assistance?
 - (c) If a need basis is applied, what criteria does the Government employ to assess needs?
 - (d) What is the estimated current annual value of assistance provided in addition to the flat rate per capita grant?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes, 23 per cent of expenditure by the State, but from the amount spent on pupils in Government schools, the costs of free textbooks, the textbook allowance for secondary pupils, school supplies, science stocks including gas supplies, and Education Department publications is subtracted.
- (2) On a per capita basis.

(3) Yes.

- (a) Free travel on school buses and subsidised travel on other transport; in-service participation by teachers; advisory services; interest payments on residential and instructional building costs; Teachers' Certificate course instruction; guidance and counselling services; and secondary pupils may attend Government school facilities such as manual arts centres.
- (b) No.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) No estimate is made of the cost of additional assistance provided.

QUESTIONS (14): ON NOTICE

1. SUPERPHOSPHATE

Sales

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Agriculture:

What quantities of superphosphate were sold during each of the quarterly periods in the years—

- (a) 1972;
- (b) 1973;
- (c) 1974;
- (d) 1975; and
- (e) from the 1st January to the 31st March during 1976; from each of the superphosphate works at—
 - (i) Esperance;
 - (ii) Albany;
 - (iii) Bunbury;
 - (iv) Fremantle;
 - (v) Bayswater; and
 - (vi) Geraldton?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The information sought is confidential to the company concerned and is not known to the Department of Agriculture. The Company has, however, provided the following information in respect to a full year and the total quantities for all Superphosphate works:

- (a) 1971-72—1 208 000 tonnes.
- (b) 1972-73—1 517 000 tonnes.
- (c) 1973-74—1 959 000 tonnes.
- (d) 1974-75—1 066 000 tonnes.
- (e) 1975-76 to March 31st, 1976—634 000 tonnes.

2. **URANIUM MINING**
Australian Ownership

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Government agree with the policy announced by the Australian Government that there shall be 70% Australian ownership in the Uranium Mining Industry?
- (2) If not, is the Government making a protest to the Australian Government?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) and (2) The State Government welcomes a declaration by the Commonwealth Government of its policies in respect of overseas investment in Australia.

We have, at all times, made our own policy clear, namely, that we seek to have the maximum Australian equity and Australian management that is practicable in each case, but we do not believe that hard and fast lines can, or should be drawn in respect of the proportion of Australian and overseas participation in any particular project.

The 75 per cent Australian ownership (not 70 per cent as mentioned by the hon. member) for uranium projects, is a good percentage at which to aim, but whether it will be attainable in practice is a matter which time alone will tell.

Likewise, the rest of the Commonwealth Government's policy of a minimum of 50 per cent Australian ownership for other resources is a desirable target, but there are circumstances—including some projects in the State—where it will not be possible to attain 50 per cent Australian equity immediately if the projects are to proceed in a reasonable time.

In this regard, the State Government has experience in negotiating a basis of Australian participation at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, there is no protest contemplated, as there are no grounds for one.

3. **WATER SUPPLIES**
Carnarvon

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Further to the reply to my question on the 31st March, 1976, relating to the Gascoyne Groundwater Supply Scheme, will the

Minister advise details of the expenditure under the following headings—

- (a) pipeline extensions;
 - (b) construction of bores;
 - (c) equipping of bores;
 - (d) construction of electricity mains?
- (2) What is the expenditure to date for the current financial year?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

(1)—

	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
		\$	\$	\$	\$
(a) Break-up		190 579	324 559	490 739	314 903
(b) figures		12 445	10 660	4 179	204 731
(c) unavailable		2 502	35 981	1 567	11 056
(d) Documents destroyed.		5 603	39 717	9 103	60 494
Sundry Items	81 395	51 639
Total	\$93 133	\$212 420	\$416 926	\$586 983	\$642 823

- (2) Expenditure to March 31, 1976, amounts to \$328 128. Costing is complete to February 29, 1976, when expenditure amounted to \$298 691 and the break-up as per part (1) of the question is as follows:—

- (a) \$264 621
- (b) \$209
- (c) \$11 763
- (d) \$10 747

Sundry Items \$11 351.

4. **EDUCATION**
School Cleaning Contracts

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education:

Further to my question 12 on the 31st March, 1976—

- (1) Had the cleaning of schools been let to private contractors prior to the election of the present Government?
- (2) What is the value of the present contracts?
- (3) What is the limit of the work the contract calls for with respect to each school?
- (4) What financial saving, if any, is being effected by the Government by allowing private contractors to clean schools in preference to day labour?

- (5) What is the reason for altering the work from day labour to contract work when the rates and conditions in both awards are almost comparable?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$78 000.

- (3) The specification for contract cleaning work is exactly the same as that which is undertaken under the Departmental employees system. A typical cleaning specification is now tabled. (See Paper No. 143).
- (4) Tender prices for the new works let this year indicate that the contract service will cost between one third and one half of the previous type of service using departmentally employed cleaning staff.
- (5) Answered in (4).

5. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Credit Account Charges

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Are there any regulations or controls that limit a company or a supplier of goods or services from—
 - (a) instituting charges which can be added monthly or yearly for the keeping of a charge account whether or not that account be utilised during that period;
 - (b) making a charge if an account is not paid within the month; and
 - (c) charging interest on unpaid accounts?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "No" is the Government considering either limiting or issuing guidelines for these charges?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) There are no statutory or regulatory controls relating to credit account charges.
Where a company or supplier of goods makes it clear to a prospective credit account customer that certain interest rates will prevail and that penalty charges may be made on unpaid or overdue accounts, those conditions become a part of the agreement and are enforceable at common law.
If the customer is not notified of the conditions he can resist paying such charges.
- (2) Not at present. The whole question of consumer credit is currently being considered by the Molomby Committee on which all States are represented.

6. MINILYA-EXMOUTH ROAD

Sealing

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

When is it planned to complete the sealing of the remaining 30 miles of gravel road on the Minilya-Exmouth Road?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

Within the next three years subject to availability of finance.

7. KEROSENE

Esperance: Cartage Charges

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Why is a cartage charge added to kerosene sold in Esperance when it arrives at that port by ship in the same manner as petrol and diesel oil on which no cartage charge is applicable?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

The cartage charge is added to the price of kerosene sold in Esperance because formerly it was sent there by road or rail transport. This method of transportation is more expensive than by ship.

However, in April 1975, a petrol storage tank at the Esperance port was converted to enable it to be used for kerosene storage and since that time most of the town's kerosene needs have been met by the tank.

It is understood that the oil companies are currently re-evaluating their price differentials and it is expected that a submission will be made to the Prices Justification Tribunal for a reduction in the price of kerosene in Esperance later this month.

8. LAND

Rates and Taxes: Recommendations

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Local Government:

Which of the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Rates and Taxes attached to land valuation is it the intention of the Government to implement in this Session of Parliament?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

Advice is being sought from those affected by the recommendations to assist in making a decision.

9. INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT

Section 132: Repeal

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Is it the Government's intention to repeal Section 132 of the Western Australian Industrial Arbitration Act in order to dispel any doubts that this section is in breach of I.L.O. Convention No. 87 or 98?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

This matter is one which was the subject of considerable discussion with union and employer organisations during the latter part of 1975 and is still receiving consideration.

The basis of the Conventions mentioned is to allow unions of workers and employers freedom to draw up their constitutions and rules, elect representatives and to organise their administration and activities but in the process to obey the law of the State.

Section 132 of the Industrial Arbitration Act is a law which makes it an offence to take part in a strike or lock-out, for that is a logical corollary to the fixation of industrial conditions by Arbitration Tribunals. It is not right to claim the right to strike or lock-out was exchanged for the benefits of arbitration.

It is unjust for contending parties by force or threat to impose upon the other new conditions against the will of the other. If there is to be industrial arbitration it must be wholly embraced or not at all. It can not be embraced at will or thrown aside at will.

10. MT. MAGNET

Government Services: Reduction

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Justice representing the Premier:

In view of the Government's action in reducing the status of the Mt. Magnet hospital to that of a nursing post, as reported in *The West Australian* on the 27th March, 1976, will the Minister advise what other Government services in the town are planned to be dispensed with or reduced in standard?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

None at present, but the hon. member will appreciate that matters of this kind, in any location, are constantly under review to meet increasing, diminishing or changing conditions.

11. JUDGES' PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION

Sex Discrimination

The Hon. D. W. Cooley for the Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN, to the Minister for Justice:

Would the Minister advise in regard to legislation on Judges' Pensions and Parliamentary Superannuation—

- (a) whether he has acted on the assurance he gave to the House on the 13th November, 1975, that he would investigate the matter of amendments to ensure the elimination of discrimination in regard to sex;
- (b) if so, what is the result of his investigation;
- (c) if not, when will he act on his assurance?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (a) to (c) Investigations so far conducted confirm that amendments to legislation would be necessary.

