

ing, too. The same applies to the member for Clontarf.

Mr PEARCE: The section of the Town Planning and Development Act under which I have resolved to settle this impasse and ensure that millions of dollars-worth of development goes ahead was inserted in the Act in 1928. The section contains powers which Ministers for Planning in this State have had for many long years. I am using them in these circumstances to resolve a dispute—built up unnecessarily and despicably on party-political lines—to ensure that development goes ahead.

I am astounded that there should be councillors in the City of Stirling who were so little concerned with developments in their own area that they were prepared to hold them up in order to attempt to embarrass the Labor Party over the question of a single restaurant, when under their own scheme they were prepared to have a comparable development go ahead until four days before the council met and decided it was not prepared to give this restaurant the go-ahead.

Members opposite have a lot to answer for because every May they pop up piously talking about the autonomy of local government and how there ought to be no politics in local government. Yet in this case they are most shamelessly seeking to use a Liberal majority on the City of Stirling, not for reasons of protecting the interests of the city's ratepayers but to serve the interests of the Liberal Party at the State parliamentary level.

The Government will not stand for that and is, through my prerogative, using the powers which belong to the Government to resolve this impasse at the City of Stirling. The councillors of the City of Stirling are now in a position where they will act illegally if they do not act upon that order.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Scarborough will come to order.

Mr PEARCE: It is an astounding proposition that members of the Liberal Party, who claim an allegiance to law and order, should seek to incite members of the City of Stirling to act illegally. It shows how little consistency and honesty there is in the Opposition's approach. Members opposite complained about the women's camp at Point Peron, yet they are here advocating that City of Stirling councillors should act illegally, when those councillors have been elected to public office to be in charge of public money and charged with the supervision of it by Acts of Parliament, and all in the interests of the ratepayers of the City of Stirling. That is the most shameless proposition I have ever heard put by a member of Parliament.

It is incumbent on the Leader of the Opposition and other Liberal members to say to councillors of the City of Stirling, "We understand what the law is and your prime responsibility as elected members of a local authority is to act legally and in the interests of your ratepayers".

MR HUGHES (Cockburn) [2.44 p.m.]: It is with a mixture of pride and humility that I take my place in this House to represent the people of the electorate of Cockburn: Pride in the faith and trust placed in me by the Australian Labor Party and the electors of Cockburn, and humility in approaching the daunting tasks which face a member of Parliament and, in particular, a member who represents an electorate with the problems that exist in Cockburn.

I take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, of thanking you, the officers and staff of this Parliament, and all the members who have made me welcome here, and who have been most helpful in assisting my transition to parliamentary life. I must also congratulate the new member for Mt. Lawley, who was elected with me at the by-elections in November last.

The Australian Labor Party has promoted progressive ideas and led political thinking all this century. The ALP has governed this country and this State through times of most grave crisis. It is the party that the country looks to when the going gets tough because Australians know that the Labor Party stands for equity and social justice, or in more common parlance, "a fair go".

As a child and adolescent, I was perplexed and concerned by the continuing use of capital punishment and by the injustices of the white Australia policy. A little later, with Australian troops in Vietnam, I began to look to the Labor Party as the only hope in this country for those people with any form of social conscience. The withdrawal from Vietnam, the end to racist immigration policies, and the recent end to capital punishment in this State, have all been of great personal satisfaction to me as a member of the party which led the fight on progressive issues.

More recently the introduction of equal opportunity legislation, the reintroduction of a universal health benefits scheme, and the proposed Aboriginal land rights legislation, have all shown the community just which political party is committed to social change.

To be a member of a democratic socialist party involves not only a commitment to an equitable redistribution of wealth within the community, but also the democratisation of industries and institutions so that all people are able to influence their destinies in whatever their pursuit.

For the five years prior to my election to this place, I worked as an organiser with the Hospital Service and Miscellaneous Workers' Union. My period with the union reinforced in my mind the need for the maintenance of the strong traditional links between the industrial and political wings of the Labor movement. To adequately reflect the hopes and aspirations of working people in Australia, they need a strong trade union movement which is free to operate without confrontation or political intervention.

Since coming to power, the Burke Labor Government has shown its ability to negotiate with unions. The confrontationist stance of previous Governments is gone, and while I must confess that the trade union movement has not always been happy with Government decisions, there is universal acceptance that the alternative is unthinkable.

One area in which there is no conflict between the union movement and the Labor Party is in our commitment to seek full employment. Too many in our community are resigned to the view that some level of unemployment is unavoidable. I will not accept that position. As a legitimate means to ensure proper distribution of wealth in the community, the society has a responsibility to provide full-time employment for all who seek it. I concede that the economic and political climate is not such that we can achieve this goal immediately, but through such means as a more equitable taxation system and a reduction in the working life of those in employment, we must strive to this end in the not-too-distant future.

