

avoid the effect of the Trade Practices Act, which is Commonwealth legislation and cannot be overridden by this Government's legislation. I support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 17

Mr Blaikie	Mr O'Connor
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Old
Mr Clarko	Mr Rushton
Mr Court	Mr Spriggs
Mr Coyne	Mr Trethowan
Mr Hassell	Mr Tubby
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Watt
Mr MacKinnon	Mr Williams
Mr McNee	

(Teller)

Noes 27

Mr Barnett	Mr Jamieson
Mr Bateman	Mr Parker
Mrs Beggs	Mr Pearce
Mr Bridge	Mr Read
Mrs Buchanan	Mr D. L. Smith
Mr Brian Burke	Mr P. J. Smith
Mr Terry Burke	Mr Stephens
Mr Burkett	Mr A. D. Taylor
Mr Cowan	Mr I. F. Taylor
Mr Davies	Mr Tonkin
Mr Evans	Mr Troy
Mr Grill	Mrs Watkins
Mrs Henderson	Mr Gordon Hill
Mr Hodge	

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes

Mr Crane
Mr Mensaros
Mr Laurance
Mr Thompson
Mr Grayden
Dr Dadour

Noes

Mr Bryce
Mr Carr
Mr Melver
Mr T. H. Jones
Mr Bertram
Mr Wilson

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MRS WATKINS (Joondalup) [10.21 p.m.] After listening to the abortive filibustering of members opposite for the last 3½ hours or so I rise to perhaps bring a little relief in this, my first address to the House. Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to the leader of the Australian Labor Party in Western Australia, our Premier, Brian Burke, who led our great party to such a resounding victory on 19 February this year—a remarkable feat for the young man who stood before this House less than 10 years ago on 18 October 1973 to make his own maiden speech.

I thank you, Brian, for your encouragement and support over the last 16 months since my pre-selection for the seat of Joondalup.

Likewise, I wish to thank all my Labor colleagues who were always ready to give me advice and support prior to the State elections, despite their very busy schedules.

I, too, wish to thank the many dedicated people from within the Labor movement, both from the branches and the union movement, who worked unstintingly for me throughout my campaign. I wish to make special mention of my campaign manager, John Halden, whose guidance, drive, and discipline continually convinced me that victory was achievable. Without those people mentioned, my task of winning Joondalup for the Australian Labor Party would have been much more difficult, if not impossible.

I would also thank the members of the staff here at Parliament House who have been so helpful since my attaining office; it is difficult as a new member in a strange environment to learn the ropes. This transition has been extraordinarily easy thanks to the co-operation shown me by the staff members. According to most political analysts prior to the State election, I had "Buckley's chance" of winning the seat of Joondalup, particularly against a sitting member of the establishment, and a male to boot. Well, along with my sisters here in Parliament we have proved that women can indeed win marginal seats.

I noted with interest that the four seats which achieved the greatest swings in this State were Pilbara with 18 per cent; Joondalup with 16.8 per cent; Whitford with 15.1 per cent; and Albany with 12 per cent. All those seats had women as candidates.

My colleagues, Pam Beggs and Pam Buchanan, now hold the seats of Whitford and Pilbara. Josephine Lynch in Albany just missed out this time; however I have no doubt that after the next State election Jo Lynch will be joining us in this place.

All women, irrespective of their political leanings, must recognise and commend the ALP for the faith shown in women as political candidates.

Since being elected to Parliament as the member for Joondalup I have found that the promises we made, prior to the election, to achieve changes are not being fulfilled as quickly as we would like. This is due to the difficult economic conditions and in a large part to the deficit inherited from our predecessors.

However, I trust the public of Western Australia will be sympathetic with our plight and realise we were as deceived as they were by a less than honest Government, an Administration which stands condemned by the people.

In my electorate there is a pressing need to increase the school building programme, both for new schools and additions to existing schools, particularly in the areas of Beldon, Greenwood, Kingsley, and Marangaroo. With over half of this

year's education allowance already committed by the previous Government we have a difficult task ahead of us to carry out a heavy education programme this year. However our Government has proved in a very short and hectic five months that we will honour our promises.

The excessive prices legislation passed in this house in March is an example of our commitment. We have moved quickly at local levels also.

I am delighted to report to this House the results of representations made to the Minister for Health by myself and the Member for Whitford on the intolerable situation at Wanneroo Hospital.

The residents of the Shire of Wanneroo had a hospital which cost the taxpayers \$6.5 million to complete. When it was officially opened on 8 August 1980, all three floors of the hospital were in operation but there was no casualty service, people still had to be taken by ambulance to one of the large teaching hospitals for emergency treatment.

After 25 December 1980—perhaps an appropriate date—the maternity wing of the hospital was closed down. This in turn caused much anxiety to the people of the Wanneroo Shire. Despite this extravagant commitment to the health of our residents the services offered were inadequate. We did not have a casualty unit. We did not have a maternity wing. Time and time again requests were made to the Government of the day for a full-time casualty service and for the maternity wing to be opened. Time and time again, the then Minister for Health denied our people their requests.