The matter is still under examination, and legislation will be considered when this is completed.

12. INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS

Refusal of Registration

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Does the Government consider that its policy to discount Government charges from the Consumer Price Index figure is outside the wage indexation guidelines fixed by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in 1975?
- (2) If so, will the Government repeal the 1975 amendments to the Western Australian Industrial Arbitration Act which gave power to the State Commission to refuse to register properly negotiated industrial agreements?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No. Principle 1 enunciated by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in its decision of April 30, 1975 reads:

"The Commission will adjust its award wages and salaries each quarter in relation to the most recent movement of the six capital C.P.I.'s unless it is persuaded to the contrary by those seeking to oppose the adjustment."

This principle clearly allows those seeking to oppose the adjustment to make submissions to the Commission proposing a variation to the factors currently in force in determining the adjustment, and therefore the submission of this State in the recent National Wage Indexation hearing, conforms with the wage indexation guidelines.

- (2) Answered by (1) above.

13. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Employees in North-west

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Are Government departments flying unskilled workers to northern areas of the State to take jobs when local labour is available and prepared to accept such jobs?
- (2) Is this the policy of all Government departments?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes" will the Government change this policy to ensure that local jobs go to local people and thereby provide more employment opportunities particularly for young people?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1), (2) and (3) It is Government policy to recruit unskilled labour from local sources if it is available. If the hon. member is aware of any specific instance where this policy is not being followed and can give examples, the matter will be investigated.

14. ORD IRRIGATION SCHEME

Sugar Production

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) In view of the fact that—

- (a) 800 000 tonnes of sugar cane had to be left unharvested in Queensland during the 1975 season; and
- (b) the industry in that State is reducing the number of farmers in the industry;

does the Government continue to see sugar cane production as a viable industry for the Ord irrigation area?

- (2) As there is apparently excess sugar production capacity in Queensland, has the Western Australian Government reached an understanding with the Queensland Government on the development of the industry on the Ord?

- (3) If so, what are the terms of any such agreement?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Over 800 000 tonnes of cane were left unharvested in Queensland in 1975 due to adverse weather conditions which resulted in the most difficult harvesting season since the advent of mechanisation. Some of this cane is being "stood over" for harvest in the 1976 season. Where this is not possible the cane has been destroyed.

The Queensland sugar industry is enjoying buoyant conditions. There has recently been a 13 per cent increase in the area assigned to cane and an estimated \$220 million is being invested in capital works to expand the milling capacity to meet this and future anticipated expansion. The Minister is not aware of any move to reduce the number of farmers in the industry. The viability of a sugar industry on the Ord will be determined by the cost price structure of that industry for which present estimates are encouraging.

- (2) and (3) Discussions have been held between the Western Australian and Queensland Governments. Western Australia has indicated its willingness to participate in the orderly marketing of Australian sugar and the Queensland Government has offered its co-operation in assessing the potential for a sugar industry on the Ord.

The Queensland Government and the sugar industry in Queensland have both given valuable assistance to the feasibility study which has just been carried out and the Minister is pleased to acknowledge that assistance, and the further willingness of the Queensland authorities to provide expertise for the further technical evaluation which the study has recommended.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 1st April, on the following motion by the Hon. M. McAleer—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

THE HON. S. J. DELLAR (Lower North) [5.04 p.m.]: I would like to take this opportunity to address myself to the motion so ably moved by the Hon. Margaret McAleer in reply to the Speech delivered to this Chamber by His Excellency, Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle. It is regrettable that the Governor, having had a long association with the goldfields areas should find himself making his first Speech to this Parliament at a time when the goldfields at this time are facing their biggest crisis in a number of years. However, I will refer to that subject a little later on.

I take the opportunity at the outset to congratulate Mr Des Dans on his appointment as Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber. I am sure that with his ability and his knowledge of procedure he will be able to occupy that position to our satisfaction.

Of course Mr Dans' appointment was caused by the resignation of the Hon. Ron Thompson, an honourable member who has represented his electorate in this Chamber for the past 17 years since his first election in 1959. He was in the Opposition for quite a number of years and subsequently held ministerial appointments with the Tonkin Government. Following the defeat of that Government in 1974 he was appointed Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber. At that time I was appointed his deputy and for the past two years I have had the pleasure of working with Mr Ron Thompson. I refer to working with him because it is not a matter of working under him, but with him as is the case with the Opposition team in this Chamber; and I am sure that the same co-operation will be afforded Mr Dans.

Mr Thompson stepped down and, in doing so, adopted a very unselfish attitude. He stepped down in order that other members of the Opposition in this Chamber would be given the opportunity to obtain some experience, bearing in mind that it will not be long before a State election is held and it is important that members on this side of the Chamber are in a position to take over when they are elected on that occasion.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: I hope you do not let Mr Thompson see you reading that speech because he does not like that.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I can assure the honourable member that I am not reading it. In any case I could not read my writing, except for a few scribbles.

It is a fact that with the exception of Mr Thompson and Mr Stubbs no other member of the Opposition in this Chamber has had any ministerial experience. It is also a fact that with the exception of Mr Cloughton no other member of the Opposition in this Chamber has served here for more than five years. I believe the

attitude Mr Thompson adopted in standing down is admirable. We must not forget that he is still a member of the Opposition and we are pleased to know he is sitting behind us and we will be able to rely on him to give us the support we need.

I would like to compliment the Hon. Margaret McAleer on the way she presented her address at the opening of Parliament. Her speech was all the more commendable because when we read the Governor's Speech we find there is virtually nothing in it and the honourable member would have had great difficulty in preparing a speech in reply, bearing in mind there was nothing in the Governor's Speech in the first place on which she could base hers. I thought that this being a pre-election year, when I picked up the Speech it would be full of all kinds of marvellous statements of what will happen in the future; and I also envisaged that on the first page there would perhaps be a picture of a large tap being turned on to feed the pipeline which helped the State so well in the 1960s. However, that was not the case and the Speech says nothing about the future of Western Australia at a time when Western Australians are looking for some bright light on the horizon.

We were told before the 1975 Federal election that someone would turn on the lights. The people of Western Australia are still waiting for the lights to be turned on. If the lights have been turned on, then a fuse must surely have blown in the meantime.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: You are confusing us. First you talk about the tap and then the light. Who is involved—the plumber or the electrician?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The painter comes next.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Surely there is a demarcation line somewhere.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: That could be a case for Mr Cooley to answer.

The people of Western Australia are sick and tired of hearing and reading a lot of meaningless words which do not convey any hope or glimmer of light for the future.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: It is a responsible document. You cannot find anything wrong with it.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I cannot find anything to criticise.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: It has nothing in it except history.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The Premier has been providing us with meaningless words during the time he has been a responsible Minister and the Premier. I am not saying he is a responsible Premier, although he is responsible to the people of the State. He believes that as long

as the people are provided with reams of meaningless words they will accept them. I can assure him from my travels and from the conversations I have had with many people that this is not the case with all Western Australians who are getting heartily sick of being told that things are going to happen.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: The proof of that pudding will be after the next election.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: You keep on making your speech. As you were the only Labor member present during the last half of my speech I will listen to you.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The number of members in the Chamber has nothing to do with my speech although I am grateful that so many members have stayed behind to listen to me.

As I have said, the people of Western Australia are getting sick and tired of being fed so many meaningless words and are looking for something concrete in order that they might have some faith in the future.

I find it extremely difficult to reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor and in my opinion the Speech should be classified by the National Trust as a historical document because it is full of retrospectivity. It contains nothing about the future but only what has occurred in the past. Retrospectivity is best illustrated by the definition of "mug-munup" which is a person who sits with his back to the engine. He does not want to see where he is going, only where he has been. In my opinion that is the case with the Premier (Sir Charles Court). He knows where he has been, but he does not want to see where he is going. I do not think he knows.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: He does not want to turn on the light.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I am sure that at the next State election, whenever that will be, the question will be resolved and the people of Western Australia will elect a Government which will give real—

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: You said something like that last November. If you do not stop those nasty remarks I will tell Mr Thompson you are still reading your speech.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I will not get into that debate.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We have to allow that his speech would be better if he were reading it.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: As I have said, Western Australians have nothing to which to look forward. There will certainly be no action, unless it is the action of the Court Government which has always been to impose additional taxes and charges. This has been its play since it was

elected. The coalition parties gave an undertaking they would curb taxes and charges. It was in that book the pages of which are still not numbered.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: I do not know how you would do without that book.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Actually the Premier and other Liberal members have referred to it so often in recent weeks that I do not have to. The Premier has stated that he has implemented 80-odd per cent of his undertakings. One of those undertakings was that if he were elected the Premier would curb rates and taxes in Western Australia, but we know for a fact that this did not occur. Of course, with the advent of a Liberal Government in Canberra, the Premier now has no-one to blame. We all know that for the last two years all the Premier has done is blame the Government in Canberra for all the ills and pains of the State Government. Now he has no-one to blame.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: The Australian electors obviously agreed with him.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: That's not true. They don't.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Since the 1975 election we find that the Premier has gone very quiet in his criticism of those in power in Canberra.