The prices and incomes accord is the linchpin of co-operation between unions and Government. This agreement has already brought about reduced inflation and an improved national economic performance. At the same time, industrial dislocation has decreased and workers have obtained improvements in social wage conditions to compensate them for direct wage restraint. The accord is the vehicle which must be used by the State and Federal Governments, in consultation with unions and employers, to bring about our aim of full employment.

I turn now to the problem of youth unemployment. Some employers in the community claim that to reduce youth unemployment, there needs to be a reduction in youth wages so as to make it more attractive for employers to employ younger people. I concede that this might reduce youth unemployment, but I have yet to hear an argument which satisfied me that there will not be a commensurate increase in adult unemployment. Junior rates in existing awards give an employer an advantage in employing young workers, and

this adequately compensates for lack of training and experience.

A look at some relativities between junior and adult rates in this State is quite illuminating. If we take six major industry groups we see that the average junior award wage is considerably less than the adult wage for those industries.

Under the clerks' award the average junior wage is 60 per cent of the adult rate. In the metal trades award it is 55 per cent. In restaurant and catering the rate is 70 per cent. In shops and warehouses it is 60 per cent and in the transport industry 72.5 per cent.

In a survey of all the 91 Federal awards and determinations covered by my union, the Federated Miscellaneous Workers' Union, 62 per cent included junior rates, some as low as 35 per cent of the adult wage for 15-year-olds. Most awards which do not provide for junior rates are for callings where employers prefer adults, such as security guards and watchmen.

If we look at the actual wage for juniors in some industries it shows that any attempt to reduce them would be totally exploitative. For example the rate for workers under 17 years of age in dairy factories is \$176.19 per week. Child care aides at 15 years of age receive \$123.35 per week and workers in veterinary clinics and kennels at 15 years receive \$101.95. By how much is it proposed to reduce that wage?

The proposal to cut youth wages together with the attempt to deprive workers of the 17½ per cent annual leave loading and employer opposition to the redundancy amendments are all in the name of increasing employment, but there is not one shred of evidence indicating that will be the result.

In my time in the trade union movement, I did not see one example of an employer using the advantage of junior rates to increase his or her work force. On the contrary, many employers employ junior workers for two or three years and dismiss them when they are entitled to adult wages, only to replace them with younger employees at the lower rate.

I have no doubt that the hundreds of parents each year who call the unions for redress for what they consider the wrongful dismissal of their children, would agree that any reduction in wages would only exacerbate this exploitation of young people.

A number of Government schemes have been introduced over the years to assist employers to take on apprentices and other young people for training and experience.

Invariably the schemes have been used by many employers to simply line their own pockets rather than increase youth employment. Many young people have benefited by the training they have received under these schemes, but there is no evidence that youth unemployment has been reduced.

My reason for raising this point is to highlight the fact that reducing the labour cost to employers of young workers will not increase the incidence of their employment.

A further alarming aspect of these employer assistance programmes is their misuse by unscrupulous employers who dismiss young people after their period of training only to seek assistance for employing another such worker. This was particularly prevalent in the private day care industry where young girls would work with virtually no training, caring for children until their term of assistance ended, at which time they would be dismissed. This and other similar practices leaves me certain that employers would use reduced wages to increase profit or improve their competitive edge, rather than offer more jobs.

I would now like to briefly look at the area of local government. I am soon to resign my position as a Fremantle City Councillor, after five interesting and rewarding years on what I consider to be the most progressive local authority in this State. I am proud to have played a small part in the development of a city which is world-renowned for its commitment to the maintenance of its environment and its heritage.

The Minister for Local Government is to be applauded for his amendments to the Local Government Act which have allowed universal suffrage in council elections. Together with this improvement in democratic processes he has allowed more responsibility and autonomy to local authorities and has opened the way for a long awaited reform—differential rating. The promotion of strong and democratic local government is the best way to ensure community participation in the decision-making processes.

Mr Speaker, I now wish to examine some of the issues which confront the electors of Cockburn. My first recollections of the area which now comprises the Cockburn electorate are when I was a small boy. My parents lived in Safety Bay and we regularly travelled by car to Fremantle, along the coast road. Much of the coast road has since disappeared to make way for the industrial complexes which now dot the shoreline of the sound.

In later years, while these developments were taking place, I travelled by bus to school in Fremantle and can recall quite clearly the

expectation of most of us that these industries would bring wealth and happiness to the people of Western Australia, and in particular to those in the south-west corridor. Somewhere along the line, we got it all wrong!

