

# Legislative Council

Wednesday, 30 May 1984

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.45 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## SUSPENSION OF SITTING

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [3.02 p.m.]: I move—

That the sitting be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

## Constitution Acts Amendment Bill 1984: Debate

HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central) [2.03 p.m.]: I oppose the motion. Early in November 1983 I introduced in this House a Bill to establish and define the boundaries of the provinces of members of this council. It endeavoured to correct an anomaly which arose from an amendment made in 1980-81. My Bill was given its second reading in November 1983.

I have waited patiently all this time and watched its position on the Notice Paper fluctuate from top to bottom. I have sat here night after night waiting diligently for the matter to be proceeded with, and now I find it is to be treated in a cavalier fashion and allowed to slip off the end of the Notice Paper because it is the Government's intention to prorogue this Parliament at the completion of this session.

I am not the only one who is concerned about this matter. In my second reading speech I quoted the concern of the Hon. J. M. Brown, and there are seven others in this Chamber who also are concerned. It is eccentricity in the extreme when one member of a province which bears the same name as that represented by another member of a province does not represent the same area as that other member.

You, Mr President surely must find an anomaly in this House over which you have been elected to preside which makes the working of this House extremely difficult. This simple amendment would rectify the position. I am quite convinced that a majority of members of this House want it to be rectified.

I believe it would be to the benefit of all of us and particularly our constituents who are being plagued by this matter. It is a really stupid matter which has arisen from a drafting mistake four

years ago, and we are being asked to continue and perpetuate this mistake until some time in the future when it still must be corrected. We cannot run away from it. It must be corrected, as the Hon. J. M. Brown said when he spoke on this Bill, and when I queried whether he was right. At least I have admitted that my reading of it was wrong and Mr Brown was right.

The PRESIDENT: Order! With respect, I suggest to the honourable member that he is actually debating the Bill he has introduced. He is debating matters contained in the Bill as distinct from what I believe is his intention; namely, to suggest to the Acting Leader of the House that he wants the Bill debated. There is a very distinct difference and I ask the honourable member to respect that.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: I now find that in spite of this, we are going to adjourn before this matter can be resolved. Therefore, I intend to oppose the motion to adjourn this House until such time as this matter is dealt with.

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

## Ayes 17

Hon. J. M. Berinson	Hon. I. G. Medcalf
Hon. J. M. Brown	Hon. Mark Nevill
Hon. Peter Dowding	Hon. S. M. Piantadosi
Hon. Graham Edwards	Hon. I. G. Pratt
Hon. Kay Hallahan	Hon. W. N. Stretch
Hon. Robert Hetherington	Hon. P. H. Wells
Hon. Garry Kelly	Hon. John Williams
Hon. A. A. Lewis	Hon. Fred McKenzie
Hon. Margaret McAleer	(Teller)

## Noes 9

Hon. W. G. Atkinson	Hon. N. F. Moore
Hon. C. J. Bell	Hon. Neil Oliver
Hon. H. W. Gayfer	Hon. P. G. Fendal
Hon. P. H. Lockyer	Hon. V. J. Ferry
Hon. Tom McNeil	(Teller)

## Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Hon. D. K. Dans	Hon. G. C. MacKinnon
Hon. Tom Stephens	Hon. Tom Knight
Hon. Lyla Elliott	Hon. G. E. Masters

Question thus passed.

The PRESIDENT: I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

*Sitting suspended from 3.12 to 4.58 p.m.*

## PENSIONERS (RATES REBATES AND DEFERMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1984

### Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL**

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [4.59 p.m.]: I move—

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

Question put and passed.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:  
ORDINARY**

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.00 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

*Constitution Acts Amendment Bill 1984: Debate*

**HON. H. W. GAYFER** (Central) [5.01 p.m.]: I repeat my plea to the Attorney General in his capacity as the Acting Leader of the House to bring forward my private member's Bill, the Constitutions Acts Amendment Bill, so that we might rectify once and for all the problem with the electoral boundaries. In my second reading speech I explained the necessity for this, and I firmly believe that on no account should we leave this House until the matter is rectified.

From November 1983 to now is a considerable time to have on the Notice Paper a Bill to rectify a stupid error, a draftsman's error. It is totally unacceptable for us now to discount the Bill and for the Attorney to say we will remove it from the Notice Paper, prorogue Parliament, and bring the matter up again next year. This situation is a farce, the like of which I have never seen before.