The Governor's Speech contains no proposals for any great legislative reform. A few Bills are listed, but they really do not mean a great deal. I notice that we will have another look at the Liquor Act and that could be interesting.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Does not the Child Welfare Act mean anything?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Perhaps the Premier is waiting for someone to turn on the tap again, that mythical tap that fed his mythical pipeline in the 1960s. If that tap ever existed, it was turned on on the 2nd December, 1960, when the Federal Liberal Government of the time lifted the embargo on the export of iron ore, an embargo that was in effect right up until 1959. Prior to that date the then Hawke Government was prevented from obtaining export licences with the exception of a licence for a small amount of iron ore from Cockatoo Island.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: That Government would not have known what to do.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: With the appointment of a Liberal Government in this State in 1959, the export embargo was lifted in 1960. It was at this time the development in the north commenced, and it could not have commenced before that date because there was no reason to develop iron ore projects when we could not export the product. That date, the 2nd December, 1960, is well worth remembering.

One of the Premier's other election promises was that his party would fight the grab from Canberra. I forget what he said exactly, but he referred to the Federal invasion and said his party would do this and that, and it would not allow the Federal Government to take control of our resources and tell us what to do. He said, "Put us back and we will fight this and overcome the problems." Strangely, the Premier has been very silent in recent weeks when, to my way of thinking, some of the actions and statements of a certain Mr Anthony indicate that the Federal Government still wishes to control our resources. I shudder to think what would have happened had these statements been made by a Federal Labor Minister!

We all know that Mr Anthony visited Japan and discussed iron ore contracts and other future development projects. The Premier did not raise any objection to that. More recently, Mr Anthony announced that the Federal Government would have to look at the price of the salt which Western Australia exports. Not long after that he came out with a statement that the States must increase the price of the salt which they export. His comments regarding uranium were laughable, although possibly some of them are correct. At one stage he said that Australia will sell its shares in the uranium deposits in the Northern Territory, but in the next breath he said the demand for uranium in future years will mean that in 20 years' time Australia will be the biggest exporter of uranium in the world. However, not a word has been said by the Premier or his colleagues about these statements. All I can do is draw the conclusion that the action of Liberal Party members in condemning everything that the Whitlam Government did in Canberra was merely a smokescreen to hide their own inadequacies. Now that a Liberal Government is in power in Canberra, one of the same complexion as our State Government, apparently everything is all right, and everything will continue to be all right. We no longer hear any comments about control from Canberra.

This reminds me of a very learned gentleman in this Chamber, the Hon. W. R. Withers, who, prior to the 1974 State election spent a great deal of his time in this Chamber and in the electorate criticising the State Housing Commission for its performance, and particularly its performance in the north-west. Some of his criticisms were justified, but a lot of them were airy-fairy nonsense. However, strangely enough, since the State election of 1974, all the problems of State housing in the north-west have been dispensed with because he has not since raised the issue in this Chamber. Perhaps the honourable member will correct me if I am wrong, and I will apologise.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: No, you are perfectly correct, but you are incorrect

when you say that the problems have not been solved because they have been, and I thank the Minister for Housing.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You have had more success than I have had with the Housing Commission!

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: It is amazing that the Minister has been able to clear up all the problems in the short two years that the Court Government has been in power.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: What about the equalisation of rents, increase of ceiling fans, new housing designs. He also saw to the cancellation of the lower hopper windows.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I do not know what has been done about the hopper windows.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: You are most inconsistent; on the one hand you say that in the two years we ought to have done everything, and on the other hand you are saying how could we have solved all the problems in the short two years we have been the Government.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: What about the situation in regard to rates and charges?

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: I think you are setting out deliberately to—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable Clive Griffiths will come to order.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Thank you, Mr President. Now that the Premier has lost his favourite hobbyhorse, he cannot blame Canberra any more. It is time he produced something better than idle promises and a whole bunch of words. I have some of the Premier's promises listed here, and if you do not mind, I will read them out for the sake of accuracy, Mr Griffiths.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair is the person to appeal to, and not the honourable member.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I will appeal to you then, Mr President. The Premier said that he would fight against increasing rates and charges, and he would fight the grab from Canberra.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: We fixed that up.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: He also said that inflation can be controlled State by State. In fact, the Premier's words were, "I will stake my reputation on that." It is history, of course, as is the document to which I am referring, that he has not controlled inflation. The Premier has not been able to fulfil that promise; he has not curbed inflation and he has not solved the unemployment problem. If the Premier were genuine when he said he would stake his reputation on curbing inflation,

perhaps now is the time to let the people of Western Australia decide whether he ought to continue in his present position.

Other Opposition members may have gleaned something from the Governor's Speech to which they wish to refer, and as the debate continues, I am sure they will find in it something to talk about. I am sure they will have constructive criticism and some gentle hints to offer to the Government, and I hope, of course, that Government members will do likewise.

I would like to leave the Speech of His Excellency at this stage and refer to three problems which affect the electorate I represent; that is, the Lower North Province. I wish to discuss the crisis in the goldmining industry, the situation regarding the Carnarvon water supply scheme—a subject which has been canvassed in this House on many occasions by Mr Berry and me, and one which I am positive he will raise again in the future—and I would like to mention also the composition of the Shire of Exmouth and the present situation regarding its administration.

The goldmining industry in this State is facing probably its biggest crisis in many years. Mr Leeson referred to this matter last week, but he spoke more particularly about the situation in Kalgoorlie.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: I'll tell you what, he was way off the track!

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Having been born in Kalgoorlie, I share his concern about what is happening there. One does not like to see one's hometown placed in the situation now confronting Kalgoorlie. Of course, the difficulty has arisen because of a decision made by the Federal Liberal Government not to grant any additional money to Kalgoorlie Lake View, the Hill 50 goldmine at Mt. Magnet, and other goldmining ventures. As I have said, this is a severe blow to the industry and it has sounded the death knell to the small town of Mt. Magnet.

There is a difference between the situation in regard to the Kalgoorlie Lake View mining operation and that of the Hill 50 operation. The mill treatment plant at Mt. Magnet has been upgraded in the past few years so that it is ready to treat ore, but this is not so in the case of Kalgoorlie Lake View and other companies which have, for want of a better expression, let their plants run down to the stage where massive amounts of capital are required to rebuild the machinery to carry on with the treatment.

Although I do not have any geological information available, it is my belief that the gold reserves in the Hill 50 mine are of a higher grade than those in the Kalgoorlie mines. There is quite a large amount of broken ore in the Hill 50 mine and this does not need mining, but merely extraction and haulage to the surface. It then must be put through a plant but this

plant is ready and able to treat it—a different situation from that applying in Kalgoorlie.

Mr Leeson asserted that the Federal seat of Kalgoorlie was bought with a dud cheque. I know members wondered what he meant, but he was not referring to an actual monetary transfer. Naturally, if a dud cheque were issued, someone must have signed it, and unless only one signatory was required, someone must have counter-signed it. I wonder who could have done that on this occasion. Obviously it was not the Federal member for Kalgoorlie (Mr Cotter). I read an article in the Press a short while ago setting out the amounts expended by Federal members on their electoral campaigns, and it stated that Mr Cotter expended only approximately \$162 to win the seat of Kalgoorlie. I am sure I do not know how he did that, but if that is his return, that is it. However, it could not have been Mr Cotter who bought the seat of Kalgoorlie.

It is my assertion that the people of the Kalgoorlie electorate were conned; they were conned into believing that if a Federal Liberal Government were appointed, all the problems associated with the goldmining industry generally in Western Australia would be solved. If anyone disputes that this is the feeling of the people in the electorate, I repeat: that is what they thought they were getting. Their view is shared by the Editor of *The Sunday Times* who referred to "Kalgoorlie's need" in the editorial of the 1st February, 1976. He said—

... And while on the subject of election promises and part-promises.

Mr Fraser would do well, politically if for no other reason, to take another look at the situation in Kalgoorlie.

Does he really believe Kalgoorlie switched allegiance from Labor to Liberal for any other reason than that the electorate felt a Liberal-NCP Government might help overcome the problems of the area, including those of the gold mining industry?

If he feels the change was the result of a sudden espousing of Liberal-NCP philosophies he is tragically mistaken.

That could not be any closer to the truth! That is the impression that the people of Kalgoorlie have now; particularly those who have lost their livelihood and who rely on the goldmining industry and its continuing support in the area.