The earliest industries in the region were rural or rural-related, such as abattoirs and tanneries. The electorate is adjacent to the port of Fremantle and the less savoury industries were located away from that community, in the area of South Coogee. There is much pressure on these establishments to relocate now, as the residential areas draw closer. As I will explain later, this has been typical of the problems encountered in this area due to conflicting land uses brought about by poor planning.

Most of the major industries attracted to the "Kwinana strip" are involved in mineral processing for export. The fertiliser factory, the cement works and the power station do not fit that description and can be seen more as servicing the needs of the State. The region does not have the broad manufacturing base which gives a greater level of stability to the economies of other States. Our industries are very much at the mercy of overseas price and demand fluctuations and for that reason, economic troughs cause large unemployment problems in the electorate.

Even with the upturn in the economy which we are now experiencing, unemployment in the south-west corridor is running at 14.2 per cent and in Kwinana, it is 17.6 per cent. These fluctuations in unemployment figures would have been alleviated if our industrial development planning in the 1960s had been directed at labour-intensive, rather than capital-intensive, ventures. Unfortunately the most labour-intensive industry, the steelworks, is virtually at a standstill.

I am confident that negotiations which are continuing, between Australian Iron & Steel Pty. Ltd. and the Minister for Minerals and Energy, to bring about sales to China, will be successful and that this year will see the reopening of the blast furnace and 600 to 700 jobs for the people of this region, and in Koolyanobbing.

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Industrial Development has been tireless in his efforts to attract industry to this State which will create jobs in the long term and which will lend some stability to our economic base.

In particular, this State would benefit greatly from the Royal Australian Navy submarine construction project being established in Cockburn Sound. We already have a world-renowned ship building industry established in the electorate and, to obtain the submarine project would add to our

ability to develop an export industry using local expertise, and making use of the natural advantages afforded by the sheltered waters of the sound.

Proposals to build a urea/ammonia plant and a sodium cyanide plant would also enhance the job prospects of the region, but care must be taken that strict environmental studies are conducted to ensure that the area, particularly north of the industrial strip is not adversely affected. There is much concern within the community about the proposed sodium cyanide plant, and I have asked the Minister for the Environment to pay special attention to the environmental aspects of such a plant, particularly in the event of a major mishap.

Primary industry is still a predominant factor within the electorate. While market gardening has changed in recent years, much of the vegetable produce for the metropolitan tables is still grown within the electorate. More and more of the older market gardens in Spearwood have been subdivided for residential purposes and many of the producers have relocated further south. Many of the earlier subdivisions were not well planned and are inconsistent with the metropolitan region scheme and the corridor plan concept.

Thus we have a mixture of urban, residential, and industrial uses in relatively close proximity. Conflicts occur due to expectations of landowners and developers who seek profits from rezoning. Genuine subdividers of rural lots are prevented from building on family properties, because of the indiscriminate use of ministerial discretion to allow or reject appeals from the Town Planning Board. Others, for whatever reasons, have had their appeals upheld. I have spoken with the new Minister for Planning and the local authorities in the electorate with a view to establishing firm guidelines for subdivisions and rezonings, and I am confident that the matter can be satisfactorily resolved for the benefit of the community.

The general southward trend of housing developments has highlighted the problems of air pollution within the electorate. For the most part pollution problems are confined to those areas to the north and north-east of the industry at Kwinana. In particular, the residents of Wattleup are most concerned at possible health problems associated with prolonged exposure to airborne pollutants.

It is hoped that increased use of natural gas for heat and power generation purposes will reduce the level of sulphur dioxide in the fallout areas. The Kwinana air modelling study recommended extensive buffer zones between the industrial and residential areas. Once again, we see the problems

that can exist due to adjacent and conflicting land uses being permitted through poor planning decisions. Of course, that does not mean that Governments should neglect their obligations to diligently monitor and control all forms of pollution and ensure that companies maintain the highest standards of industrial cleanliness.

So far I have looked at the economic, environmental, and town planning aspects of a large and diverse electorate. I turn now to the social questions which confront the region and which are interwoven with some of the poor decision-making which I canvassed earlier.

Unemployment is the scourge of this country, this State, and the electorate of Cockburn. Many of the social problems of the electorate such as juvenile crime, alcohol and drug dependence, marital breakdowns, family violence, poor health, and inadequate housing can be blamed on high and long-term unemployment.

To understand the extent of unemployment within the region, I must highlight some of the major areas of concern. In the Town of Kwinana, which is the southern portion of the electorate, as mentioned earlier, total unemployment is currently 17.6 per cent of the available work force. For the age group 15 years to 19 years, the figure is 37.6 per cent or 69 per cent greater than the average for Western Australia.