Surely to goodness a mistake which is admitted by members from both sides of the House should be rectified. *Hansard* reveals that both sides admit it is an error.

Again I plead that before we adjourn we take cognisance of the need to correct this matter and not be seen as fools by doing nothing. At present eight of us do not know exactly which electorate we represent.

**HON. V. J. FERRY** (South-West) [5.02 p.m.]: It disturbs me that the House is not to deal with this matter, which has been raised three times now by the Hon. H. W. Gayfer. I support his contention that the House should not adjourn until the Bill has been dealt with.

To support my argument, I advise the House that this problem was first made known to the then Attorney General in 1982. It was made known to the Clerk of the Parliament; it was made known to the Chief Electoral Officer; and it was made known to the Crown Law Department. The Chief Secretary also became aware of it. My

understanding is that the Chief Secretary, the Crown Solicitor, and the Attorney General each gave conflicting views on the problem—three conflicting views from people in responsible positions.

Surely this Parliament is capable of straightening out what appears to be a technical drafting error. Parliament is all about correcting mistakes. Certainly we believe it is necessary that these boundaries be clarified. Not just the Hon. H. W. Gayfer, but also other members are affected by this oversight. It behoves the Government to tackle the problem and to correct this injustice.

**HON. W. G. ATKINSON** (Central) [5.04 p.m.]: I, too, am disturbed at the Government's inaction on this matter. The Bill has been on the Notice Paper since before Christmas, and as a fellow member of Central Province with the Hon. Mick Gayfer, I find it disturbing that I am elected on one set of boundaries while the Hon. Mick Gayfer represents an area with yet another set of boundaries. It seems to me that this is an obvious anomaly. No-one wishes to correct it at this stage because the Government appears to consider that it suits its purposes not to do so. I urge the House to consider the matter carefully before it adjourns.

*Hon. I. G. Medcalf: Retirement as Leader of the Opposition*

**HON. JOHN WILLIAMS** (Metropolitan) [5.05 p.m.]: This news is not new but at this stage of proceedings it befits me on behalf of some of my colleagues—and some wish to express their own opinions—to pay tribute to a person I consider to be a great man in this House, and one whom it has been my pleasure to serve under as leader for quite a long time. I refer to the impending retirement from the leadership of the Opposition of the Hon. I. G. Medcalf, a learned gentleman of the first water who has graced this House for a number of years, and who will continue to grace it.

We are not saying goodbye to the Hon. I. G. Medcalf; he is laying down the reins of leadership in order that one of his colleagues may have the opportunity of sharing the suffering he has undergone over the years in leading this team and also, of course, the pleasure he has had as well. It has not been my experience, or that of my colleagues, to meet a kindlier gentleman in the Parliament. He is always on hand when wanted for advice, either on personal matters or on matters pertaining to the Parliament itself.

In the Metropolitan Province which I share with him, he is respected from one end to the other by all shades of the community, from the most humble personage to possibly the highest dignitaries in this State. Well does he deserve their praise

and well does he qualify for the title of "gentleman".

The Government, including the present Attorney General, would be aware that during his period as Attorney General, the Hon. I. G. Medcalf enhanced that office and earned the respect of all his officers and the law officers and judiciary to an extent not achieved by any previous Attorney General.

We will be the losers through his standing down from the leadership, at least in the initial stages, but we know that whoever rises to become the Leader of the Opposition in this place will always be able to depend on the Hon. I. G. Medcalf because he is that sort of gentleman. He will support and thoroughly sustain his successor.

I personally will miss tremendously the Hon. I. G. Medcalf in his role of leader. I welcome the fact that he will join us on the back benches, as it were, and that he will stay with us. I would be extremely grateful if he would pass on to Mrs Medcalf the kindest wishes of all his colleagues. I hope now that after running a darned good race, the Hon. I. G. Medcalf will be able to enjoy the fruits of leisure that sometimes accrue to those of us on the back benches. In the meantime, we wish him all health in the future and I hope the House takes due note of the leadership set by a very learned gentleman.

Members: Hear, hear!