It is my opinion also that the companies themselves took part in that con trick of the election promises given by the Liberal Party and its representatives in Canberra, particularly in view of the reply dated the 30th March, 1976 received by the member for Kalgoorlie in the State Parliament from the Prime Minister. It would appear that in the view of the Prime Minister,

the cases presented on behalf of Kalgoorlie Lake View and the other companies would not hold water and would do little to convince any Government that it should sink additional funds into these ventures.

I would suggest that as part of the con trick, the companies made submissions to the then Federal Labor Government, based on an unjust economic surmise; no Government, whether it be Labor or Liberal, could have done anything but reject such a submission. Of course, it is history now that the Federal Labor Government did not reject the submissions but was studying them at the point it was removed from office.

On appointment to office in Canberra, the Fraser Government said it would continue to examine the situation, and it did so. However, at the end of January it stated that it did not intend to assist the goldmining industry.

In his reply of the 30th March to the State member for Kalgoorlie (Mr T. D. Evans) Prime Minister Fraser talked about curbing inflation and solving unemployment, and went on to say—

Further, in the case of Kalgoorlie Lake View, the company conceded that, in view of costs and prices prevailing at the time its representations were made, investment at Fimiston was at best marginally economic and involved considerable risks.

That is an admission on the part of the company which was asking the Federal Government for assistance! The Prime Minister continued—

Since that time, gold prices had fallen considerably, and it was a very real question whether the company could repay any loan from Fimiston profits, as it proposed, or indeed whether operations would necessarily take place at Fimiston if development was completed.

Of course, the companies found themselves in a situation where they did not have time to prepare fresh submissions for the newly elected Federal Government, and we have seen the result; the mines now are closing down, probably to the relief of the companies themselves because they will not be forced to continue to drain shareholders of previous profits.

One of the comments made by the management of Hill 50 Gold at Mt. Magnet was that it was hard-pressed to attract suitable hard rock miners. As I have already pointed out, the company had ore reserves which had already been broken, and had plant capable of treating this ore. It would have been only a simple matter to pull it to the surface and treat it before it allowed the mines to flood.

I acknowledge the assistance offered and given by the State Government to the mining companies concerned. However,

as the Hon. R. T. Leeson pointed out, this assistance probably was given on the assumption, which the State Government realised, that no Federal assistance would be forthcoming and that by giving such assistance, the State Government would not be called upon to make any further contribution. The State Government was prepared to write off the contribution it had already made in the interests of political expediency.

With the announcement that no assistance would be forthcoming from the Federal Government, a hastily convened public meeting was held at Mt. Magnet and attended by approximately 180 people. I attended that meeting, in company with the shadow Minister for Mines (Mr May), and I was annoyed that the State Government did not see fit to be represented at that meeting by the Minister for Mines or another senior Cabinet Minister or even a Treasury official—someone who could make a statement to the people at that meeting and perhaps soften the blow.

In fact, the only Government supporter present was the member for Murchison-Eyre (Mr Coyne), a very hardworking and honest man. He was sent to Mt. Magnet and put in the position of having to take the brunt of the wrath the people of Mt. Magnet were quite willing to display to any Government supporter who set foot in that town.

To Mr Coyne's credit, he fronted up; but it is, to say the least, a little disappointing that the Government did not consider it worth while to send a more senior representative.

At that meeting, the member for Murchison-Eyre said that the Government could not provide any further assistance to Hill 50 other than to guarantee 25 per cent of the \$2 million-odd required to further develop the mine, and that he could say no more than that the State Government could not see its way clear to making additional offers.

As a result of that public meeting, a deputation comprising local people, the member for Murchison-Eyre, the member for Clontarf and myself saw the Premier in Perth the next afternoon. Naturally, the Premier listened very intently to the case put before him by the management of the mine and the other people present. He then made an offer which at the time appeared very generous; namely, that he would increase the Government's guarantee if any loan were raised to 33½ per cent.

If this information had been given to the member for Murchison-Eyre, he could have announced it at the public meeting at Mt. Magnet, thereby avoiding the necessity for a deputation to travel to Perth to wait on the Premier. However magnificent the Premier's gesture may appear to be, I am sure the Government recognises that it is a 100 to one chance it will be called

upon to make this contribution available because I do not believe the company itself is interested in approaching its shareholders for the capital required, and apparently nobody is prepared to offer the money to the company by way of loan.

Since that meeting, we have seen a decline in the population of Mt. Magnet, and the Government has reduced the hospital's status to that of a nursing post. In answer to a question today, we were assured that, at present, there is no possibility of any further Government services being reduced. However, we were told we should appreciate "that matters of this kind, in any location, are constantly under review . . ." I gathered from that answer that as the population of Mt. Magnet dwindles a little further, the people can expect further cuts in their public services.

I can well believe that the present Federal Government and the Western Australian State Government are not concerned for the future of the goldmining industry. Certainly, it is obvious that the new Federal member for Kalgoorlie is not the least concerned, because in his maiden speech delivered to the House of Representatives on the 2nd March, 1976, he devoted 13 minutes of his time to a general discussion of his electorate. He made no mention of the biggest problem at that time existing in his electorate; namely, the difficulties facing the mining industry.

I am sure somebody is going to correct me by saying there is a time limit on speeches delivered in the House of Representatives. However, under Standing Order 91 of the House of Representatives, the Federal member for Kalgoorlie had 20 minutes in which to present his case. He availed himself of the opportunity of speaking for only 13 minutes of that time.

The Hon. J. Heitman: I have seen some of your colleagues sit here for 12 months, and they would not have spoken for 13 minutes in all that time.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I quite agree with that, but I contend that a member elected to represent the largest electorate of the free world should be able to find enough to say to occupy the 20 minutes available to him. These are sad days for the people of the goldfields.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Perhaps Mr Cotter was very wise, and was sitting back and learning.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I do not have to remind members of the contribution to the development of this State made by the goldmining industry and the debt we owe to the people who opened up these areas.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: What is the Stan Dellar solution?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Put Labor back in! Unfortunately, I am not in a position to provide the solution. I could make promises, but then I would have to turn around and say, "There has been a change

in the economic factors associated with this industry, and I am not in a position now to give such assistance."

The Hon. W. R. Withers: What would you do if you had the power?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I would take a closer look at the problem, and if I considered the companies could present a better case, I would allow them to do so. I believe that, had there been a State Labor Government in office, Hill 50 would have received its guarantee without any argument.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Why did not the Federal Labor Government provide the assistance?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: At no stage did the Federal Labor Government say that it would not assist the goldmining industry. However there was a change in the ministry, and Senator Wriedt was appointed Minister for Minerals and Energy. He was looking at the submissions at the time of that "happening" of the 11th November. The Federal Labor Government had no opportunity to say yea or nay.

The Hon. N. McNeill: You say it had no time, but it had three years in which to do it. It left any decision to the death knock.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Whether or not that is true, the Federal Labor Government did not say no. However, the Federal Liberal Government has refused aid; the Prime Minister himself readily conceded that the economic case put up by Kalgoorlie Lake View and Star was, in the company's own admission, uneconomic and suspect. What Government would accept any submission along those lines?

The Hon. N. McNeill: Yet you turn around and say the Federal Liberal Government is wrong for refusing aid.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I did not say that at all.

The Hon. J. Heitman: You are doing a lot of crying about it.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I am not crying yet, but Mr Heitman may be crying in a moment. I am sorry the goldmining industry is not being assisted, and can hope only that in the future the economic situation will permit the goldmining areas to be further developed.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I certainly hope so too, particularly in the case of Hill 50.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The next point I should like to discuss relates to the water supply situation at Carnarvon. I realise that members have heard the Hon. G. W. Berry and myself speak on this matter at some length previously; in fact, the debate on this subject has continued for as long as I can remember, and I should like to discuss it again now.

I first went to Carnarvon in 1962 as Assistant Town Clerk to the Town of Carnarvon. Shortly after I arrived, the amalgamation of the Shire of Gascoyne-Minilya and the Town of Carnarvon took place, forming the Shire of Carnarvon, and I became the assistant shire clerk of that shire.

I well recall from the first day I arrived in Carnarvon that there was talk of damming the river. There was the Turkey Creek dam, suggestions for atomic blasting of a dam and talk of so many other types of dams that in the end, the people did not give a damn! This was at a time when there was a State Liberal Government, and there was considerable speculation amongst the residents of the town and the plantation areas as to whether or not a dam would be built "next year". Many investigations were conducted and reports submitted, but nobody came up with a solution and nobody made a decision one way or another.

The speculation continued throughout the 1960s, with people wondering whether or not they were going to get an assured water supply. Possibly, the reason for a decision not being made was that during the term of the Brand Government the river ran every year. The Brand Government could not take credit for that, but it was fortunate that a river flow occurred every year, and the real problem did not come to a head.