Percentages are often impersonal and hide the real tragedy. In actual numbers there are over 3 600 kids in the age group 15 to 19 years in the Cockburn electorate who are seeking, but cannot find work. If some of those no longer seek work as diligently as they might, who would blame them?

There is room for hope, however, as since June 1983 unemployment in the south-west region has fallen from 14.7 per cent to 14.2 per cent, and in Kwinana from 19.8 per cent to 17.6 per cent.

This has been as a result of the improvement in the economy, the increase in housing construction, as a direct result of Federal and State policy decisions, and through the community employment programme. Both the local authorities of Cockburn and Kwinana have sponsored CEP projects and are to be congratulated for their participation in a scheme which has given some long-term unemployed their first experience of work for a long time.

The electorate of Cockburn includes a large percentage of public housing. Large estates in Coolbellup, Hamilton Hill, and Medina are home to many of the disadvantaged of our society, the supporting parents, the invalid and age pensioners, and the unemployed.

The Labor Party has a policy to move away from the broadacre estates and to integrate housing into social and general planning to facilitate a more egalitarian and harmonious mix of public and privately-owned residences. To this end, I congratulate the Minister for Housing on his innovative use of "spot purchases" to establish State Housing Commission homes in suburbs which have been traditionally given over to private residences. I also congratulate the Government on its decision, in the last Budget, to boost spending in the housing area by over 150 per cent.

As our stocks of State housing increase, and the present unacceptable waiting lists are reduced, I look forward to being involved in innovative redevelopment of Housing Commission areas and, in particular, the demolition of the apartment blocks in suburbs such as Coolbellup and Calista which are a blight on our community and an indictment of the planners and architects of the day. Low-cost medium density town house developments interspersed with housing lots for private sale would promote far more harmonious social relationships.

I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor, Don Taylor, who was the member for Cockburn for 17 years, a Minister and Deputy Premier in the Tonkin Labor Government, and an extremely popular man in the electorate. Don is a man of great compassion and I know he is disheartened that he leaves the electorate with the economic and social problems that exist. It is through no fault of Don's that we find ourselves in these circumstances, and he worked tirelessly to obtain a better deal for his constituents. In his maiden speech in August 1968, Don quoted some words of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh at the Third Commonwealth Study Conference. Those words are as appropriate today as they were then and I quote—

The economic and material benefits of industrial development are only too obvious, but these benefits can be bought at a very high price in human existence. There are plenty of examples where every consideration has been subordinate to the needs of industry and where people are housed merely in order to serve industry. It is developments like these which give rise to blight areas and which hardly deserve to be called communities.

The fact is that satisfactory human communities are more important than the industries which provide employment. People do not exist to serve industry, it is the other way around: every industry exists for the benefit of the people. In any new development which involves the employment of people, the first

consideration should be the establishment of a viable and satisfactory human community to which the industrial part of the development can offer gainful employment.

Finally, I pay tribute to the members of my family, and in particular, my wife, Elizabeth. Their love, support, and understanding has enabled me to take my place here today.

[Applause.]

MR CASH (Mt. Lawley) [3.06 p.m.]: It is indeed an honour to have been chosen by the people of the electorate of Mt. Lawley to be their representative in the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia.

My success in winning the seat of Mt. Lawley at the by-election held on 17 November 1984 was part of a team effort in which many strong Liberal supporters worked together to achieve a common goal. I take this opportunity of paying tribute to some of the many members of our team.

One of my strongest supporters was Hon. R. J. O'Connor, Premier of Western Australia during 1982-83, and the member for the seat of Mt. Lawley for more than 22 of his 26 years as a member of this House.

My association with Ray O'Connor goes back some 25 years to the time he first stood for the Legislative Assembly seat of North Perth in 1958. At that time my brother and I were active in the local scouting movement and we called on the business premises of Mr O'Connor to seek jobs to raise funds for the scouts. Being community minded, Mr O'Connor readily agreed to hire both my brother and myself and this "bob a job" arrangement became the basis for regular Saturday morning employment at the O'Connor business for a number of years.

During the past 25 years, Ray O'Connor has always remained a close friend of my family, and we were proud to follow his distinguished political career which saw him attain 18 senior portfolios in this Parliament, and later, the highest political office in Western Australia, the position of Premier. I am proud to be able to call Ray O'Connor my friend, but more than that, I am indebted to him and his family for their strong support over many years.

On the day of the by-election, I was fortunate in having tremendous support from a large number of dedicated people who worked extremely hard to ensure a successful result. To all members of our team, I extend sincere thanks.

I am also indebted to Mrs Ethel Douglas and her wonderful team of ladies who worked so hard in arranging the many social and fundraising