**HON. J. M. BERINSON** (North Central Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.10 p.m.]: I would like to associate myself with the comments made by the Hon. John Williams. Both in this House and outside I have never hesitated to indicate the respect I have felt for the Hon. Ian Medcalf in the various roles he has filled. In my limited experience in the House that extends to his position as Leader of the House, Attorney General, and more recently as Leader of the Opposition. I agree with the Hon. John Williams that

Mr Medcalf has set a high standard and I think on more than one occasion when comparing myself with him and others of our profession I have found myself limited to describing myself as the article clerk.

One is forced to limit one's comments on an occasion such as this so as not to inhibit Mr Medcalf too far in his future role on the Opposition back bench.

However, I am quite sure that I speak not only for myself but also for the Hon. Des Dans, who is unfortunately absent today, and for the other members on this side of the House in paying our personal respects to Mr Medcalf for the role he has played in the Government and the Parliament of the State.

Members: Hear, hear!

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

#### Ayes 17

Hon. J. M. Berinson	Hon. I. G. Medcalf
Hon. J. M. Brown	Hon. S. M. Piantadosi
Hon. Peter Dowding	Hon. I. G. Pratt
Hon. Graham Edwards	Hon. Tom Stephens
Hon. Kay Hallahan	Hon. W. N. Stretch
Hon. Robert Hetherington	Hon. P. H. Wells
Hon. Garry Kelly	Hon. John Williams
Hon. A. A. Lewis	Hon. Fred McKenzie
Hon. Margaret McAleer	(Teller)

#### Noes 9

Hon. W. G. Atkinson	Hon. Tom McNeil
Hon. C. J. Bell	Hon. Neil Oliver
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. P. G. Pandal
Hon. H. W. Gayfer	Hon. N. F. Moore
Hon. P. H. Lockyer	(Teller)

#### Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Hon. Lyla Elliott	Hon. G. C. MacKinnon
Hon. Mark Nevill	Hon. Tom Knight
Hon. D. K. Dans	Hon. G. E. Masters

Question thus passed.

*House adjourned at 5.14 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

#### *Weights: Maximum*

1051. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Are there regulations being framed concerning the maximum weight allowed to be lifted by persons in employ?
- (2) If so, what is the weight envisaged?

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

- (1) and (2) Not in Western Australia. The national consultative committee on occupational health and safety is presently looking at this issue in relation to prevention of low back injury.

### FISHERIES: SNAPPER

#### *Traps: Licences*

1052. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any new licences for snapper traps being issued by either State or Commonwealth bodies for the Shark Bay, Carnarvon or Exmouth fisheries?
- (2) If so, how many new licences have been issued?
- (3) How many snapper traps in total are allowed to be used at present in the Shark Bay or Carnarvon fisheries?
- (4) Do individual boats need a special licence to fish for snapper in this fishery?

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

- (1) to (3) Before snapper traps can be worked from a boat on the Shark Bay-Carnarvon snapper grounds, the boat requires an endorsement on its licence. In 1983 there were 27 boats which had the appropriate endorsement on their licences. So far in 1984 there are 38 boats which have the appropriate endorsement on their licences. The appropriate endorsement allows up to five traps to be operated from the boat. Traps may only be used in Commonwealth waters in this area as the use of traps in State waters in this area is prohibited.

There are no such restrictions applying in the Exmouth area.

- (4) No, except where the means of catching is by the use of traps.

### RECREATION: YACHTING

#### *Marina: Sorrento Beach*

1053. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Minister for Administrative Services:

- (1) What studies have been undertaken to assess the environmental impact of the boat marina proposed by the Government for the Sorrento Beach area?
- (2) What alternative sites were studied and on what basis was the Sorrento Beach selected in preference to other sites?
- (3) What environmental impact studies have been undertaken specifically to consider the effects on the marine environment and the nodes during the concentrated usage being envisaged for this marina?
- (4) Is there any intention or plans to allow for any commercial development associated either directly with or adjacent to this marina?
- (5) If so, what type, where, and on what land?

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

- (1) Continuing studies of shoreline movements and results of beach protection works at Sorrento would suggest that a boat harbour constructed in the area would not have any adverse effects on the populated foreshore. The chairman of the co-ordinating committee will be meeting with the Environmental Protection Authority on 31 May to determine the authority's requirements for an environmental impact statement.
- (2) Sites immediately adjacent to the Ocean Reef boat launching facility were studied but rejected because of substantially higher marina development costs.
- (3) See (1) above.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Organisations supplying goods and services to the boating public will be permitted to operate within the marina on reclaimed land.