However, with the appointment of the Tonkin Government, the speculation ceased because it had the courage to say to the people of the area, "We are not going to build a dam. It is not feasible and it will not work, for more than one reason".

I congratulate the Minister of the day who was responsible for ending the speculation. Many old-timers, and other people who had resided for a long period at Carnarvon, including Mr George Berry, thought a dam would never be a possibility. In any case we saw a decision being made not to continue with the construction of a dam.

Governments of the past have had a look at alternative methods of supplying the requirements of the area. It was agreed finally that work would be undertaken upstream of the main pumping area in order to obtain additional water supplies. Those areas were to be developed by the sinking of additional bores and the piping of the water into the existing system.

Whether the decision was actually made by the Tonkin Government to carry on that scheme or whether the scheme was initiated by the Brand Government does not, to my mind, matter. Looking at the figures it can be seen that both Governments—although the Tonkin Government did initiate the extension of this water supply scheme—participated, and the

scheme has been carried on by the present Court Government. In this respect I have some figures to which I will refer later on.

I said earlier there had been a verbal battle going on, and this was more like a continuing series of Blue Hills. I refer to letters to the editor which have appeared in the *Northern Times*. I believe it possibly started off with a statement made by Senator Walsh when he was on a visit to Carnarvon. He asserted there would be no Federal funds for the extension of this scheme which had been carried on by the State from its own resources.

A reply to those comments was made by the member for Gascoyne (Mr Laurance) who claimed that the senator's comments were a cruel trick. In reply to that statement the senator said it was not a cruel trick, and that Mr Laurance did not know what he was talking about.

More recently a Mrs Wetherell of Carnarvon wrote to the *Northern Times* on the 1st April in relation to this situation, and in the same edition of that newspaper a letter from the member for Gascoyne (Mr Laurance) relating to the scheme also appeared. On that letter the member for Gascoyne said he rested his case. He was referring to the fact that he had made a comment that the Court Government had spent in excess of \$1 million in the past two years on extensions to the Gascoyne ground water scheme. I do not deny that, because it is a statement of fact. However, when people give a story—I do not become involved in writing letters to the Press, because I do not believe in this method, and there are far better ways of getting the point over—they should tell the whole story.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: What way do you adopt?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: I am about to use one way now. The inference one would draw from the comments made by the member for Gascoyne was that the only Government which did anything to assist the people of Carnarvon was the Court Government; but that is not correct. Anyone from Carnarvon would know that very little was done prior to the Tonkin Government taking office, and on this aspect I will mention certain points later.

I have before me some figures relating to the extension of the Gascoyne ground water scheme. I shall not deal with the figures which were supplied to me in answer to a question today, because I have not had time to look at them. In the 1970-71 period, in the last Budget brought down by the Brand Government, a sum of \$93 133 was provided for starting the extensions to this scheme. One would realise that in the initial stage there would not be a very large expenditure.

In the 1971-72 period the sum expended amounted to \$212 429; that was in the term of office of the Tonkin Government. In the 1973-74 period, in the last Budget

introduced by the Tonkin Government, the amount was \$586 983. Bearing in mind the fact that the Court Government was elected in February or March of 1974, we find that the majority of the allocation of \$586 983 was spent before the Court Government came to office. In the 1974-75 period the Court Government expended \$642 823 on the scheme.

We have been told that about that time inflation was rampant, and allowing for inflation the increase in the 1974-75 Budget of the Court Government was not much greater than the figure in the 1973-74 Budget of the Tonkin Government.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: What were the results of that expenditure?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: The scheme was well under way, and was being extended by this Government. The point I make is that some people are prepared to make comments to suit only their own argument, but in my case I want to give the true picture of what happened to that scheme from its inception up to the present time.

From the figures it can be seen that the expenditure under the Tonkin Government totalled \$1 216 338, and in the last two years according to the assertion of the member for Gascoyne about \$1 million has been spent by the Court Government.

In the 1974-75 Budget of the Court Government the expenditure was \$642 823, and the figure given to me by the Minister in answer to a question today shows that the expenditure up to the 31st March of this year was \$328 128, making a total of \$970 951 expended by the Court Government.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Is there any Commonwealth money included in that?

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: Up to this stage I do not think so. These are the figures appearing in the Estimates of the State. In the two years of the Court Government an amount of \$970 951 was expended. I do not know the actual figures of allocation appearing in the Budget, but when all the expenditure is added up the amount in excess of \$1 million appears to be correct.

What I want to point out to the people of Carnarvon and to the general public is that the whole picture should be presented to them and not one side of the argument only. It is fairly obvious to me that, in the interests of the area, both Governments have made a contribution to this scheme. No Government, whether it be one from this side of the House or one from the opposite side of the House, can say it has done more than the other. Both Governments realised the importance of the area, and both have done what they could without the assistance of Federal funds.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: A short while ago you said the Court Government had done nothing.

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR: This is one area where the Court Government could have done more. In fact, it did not allocate a greater amount than was expended by the Tonkin Government. It merely continued the scheme initiated by the Tonkin Government.

That does not apply only to the Gascoyne ground water scheme. We have heard claims that the Court Government built the small boat harbour, the Carnarvon Hospital, and the courthouse. It did not. These projects were initiated by the Tonkin Government. There were other projects initiated by the Tonkin Government, such as the extensions to the junior high school and to the East Carnarvon School. Those projects might have been continued by the Court Government, but they were initiated by the Tonkin Government.

I suggest that if anyone wants to gain political mileage he will tell the story which he wants the people to believe. I can say to the member for Gascoyne and to the people of Gascoyne that whilst I acknowledge the Court Government expended the sum mentioned in the Press, nevertheless the contribution by the Tonkin Government was equally good, if not better, because it initiated the scheme. If we take into account inflation then the efforts of the Tonkin Government should be highly commended, and we see that in fact it did more than the present Government has done.

The last point I wish to discuss relates to the Shire of Exmouth and its administration. The townsite was gazetted in December, 1963, and the Shire of Exmouth was constituted on the 1st January, 1964. It was formed as part of the old Gascoyne-Minilya Shire Council, for the purpose of establishing a townsite for the support facilities required by the United States naval communications station which was to be built at North West Cape. Naturally when this was being done there was nothing in the area except two pastoral leases. There was no townsite, and only a small amount of exploratory work was being carried out on prawn fishing at Exmouth.

At the outset a civil commissioner was appointed, and he held the dual role of being the State and the Commonwealth representative in the area, and he was to be the first point of contact with the United States naval authorities. He was also appointed Commissioner for the Shire of Exmouth, taking the full role of the president and the councillors.

That procedure had to be followed, because at the time there was nothing in the area. In view of the rapid development and the construction problems which would arise in that area, an elected council would

not have worked, because there were few people available to be elected to the council. I should know, because I was the first full-time shire clerk of Exmouth, and prior to that I had served for 12 months as the administrative assistant to the commissioner.

The town has developed, not only with funds raised by the Shire of Exmouth but with generous grants from the Commonwealth Government and the State Government—of both political parties—to the stage where we now have a modern town with most of the amenities which one would desire in that climate. This has been achieved not only through investment by the Government, but by private individuals. People have established businesses and built their homes in that area; and in general they have taken a very big step in the creation of a new and modern town.

Up to this point of time the private persons, who have built houses and established businesses such as earth-moving plants, have not had a say in the affairs and the administration of their shire. I believe, and I said this three or four years ago, that it is about time those people were given a say. When Mr Stubbs was Minister for Local Government I approached him on this matter. He said the department was looking into the situation, but it did not think the time was opportune to introduce an elected shire council.

I asked him about the appointment of a committee to work in conjunction with the civil commissioner, and Mr Stubbs said at the time that his department would also look into this matter. The present Minister has also been asked about this, and he has said that he will look into it.

At this stage the residents of the town are very keen to have an elected council. With the appointment of a new commissioner the time appears to be opportune. If the people cannot have an elected council—I do not believe they will get one—then some type of advisory committee should be appointed to work in conjunction with the commissioner for the shire. This work will not affect his duties as civil commissioner.

I repeat that the time is now opportune to introduce an elected council, because a new commissioner has been appointed, and he is a person who has not had the experience or knowledge possessed by the previous commissioner, Colonel Murdoch. The people who have lived in that area for many years would be in a position to advise the commissioner, if he saw fit to seek their advice, on how best the town could be run.

On the 11th March, 1976, a letter was sent to the Minister for Local Government (Mr Rushton). This was signed by 12 businessmen in the town of Exmouth. The

points set out in that letter spell out what the people there want. The letter reads as follows—

We the undersigned ratepayers of the Shire of Exmouth request the Government to give urgent consideration to the early appointment of an Advisory Council or Committee to work in conjunction with the newly appointed Commissioner for the Shire of Exmouth.

It is considered that the Shire is now sufficiently established to the point where the ratepayers and electors should have some say in the administration and functioning of their town.

Under the previous arrangements there was very little liaison with the local people to obtain their views and with the appointment of the new Commissioner it would be opportune, at this time, for a body to be formed.

This would be of benefit to both the Commissioner and Local residents as all sections of the community would have some official method of contact with him.

The Commissioner would also receive the benefit of the opinions of people who have been resident in Exmouth for some years and have invested in the town and its future.

I asked a question on the same subject on the 2nd October, 1975, as follows—

Further to the reply to my question on the 11th September, 1975, regarding the future administration of the Shire of Exmouth—

- (a) will the Minister advise the present attitude of the Government to the appointment of an elected council, as it applies specifically to the Shire of Exmouth; and
- (b) will the ratepayers and electors of the Shire of Exmouth be invited to express their opinions when the question of future administration of local government at Exmouth is being considered?

The Minister replied—

- (a) The Government believes an elected council should be established at Exmouth as soon as is appropriate, recognising that at present there are special circumstances.
- (b) The Minister is considering an arrangement whereby the local people can be more closely involved in local government affairs.

As I said, I asked for that information on the 2nd October, 1975, and I have no reason to believe the Minister has changed his attitude. I hope a situation can be brought about whereby the local people

within the townsite, and within the shire can have a say in the affairs which relate to the running of their town. They do not want a financial interest, but there are other ways by which to improve the amenities which are available. Those people who have invested their money in the area, and also many of the other residents who have been there for a number of years, feel they should have an opportunity to have some say in the affairs of Exmouth.

I support the motion with some reservations at this stage. I trust that in the future the people of Western Australia will see through the smokescreen generated by this Government in an effort to hide its inadequacies and its failure to perform.

Sitting suspended from 6.02 to 7.30 p.m.

THE HON. T. KNIGHT (South) [7.30 p.m.]: I would like to congratulate the Hon. Margaret McAleer for the magnificent speech she made in moving this motion at the opening of Parliament. It was refreshing to hear a woman move the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply in the House.

I would also like to congratulate the Hon. Des Dans on his appointment as Leader of the Opposition. Because of the experience he has to back him up, I know he will do a good job.

In my speech on the Address-in-Reply I will briefly mention activities which have taken place and problems which have caused concern over the last few years in various areas of my electorate. I believe that regardless of the size of the town or shire, all areas in my electorate are of equal importance.

Late last month arrangements were made for four Ministers to visit the South Province to learn of the problems occurring in the area and to answer questions where possible. The four Ministers were the Deputy Premier (the Hon. D. H. O'Neil), the Minister for Lands and Surveys (the Hon. K. A. Ridge), the Minister for Agriculture (the Hon. R. C. Old), and the Minister for Transport, Shipping, Traffic, and Police (the Hon. R. J. O'Connor). Mr Ray Young, the Cabinet Secretary, was also in attendance. We called at the shires in the province and had meetings with the councillors, the townspeople, and the electors. Questions relating to the province were put to the Ministers, and on most occasions the Ministers gave replies in relation to the problems people have been experiencing for years.

I will deal first of all with the town in which I live; that is, Albany. The Government has promised to deepen the Albany Harbour ready for the \$3 million-worth of extensions which Co-operative Bulk Handling will build there in the next couple of years. I appeal to the Government to ensure that the deepening of the harbour

is carried out and ready for the CBH installations. In view of the millions of dollars which will be expended we cannot afford any delay, and sincere co-operation between the Government and CBH is necessary to ensure that the projects go ahead as planned.

At the present time seismic testing and blasting are taking place in the Albany area for a fishing harbour or jetty. I believe there is a great future for fishing at Albany. There are three trawlers operating now. Hunt's canning factory is one of the biggest shore-based fishing operations in Australia. At the moment the salmon schools are coming along the coast. Tuna fishing is an all-year-round operation, and at the end of the salmon run the fishermen usually turn to herring. Albany has a great future as a fishing town, and I believe the fishing industry will be well and truly to the fore in the Great Southern area in the next few years and that it will become one of the biggest fishing centres in Australia. A fishing harbour will therefore be a great asset to Albany and to the industry.

The technical school at Albany has been operating for something like four years now. Last week I asked a question of the Minister regarding the electrical section of the school. There are 20 electrical apprentices in Albany, seven apprentices in the adjacent areas, and 48 tradesmen in the town who require the facilities of the technical school to further their training in the field of turning and winding. At the moment they are doing mainly fitting and installation. They cannot get an A-grade licence until they have qualified in the other sections of the trade. At the moment it is necessary to take time off to go to the metropolitan area to undertake this study. An electrical section at the annexe would save tradesmen this expense.

A residential hostel at the Albany technical annex is a necessity because the school serves the surrounding areas out to Lake Grace and Ravensthorpe. Children living in rural areas are not able to attend the school because of the lack of boarding facilities, and I believe a residential hostel is essential when a technical school has to serve such a large agricultural region and people would otherwise have to travel great distances in order to attend the school.

The ministerial party visited Esperance, which is the second largest town in my area and a town which is growing quickly and has great potential. Members are aware that the problems in the beef industry which have affected the whole of Australia have greatly affected the Esperance region. However, during the ministerial visit the people of Esperance were assured that in the near future there would be a freight subsidy for beef going into the new works of Esperance Meat Exporters. In addition, because of the

downturn in the beef industry, the Government has agreed to an extension of time for the Government guarantee for the construction of the works. The Government guarantee has been upgraded also. The people of Esperance, and particularly those sponsoring the construction of the Esperance Meat Exporters factory, are very grateful to the Government for taking this action.

I now move on to Mt. Barker and Cranbrook. Those two towns are 24 miles apart and their problems, geographical position, and farming activities are similar. We have asked for the appointment of a viticulturist to the area, and I believe one should be made available. The Frankland River vineyards have now been established, and Plantagenet Wines have become established just west of Mt. Barker. They have purchased the warehouse of Paterson & Co. and set it up as a winery in the town itself. This vineyard now has great need of the expertise and information available from a viticulturist and I think the Government should give serious consideration to such an appointment because the wines produced in the area are apparently of top quality and have won several awards in shows in the last couple of years.

The Mt. Barker, Cranbrook, Tambellup, Frankland and Rocky Gully areas are also experiencing the problem of a lack of water. A few years ago the Great Southern experienced a drought, which is the only one I can ever remember. During that period good farming and grazing land was barren and the fences were buried in sand drifts. Farmers had to cart water and they suffered heavy stock and crop losses. The Government intends to extend the comprehensive water scheme through the Great Southern. In the meantime, alternative supplies will be drawn from bores, etc., in the near proximity to the town until the main scheme can draw on the Denmark River, which will in time be incorporated into the comprehensive scheme. Funds have been allocated and the work will commence this year. The Albany Zone Development Committee formed a subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Councillor Brian Taylor of Tambellup, to deal with this aspect of the comprehensive water scheme. The subcommittee undertook an investigation and made recommendations to the Government which made it possible for the Government to go ahead with the construction of the first stage of the scheme.

One of the greatest problems in the Denmark shire is that it comprises many hectares of Crown land, "A"-class and forest reserves, and water catchment areas, with the result that the shire does not receive from the farms and residential areas sufficient revenue by way of rates to enable it to function properly. On several occasions the shire has asked for more land to be thrown open for farming in order to attract more ratepayers to the area. I understand another 2 000

acres have been opened up recently in the Mitchell River area east of Denmark, which will provide four more farms. However, there are something like 77 000 hectares of national parks, water catchment areas, etc. which are unrateable and the Denmark shire has to foot the cost of services and so on in the area. I believe the Government should seriously consider making provision for rating of parks and water catchment areas in shires such as Denmark so that they will not be out of pocket all the time.

While speaking about Denmark, I want to mention a point which was raised during the ministerial tour; that is, the situation in regard to McLean's sawmill. This is a small company which has set up about four miles out of Denmark on the Walpole road.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: They are very efficiently run.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: Mr McLean has made a study of the cutting of timber to get the maximum possible return. He is cutting something like 50 per cent of the recovery from timber, and I understand from the report I have read that the average return in Western Australia at the present time is something like 37 per cent. Between 20 and 30 years ago there were probably three or four big timber companies in Western Australia. Being in the right place at the right time, they were given timber rights in these areas. McLean is cutting back on the leftovers of those big companies and has to rely on conditional purchase land allocated in the area to obtain from farmers the right to cut the timber on that land. The company employs about 40 men. If the average family consists of four persons, 160 people are being supported by the mill; and when we consider the ancillary services in the town, we realise McLean's sawmill would be responsible directly or indirectly for the employment of up to 400 people in Denmark, which is a large percentage of the population.