## LOTTERIES

### *Agencies*

1054. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Minister for Administrative Services:

- (1) How many agents are licensed to sell lottery and/or lotto tickets in—
  - (a) the metropolitan area;
  - (b) the South Perth area?
- (2) How many applications for the South Perth area have been refused in the past year?
- (3) Upon what grounds are such licences granted?
- (4) Upon what grounds are such licences refused?

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

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) (a) Lotto and lotteries   | 194 |
| lotteries only  | 120 |
| (b) Lotto and lotteries   | 2   |
| lotteries only  | 8   |
| (2) Lotto and lotteries   | 3   |
| Lotteries only  | 5   |
| (3) The Lotteries (Control) Act provides for the Lotteries Commission to have absolute discretion to grant or refuse an application for appointment as an agent. Applications are considered in relation to location, type of business and management, and sales potential. The best interests of the commission are paramount in making this decision. |     |
| (4) As for (3) above.   |     |

## WATER RESOURCES

### *Irrigation: Carnarvon*

1055. Hon. P. H. LOCKYER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it correct that a ministerial direction recently directed that a water allocation be given to a grower in Carnarvon?
- (2) If so, was this done with the recommendation of the Gascoyne River Advisory Committee?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Can growers who have at present a half allocation expect immediate ministerial direction to be given a full allocation?
- (5) If not, why discriminate between growers?

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, but the person concerned was a reserve for an allocation when eight allocations were approved about five or six years ago.
- (3) Although I am not fully aware of all the issues which influenced the committee, I understand that its attitude was mainly influenced by the policy adopted by the Government in 1981 that no further water allocations would be issued.
- (4) No.
- (5) The issues involved are influenced by different factors and I do not believe there has been any discrimination between growers.

## PUBLIC SERVANTS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

### *Wages Cut: Exemptions*

1056. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) How many State Government employees were above the minimum salary level affected by the Temporary Reduction of Remuneration (Senior Public Officers) Act 1983?
- (2) How many of those employees were exempted through either the fact of federal industrial coverage or exemptions under the Act?
- (3) How many of the employees exempted under the Act have taken voluntary cuts?
- (4) How many employees have received assistance under the provisions of the Temporary Reduction of Remuneration (Senior Public Officers) Act 1983?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (4) Similar questions have been asked by the Hon. R. J. O'Connor MLA (Question 2482), the Hon. C. Rushton, MLA, (No. 2490), and the Hon. W. R. B. Hassell (No. 2673).

The answers provided were that the members would be advised in writing in due course.

Some applications remain to be considered by me, and some persons have requested a review of earlier decisions made.

The member will be given a detailed answer to the question in writing when all applications have been decided.

### HEALTH: DRUG

#### *Marijuana: Campaign*

1057. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) In view of the \$6 million being provided for an anti-smoking campaign will a similar amount be provided by the Government on an anti-marijuana use campaign?
- (2) If not, what is the Government's policy on the use of marijuana?

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

- (1) and (2) The reply to this question is not available and will be supplied to the member in writing.

### HEALTH

#### *Nurses: Emergency Nursing Service*

1058. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the cost to the Department of Hospital and Allied Services of the emergency nursing service?
- (2) Is this service an effective and efficient one in catering for rural and remote areas of this State?
- (3) How much has been spent so far this financial year on transport costs to provide the emergency nursing service?

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

- (1) The cost to Hospital and Allied Services in 1983-84 is estimated at \$63 000 and covers such expenditure as recruitment costs, staff bonuses, and advertising expenses. Other costs, including salaries and travelling expenses, are charged to the individual hospitals employing the nurses as part of the normal operating cost for the particular hospital.
- (2) Yes. The emergency nursing service provides an essential service throughout the State to ensure an adequate level of nursing care.
- (3) Transport costs for all nursing staff are charged to individual hospitals. Separate

records identifying transport costs relative to emergency nursing service staff are not maintained.

### EDUCATION

#### *Boarding-away-from-home Allowance: Criteria*

1059. Hon. TOM McNEIL, to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Would the Minister advise whether a recipient of the Commonwealth second home allowance can apply for the State boarding away from home allowance if he has been unable to find suitable board for his child in regional centres and has been compelled to rent accommodation in Perth for that purpose?
- (2) If "No", would the Minister advise under what criteria the applicant can gain some financial relief?

Hon. PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The State boarding-away-from-home allowance is paid as a supplement to the Commonwealth basic boarding allowance. Recipients of any other allowance from the Commonwealth are not eligible for assistance from the State Government.
- (2) A recipient of the Commonwealth second home allowance would not be eligible for any other form of assistance from the State Government.

### HEALTH: ALCOHOL

#### *Alcoholism: Treatment*

1060. Hon. V J. FERRY to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What facilities and services are available to citizens of WA for treatment from the effects of alcoholism?
- (2) How much money is being provided this financial year for the treatment of alcoholics from—
  - (a) the State Government;
  - (b) the Federal Government; and
  - (c) private sources?
- (3) How much is being spent this financial year on education on the dangers of alcoholism from—
  - (a) the State Government;
  - (b) the Federal Government; and
  - (c) private sources?

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

- (1) to (3) This reply is not available, and the member will be advised in writing in due course.

### SUPERANNUATION

#### *Contributions, Surpluses, and Administrative Costs*

1061. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) When a contributor to the State superannuation fund commutes the fund share of his pension, why is two per cent retained as a profit margin?
- (2) What will happen to the surpluses in the State superannuation scheme that accrue from the Provident Account moneys?
- (3) Why cannot the contributors to the provident account be given their share of the surpluses in the fund as the Government does not pay any CPI adjustments to them?
- (4) Why should not both parties, the employees and employers, contribute equally towards the administration costs of the State superannuation scheme?
- (5) If the Government had contributed towards its share of the State superannuation scheme at the same time as the contributors, what would be the state of its account in 1980 and 1983?
- (6) Would the State have an actuarial surplus?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (6) The member will be advised in writing in due course.

### BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

#### *Government Contribution*

1062. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the decision of the Queensland Government to spend \$14 million on special projects as that State's contribution to Australia's bi-centenary in 1988?
- (2) Has the WA Government come to any similar decision?
- (4) If so, what is to be the State's contribution to this important milestone?

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) No decision has been made but discussions on the subject have commenced with the Western Australia Council of the Australian Bicentennial Authority and the Government is currently considering a number of proposals.

### SUPERANNUATION

#### *Rural & Industries Bank: Reserves*

1063. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Does the Rural and Industries Bank maintain an account for superannuation fund reserves?
- (2) How much has it set aside for its staff superannuation commitment?
- (3) Has the sufficiency of the amount set aside been actuarially assessed?
- (4) How many of the staff of the Rural and Industries Bank are in the State superannuation scheme?
- (5) What is the total value of the contribution of the staff of the Rural and Industries Bank in the State superannuation fund?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (5) The member will be advised in writing in due course.

### PASTORAL INDUSTRY

#### *Lease: Bow River Station*

1064. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the loan to the Warmun Community to purchase Bow River Station been finalised?
- (2) If so, will the Treasurer provide details of the loan?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The loan to the Warmun Community to purchase Bow River Station has not been finalised, but the terms of the loan have been agreed to.
- (2) (i) It has been approved that the loan of \$250 000 will be interest free for a period of 1 year;

- (ii) it is intended the pastoral lease will be initially purchased by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust until the loan is repaid;
- (iii) the Government has made this bridging loan available interest free as the repayment will be considered later from the allocation of Argyle diamond mine funds currently held separately for funding Aboriginal projects in the East Kimberleys.

#### WATER RESOURCES: MWA

##### *Building: Extension*

1065. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it correct that the Metropolitan Water Authority's building extension is to be funded out of its superannuation fund reserves?
- (2) Is an actuarial valuation done on its reserves for superannuation?
- (3) How are similar reserves to be developed for staff being transferred from the Public Works Department?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) Consideration of superannuation reserves for the new Water Authority of Western Australia is not yet finalised.

#### SUPERANNUATION

##### *Civil Service Association*

1066. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) How many members of the staff of the Civil Service Association are members of the State Superannuation Scheme?
- (2) What is the proportion of the contribution of the employee compared to the CSA as employer?
- (3) Is this ratio sufficient to meet the scheme's commitment to these employees on retirement?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The honourable member will be advised in writing in due course.