Mr McLean has told me that he believes in this day and age one has to be efficient to stay in business, to remain in a job, or whatever the case may be. He is not asking for royalties, timber grants, or timber rights unless he can prove he is more efficient. If the other companies are not proving to be efficient and are not bringing in a rate of recovery of timber as great as that of Mr McLean, then they should be forced to step up their production or to forfeit their timber rights to a more efficient company. I must say that I agree emphatically with Mr McLean in that respect, as this would ensure no over-cutting of our forests.

I turn now to the question of a water supply for Hopetoun. As I mentioned once before in an Address-in-Reply debate in this place, Hopetoun is on the south coast, south of Ravensthorpe. In the early days

it was the port for gold and copper mining ex Ravensthorpe. Since those days it still has not got power, water, and the other facilities that we expect in a modern society. I have pushed on several occasions in respect of this, and now we have been assured that electricity will be provided later this year. However, due to the geographical position of the town and the heavy concentrations of salt in the area, it is maintained that potable water cannot be found of sufficient quality and in the quantity required by the department to provide a water scheme for the town.

In a question last year I asked the Minister whether he was aware of the fact that I had a private contractor who was prepared to drill in the Hopetoun area and prove that water was available. On the trip with the Ministers the other week, I handed the Minister a quote from this private drilling contractor who has been into the area at my request—and possibly as a favour to me—and drilled; and he maintains he has found an area that will bring in the quantity of water requested by the Government and of the required quality. He says if he goes ahead with the job and cannot bring in what the Government requests, he will not charge anything. From the experience this gentleman has had, I believe we can possibly look forward to Hopetoun having a water supply within the next 12 months, and I hope our Government will give its maximum support.

Hopetoun is a lovely little town with attractive beaches, a nice position, good weather, but no water; which means it is missed by all tourists and almost every other person that would visit a holiday resort.

Bremer Bay had a set-up similar to that of Hopetoun. Last year the Government, upon representation from the members of the area, had a water supply installed at Bremer Bay, and we have been promised that by November this year the town will have an electricity supply. The Minister for Traffic, who is responsible for the Main Roads Department has told the Gnowangerup Shire during the trip that over the next four years the sum of \$1.1 million will be spent on upgrading progressively the Boxwood Hill-Bremer Bay Road, which means that the people of Bremer Bay will be almost at the stage of being able to say that people living in the country are not inconvenienced when compared with people living in the city.

I would like to make a point about a very small townsite in my area. I am referring to Lake Varley. We have never received many complaints from the people who live in this place; they do not cause us any worries; they are good, honest, farming citizens. However, we visited the town last year and found that mothers and fathers there are greatly concerned about the fact that the school is on a corner block of land adjacent to a road

along which heavy trucks cart grain to the bins, and they fear for the safety of their children. They would like a fence constructed along the road. I would ask the Minister to give this matter serious consideration. These people do not ask for much, and the safety of their children is of paramount importance to them. I would like the Minister to consider the request I have made and to have a small fence constructed around the school at Lake Varley.

The town of Lake Grace also has a point of concern in respect of education. The people there are concerned about the amount of travelling their children must do to get to school. I would ask the Minister for Education to look into the residential four-night hostel that has been suggested on numerous occasions. Nothing seems to have been done yet. Each time we visit Lake Grace the same question is asked, and we cannot answer it. The people of Lake Grace believe they have a case; we have looked at the matter, but as yet nothing has been done.

I believe the Nyabing-Pingrup area has been well looked after by the State Government in the last 12 months. A new grain receival bin has been built at Falcondale by CBH because the previous bin at Kuringup North was situated in low-lying country and was subject to flooding. The road to the new Falcondale bin is of gravel and is virtually only a one-way road. A school bus service uses this road, together with the many heavy trucks which travel to and from the bin. The people of the area were concerned that there might be a serious or fatal accident in the very near future due to the road condition.

The Minister looked into this matter, and I am grateful to say that \$50 000 was allocated for the upgrading of this road, much to the pleasure of the people of the Nyabing-Pingrup area. On top of that, the Nyabing-Katanning road has been cutting up for several years. This is a major arterial road in that area. It carries a fair amount of traffic, and its narrowness has been the cause of quite a few accidents. The local people are terribly upset about the number of accidents but are grateful for the fact that to this stage no death has occurred. The Minister was asked to do something about this and once again, to the satisfaction of all, a further \$50 000-odd was granted for the upgrading of this road.

I am mentioning these things because I am grateful for all the Government has done in my area through representations being made to it by members. This proves that the Government does consider the country people and their problems, and is trying to uplift their conditions to the standard that people in the city have come to expect, but for which people in the country have battled for years.

A matter I would like considered—I think every country member would like this considered—concerns the Land Act.

It does not matter what part of the country one lives in, there is always a constituent who comes along with a complaint about conditional purchase land, conditional leases, Crown land, or what-have-you. I think the Land Act contains many anomalies, and I would like to see the Government establish a committee to look into this legislation with a view to amending it. Having spoken to other members, I would say it appears many of them think it is high time the Land Act was rewritten. I hope that will happen within the next 12 months; and if a committee is constituted, I would like to serve on it.

Since being elected to this Parliament I have served on several committees within the ranks of the Liberal Party and the coalition. One of the main committees with which I have been happy to be associated was that on rural housing. Over the years—in fact ever since we can remember—problems have occurred in respect of financing or establishing homes for people on new land farms, or in the back blocks of the rural community. I am pleased to say that as a result of recommendations made by the committee on which I served, the Government has agreed to bring in a Bill establishing a rural housing authority, as stated in the Governor's Speech.

I believe—and I am sure most country members would agree—this will be the biggest single step forward in respect of housing in rural areas ever taken by any Government in Australia. This matter has come up for consideration in every State. I know that people and members of Parliament to whom I have spoken in other States have been trying to find an answer to the problem of financing housing for new land farmers and people in rural areas, so that they may borrow money for housing on the same basis as their city cousins. I am delighted to say that the Government has seen fit to follow the recommendations presented by the committee.

Another subject to which I would like to devote a little time is tourism. We read and hear every day that tourism is a multi-million-dollar industry, and that tourism in Western Australia has increased tremendously over the last few years. If I recall the figures correctly, I understand tourism in this State will double once the east-west road is completed. Yet in country towns such as Albany, Esperance, Bunbury, Geraldton, and Mt. Barker, problems are experienced in the financing of tourist bureaus. The Government is here to help the people, the State, and its towns; and I believe the amount allocated to the Department of Tourism each year is totally inadequate. From memory I think the amount is \$270 000 a year. I do not know how many tourist bureaus we have in this State, but anyone can see the amount set aside is totally inadequate to finance the tourist industry which is building up in this State. I strongly urge the

Minister and the Government to consider the provision of an increased allocation to the tourist industry in our State.

In my province the Government has been instrumental in helping me and other members bring about the wishes of our electors. For this I am very grateful, and I thank the Government for the generosity it has bestowed upon my electorate in most instances. I hope that we can continue to represent our electors to the degree they would want us to. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

COMPANIES (CO-OPERATIVE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [7.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Members will be aware that the last 10 years have seen a considerable number of amendments made to the Companies Act, 1961-1975.

The majority of those amendments have been passed to protect the investing public, but none of them applies to companies incorporated since 1962 under the Companies (Co-operative) Act, or to co-operative companies still governed by that Act which were incorporated before 1962.

The Bill now before the House seeks to amend section 46 of the principal Act by inserting a new section (3a), which is intended to protect the investing public in two ways.

Firstly, paragraph (a) of the new section 46 (3a) seeks to prohibit the commissioner for corporate affairs—previously the registrar of companies—from accepting any prospectus to be issued to the public by a co-operative company if it appears to him that it is intended that any of the moneys that may be received in pursuance of the prospectus are to be used for the purpose of carrying on a business having any of the objects specified in paragraph (a) of section 4 (1) of the Building Societies Act.

Although sections 4 (4) and 5A of the Building Societies Act prohibit the formation or incorporation of a company for such objects except under the Building Societies Act, on two occasions companies have obtained incorporation under the Companies (Co-operative) Act for the purpose of carrying on a business having those objects. The documents lodged to obtain incorporation of the companies concerned were typical of an investment company, and it was not until the directors of one of the companies concerned attempted to register a prospectus that the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs was in a position to see that the company did, in fact, intend to carry on business as a building society. But at that stage, the company's

solicitors argued that there was no provision in either the Building Societies Act or the Companies (Co-operative) Act which entitled the commissioner to refuse to accept the prospectus, simply because the company intended to carry on such a business. The new section 46 (3a) (a) is intended to rectify that situation.

Secondly, paragraph (b) of the new section 46 (3a) is intended to extend to prospectuses issued by co-operative companies a provision which has appeared in the Companies Act, 1961-1975—in one form or another—since the coming into operation of that legislation. This provision prohibits the commissioner from accepting any prospectus if he is of the opinion that it contains any statement or matter that is misleading in the form or context in which it is included. This new provision will require co-operative companies to meet the same standards that other companies have to satisfy in relation to misleading statements in prospectuses issued by them. In the absence of such a provision in the Companies (Co-operative) Act, promoters of co-operative companies cannot be compelled to delete or amend a statement in a prospectus which is misleading or likely to mislead the public, and the new provision is, once again, intended to rectify this deficiency.

In addition, it is proposed to insert in section 173 of the principal Act, a new subsection (2), which would prevent any further companies from being incorporated as co-operatives under the principal Act unless the consent in writing of the Minister to such incorporation has been first obtained. The purpose of this amendment is to enable greater control to be exercised over the companies which seek to obtain the benefits of incorporation under the principal Act, bearing in mind that the obligations imposed on such companies and their directors and the offence provisions of the principal Act, are very much less than those now contained in the Companies Act, 1961-1975. Incorporation under the Companies (Co-operative) Act ought to be restricted to what might be termed "genuine" co-operatives, rather than allow a company to avoid the more stringent controls contained in the uniform companies legislation simply by using the word "co-operative" in its name and complying with the other requirements set out in sections 173 to 175 of the Companies (Co-operative) Act.

The new section 173 (2) may also help to avoid a situation to which I have already referred; namely, the difficulty of finding after the event, by reference to a prospectus and so on, that a company has been incorporated under the Companies (Co-operative) Act in contravention of sections 4 (4) and 5A of the Building Societies Act.

The Bill also seeks to insert in the principal Act a new section 401 which will empower the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs to destroy documents lodged under

the Act after a reasonable period. The new section empowers him to destroy annual returns or balance sheets after seven years; other documents—excluding those relating to the memorandum or articles of a company—not still required after 15 years; and documents of defunct companies after 15 years.

I commend the Bill to members.

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

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central—Minister for Health) [8.06 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Occupational therapy now forms an essential part of the pattern of medical ancillary services surrounding the practice of medicine.

It is effective in promoting recovery from illness, both physical and mental. It forms a most important part of the rehabilitative process where people have suffered severe injury which might leave them handicapped.

Legislation requiring the registration of qualified persons has operated since 1957.

Since 1957 certain changes have taken place which have caused the registration board to seek the amendments proposed in this Bill.

The first of these amendments seeks to substitute a new definition of the term "occupational therapy" which has been resolved following consultation between registration boards throughout the world in association with the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, and this definition is acceptable to associated professions.

It is also proposed to amend the constitution of the Occupational Therapists Registration Board of Western Australia, which consists of five members, one of whom is the nominee of the Senate of the University of Western Australia.

Such appointment was designed to provide a link with tertiary education fields. However, the Western Australian Institute of Technology has since come into being, and has taken over the training of students.

The board now feels that the appropriate link with tertiary education would be best achieved by substituting a nominee of the institute for the present university nominee. Both the university and the institute concur in this arrangement.

Other amendments to that particular section are simply to update the wording, as the original Act referred to a board which had not then come into being and provided, firstly, that the board should be deemed to be constituted when all the appointments were made and, secondly,

that the board, when constituted, would be a body corporate. As the board has been constituted for some years, it has been found necessary to provide that the board shall be constituted by the persons from time to time appointed.

Several amendments are also sought to the section of the Act which empowers the board to make rules.

It is proposed to insert reference to colleges of advanced education in the section relating to the qualifications of various training bodies which the board recognises for registration purposes.

The amendment would cater for the institute of technology and any college of advanced education in this and any other State or country which undertook training to the standard demanded by the board.

Amendments are also sought to those areas of this section which refer to prescribing the course of study and classes to be attended, time to be spent in training, and places at which persons may be trained for qualification for registration.

Prior to the institute of technology taking over training, the board conducted the course. It made rules which specified details of the course. These are now matters for the institute. The board will alter its rules so that they specify the broad content of the course, and recognise named institutes as authorised training schools.

For like reasons, it is proposed to amend two further subsections. The selection of students will be an institute function, subject to a minimum standard of education which will be specified.

The board will no longer issue diplomas to graduates. This will be attended to by the education institute which undertakes the training and examination of students.

The board will simply accept applications for registration, supported by a qualifying certificate from a recognised training school.

The final amendment relates to registration under the Act. The section would be simplified by removing reference to the age of an applicant for registration, and the "grandfather" clause which has now expired.

The age of majority having been determined to be 18 years, there is no longer need to specify a minimum age. In practice, no student could qualify before reaching the age of 18 years.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

THE CONFEDERATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY (INCORPORATED) BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [8.11 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill concerns the amalgamation of the Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Incorporated) (formerly the Western Australian Employers' Federation (Incorporated)) and the West Australian Chamber of Manufactures (Incorporated). These groups had representation on certain other bodies, and the purpose of the proposed Bill is to maintain the same number of representatives, but under the name of the Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Incorporated).

Winding up procedures have been commenced to formally dissolve the West Australian Chamber of Manufactures (Incorporated) and, should the Bill become an Act, the matter will be finalised shortly after the proclamation of the Act.

The Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Incorporated) and the West Australian Chamber of Manufactures (Incorporated), have taken an active part in the preparation of the legislation, and are in full agreement with its terms.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. W. Cooley.

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [8.15 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

As members are aware, we now have in this State an Attorney-General, as well as a Minister for Justice.

Section 154 of the Supreme Court Act does not actually preclude the co-existence of an Attorney-General and a Minister for Justice, but it certainly prevents the person who fills the latter role from exercising any of the powers of the Attorney-General, except when there is a vacancy in the latter office.

The modern practice in the drafting of the Statutes of this State is to avoid the use of the term "Attorney-General" and to refer instead to the "Minister". However, there are still a number of older Statutes where the term "Attorney-General" is used to identify the person charged with a certain function or duty.

An interpretation of the Act at present would indicate that when the office of Attorney-General is filled, all of the duties of Attorney-General, whether imposed by Statute or otherwise, will have to be discharged by the person holding that office, without any aid from the Minister for Justice.

As some of the duties which will require the attention of the Attorney-General could well be administered by the Minister for Justice, it is thought advisable to have

a procedure whereby such duties may be delegated to the Minister for Justice. The best method of delegation would be by Governor's proclamation. This would permit the situation to be changed from time to time without involving the need for further amendment to the Act.

The Bill before the House seeks to amend section 154 of the Supreme Court Act accordingly.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

House adjourned at 8.16 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 6th April, 1976

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson): I wish to announce that I have appointed the member for Bunbury (Mr Sibson) to be a Deputy Chairman of Committees during the present session.

QUESTIONS (50): ON NOTICE

1. LONGMORE REMAND CENTRE

Security

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Following the incident at Longmore remand and assessment centre on 23rd February in which a staff member was brutally assaulted, was a promise given on behalf of the Government that doors, etc., in the building would be strengthened and other work done to improve security?
- (2) Will the Minister state what items of the promised work have already been attended to?
- (3) Of the work which remains to be done, will he state when this is likely to receive attention?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Cabin doors have double locks.
- (b) Cabin door frames have been reinforced with steel plates.
- (c) One cabin has been modified as a prototype for testing.
- (d) A prototype cabin door has been fitted for testing. It is

one of four new types designed.

- (e) An additional key safe has been installed as part of a new security key system.
- (3) I am advised by Public Works Department that much of the work that remains to be done requires quotations to be obtained. The work will be carried out as soon as these are received. Subject to the availability of funds, the work should be completed in three to four months.

2. HOSPITALS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Meeting

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health: On what date is the hospitals development programme committee expected to hold its next meeting?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Next meeting is scheduled for 6th May, 1976.

3. DENTAL THERAPY CENTRES *Mandurah, Pinjarra, and Waroona*

Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Is it proposed that a dental therapy centre will be established during the 1976-77 financial year at—

- (a) Mandurah;
- (b) Pinjarra;
- (c) Waroona?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(a) to (c) No.

4. SOUTH METROPOLITAN LAKES

Conversion to Reserve

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is he aware of the unique and beautiful nature of the area which includes Lake Bibra, Little Rush Lake, Yangebup Lake, Wattleup Lake, Thompson Lake, Kogolup Lake, South Lake and North Lake?
- (2) Is he aware that there exists an opportunity to create a reserve in the area cited remarkably close to the city and which is needed increasingly as the south-west corridor develops?
- (3) Will the Government create a reserve of this land?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "No" what action will the Government take to prevent further deterioration of the area until a decision can be made?