#### SUPERANNUATION

##### *Contributions*

1067. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the notional rate of contributions of the Government relative to the contributors' amount when the State Superannuation Scheme was first set up in 1939?
- (2) What changes have been made to the notional rate?
- (3) If changes have been made, when were they made and what were the ratios?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) When the superannuation scheme commenced in 1939, members' contributions met half the pensions payable. The State met the balance when the pensions emerged.
- (2) Since 1939 there have been numerous changes to the level of pensions and other benefits payable under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act.

Most of the changes increased the State's proportion of the benefits payable. However, it is not practicable to provide details of the State's notional contribution in respect of each change.

- (3) Answered by (2) above.

#### ABATTOIRS

##### *Export: Charges and Throughput*

1068. Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Which abattoirs in the South West Land Division are registered as export abattoirs for the purpose of killing sheep?
- (2) What number of Commonwealth Health Inspectors are employed at each of these works?
- (3) What number of sheep and lambs were killed for export at each of these works last financial year?
- (4) What number of sheep and lambs were killed for local trade at each of these works last financial year?
- (5) Are Commonwealth inspection fees charged on all sheep and lambs killed at these works regardless of market destination?



- (6) What is the charge per head for inspection for export?
- (7) Are State health inspection fees charged on all animals killed at these works?
- (8) If not, on what sheep and lambs are these fees levied?
- (9) What is the charge per head for State inspection?
- (10) What number of State inspectors are employed full-time as inspectors at each of these works?

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

- (1) and (2)

		No. of Commonwealth Inspectors (average)
Borthwicks	Albany	15
Derby Investments	Bunbury	17
Metro Mears	Katanning	14
	Geraldton	12
Smorgans	Linley Valley	15
WAMC	Robb Jetty	24-32
Clover Meat	Waroona	16

- (3) and (4) This is considered to be confidential information.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) 54c per head.
- (7) No.
- (8) A fee is charged on carcasses, sides, and pieces which are directed to local markets.
- (9) The charge is set to recover costs, and varies with each local inspection service—

	Carcase	Sides	Pieces
Albany	30c	17c	9c
Bunbury	30c	15c	7.5c
Katanning	50c	25c	12.5c
Geraldton	30c	15c	7.5c
Linley Valley	45c	22.5c	11.25c
Robb Jetty	38c	21c	12c
Waroona	3c	1.5c	0.75c

- (10) Eleven inspectors at Robb Jetty.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### TAXATION

#### *Sales: Retread Tyres*

281. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Budget Management:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the heavy tax on retread tyres has caused country tyre businesses to become unprofitable and caused them to close down their operations?

- (2) Would he make representation in the appropriate quarter to have this taxation on tyre retreading investigated with a view to alleviating the problem and enabling tyre businesses to be resurrected in many country towns?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The honourable member raises a matter of Commonwealth taxation rather than State taxation. Because of that I have no authority in the area, nor am I in a position to make any representations to the Federal authority different from any other member. My role as Minister for Budget Management unfortunately does not relate to the Commonwealth Budget, otherwise we would be doing much better.

### TAXATION

#### *Sales: Retread Tyres*

282. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Budget Management:

Would the Minister please inform me who is the Minister responsible for Federal affairs?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

The co-ordination of Commonwealth-State relationships is now with the Premier.

### PUBLIC SERVANTS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

#### *Wages Cut: Exemptions*

283. Hon. P. H. WELLS, to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

In answer to my question on notice 1056, I was informed that a similar question had been asked by Mr O'Connor back in December 1983 and that he too had been informed that a reply would be delivered in due course. As it has been a considerable time since that first question was asked, could I have some indication of when the information is likely to be available?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

My answer to question 1056 was given in my capacity as the Minister representing the Treasurer. I am not able to answer questions of that type without notice.

**CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT  
BILL***Debate*

284. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Attorney General:

In the Attorney's capacity as Acting Leader of the House, he indicated earlier that he would suspend the sitting until the ringing of the bells. I therefore ask—

At what time of the day does he intend to proceed with the Order of the Day for the Constitution Acts Amendment Bill?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

It is not my intention to proceed with that Order of the Day.

**CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT  
BILL***Debate*

285. Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Attorney General:

Why is it not the Attorney's intention to proceed with this private member's Bill?

Hon. J. M. BERINSON replied:

I suppose if I said it was because I do not want to that would sound rude, and that would be my last intention. The Government has not determined an attitude to this Bill and therefore is not in a position to debate it.

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