However, we at last have a Minister for Health who really does care about the real people and is ready to listen to representations made to him on their behalf.

The Wanneroo Hospital can now boast a full-time casualty service using salaried doctors and by the end of 1983 many of the doctors in the area will become sessional appointees to the hospital, thus saving the public many thousands of dollars in the fee for service area.

The Minister has also made a commitment to make beds available in the maternity wing of the hospital as soon as funds are available, which hopefully will be within the next financial year.

Other than incompetence, the lack of initiative the previous Government showed in the area of transport, was, I believe, a contributing factor in its demise.

While southern metropolitan members gained better public transport and freeway access, those

in the north achieved next to nothing for their constituents. While the growth in the northern suburbs ballooned, transport facilities lagged behind to the point of public disgrace.

Fortunately we now have a Minister for Transport with vision and a desire to turn our public transport system into one of pride.

I have made representations to the Minister regarding the inadequacies of public transport in my electorate and have suggested to him that buses will be used more by the public if there can be developed an interconnecting system, perhaps using mini buses, across suburbs, so people can move easily between suburbs instead of travelling into Perth and out again in order to reach an adjoining suburb. Currently the Minister is considering my representations with a view to re-routing existing buses in the northern metropolitan region. The people in my electorate will, I know, be delighted when these new routes eventuate.

The unemployed will be able to get to the Commonwealth Employment Office in Greenwood more easily. They will also be able to use the facilities of the Wanneroo Community Youth Support Scheme.

Pensioners will be able to visit their friends and relatives in neighbouring suburbs without needing a cut lunch and water bag to sustain them on what is currently a marathon journey. Families will be able to get to our beautiful beaches during school holidays and weekends. Women will be able to use the facilities in the suburbs of Heathridge, Whitford, Greenwood, and Wanneroo without needing expensive private transport in order to do so.

If I have your indulgence, Sir, I wish to make mention of an area of legislation which I believe needs urgent reform; namely, the Adoption of Children Act.

Currently adoptions are carried out in secrecy; secrecy which is one sided.

The mother who relinquishes her child is still treated as a second-class citizen. She is not given the option of permanent legal guardianship which if introduced would allow her to relinquish her child with provisions. She would be able to see her child develop, and have access to that child on a basis set down by a court of law in negotiation with the adopting parents.

In essence she would not suffer the anguish suffered by every mother who relinquishes her child, an anguish which has resulted in a number of suicides and an anguish not diminished by the passing of the years. A relinquishing mother is not

offered any options, she either keeps her child or relinquishes that child forever.

She is not offered the option of temporary fostering. In many cases when a single woman has a child outside marriage circumstances at that time preclude her from caring for her child.

Those circumstances are invariably financial, pressure from her parents, or pressure from studies.

If she were given the chance to have her child fostered for a short period of time until she were both financially and physically able to care for her child there would be far fewer emotionally distressed women searching for a child which by right of birth is their child.

If a child were battered or sexually abused by its parents, the State would remove that child from its environment and arrange fostering at no cost to the parents.

It seems somewhat iniquitous to me that a child who is born of love but not of marriage can be abducted permanently from his or her mother, purely because that mother cannot in the interim care for that child.

I am sure many would argue that the mother should not have become pregnant in the first place. The old argument of, "You made your bed now you must lie in it" will of course rear its ugly head. That argument is as archaic as those who utter it. How can we say to an accident victim, "you should not drive", or to a doctor who contracts a contagious disease, "You should not treat your patients"?

We are soon to reach the twenty-first century—just 17 years away. I am enough of an optimist to believe that by that time legislation will have been changed retrospectively to allow every relinquishing mother, past, present, and future, the right to know her child.

Much has been said in the last 12 months regarding electoral reform, and I do understand the reticence of the Opposition in approving change; after all, it has had the hallowed Chamber of the Legislative Council sewn up since 1890 with its gerrymandered electoral boundaries and the totally unacceptable inequality which exists between country and city electorates.

An area which has received little attention and deserves a mention is local government—the government closest to the people. It gave me much heart after the recent local government elections to read the comments attributed to the Leader of the Opposition in the *Daily News* dated 12 May 1983 as follows—

Mr O'Connor has admitted phoning one Stirling councillor, a liberal supporter, to ask whether it was true he has pledged his vote to a Labor supporter in the Mayoral elections.

Mr O'Connor said he played no active role in the campaign but another Liberal official said—

I'm not going to say this was a Liberal Party campaign but Yes, we were pleased to see some of the ALP people knocked off.

Further in the same article, it is stated that at least four candidates in Wanneroo and Stirling were well known members of the Liberal Party.

Mr O'Connor said he believed his party had definitely suffered in the State election because of Labor influence in Wanneroo and Stirling councils and a Liberal Party source said the Opposition had decided the way to win Government was to win local government. So much for the Liberal cry, "keep politics out of local government". At last, some honesty about politics in local government.

Having lived in the Shire of Wanneroo for over 12 years the last eight of which I have spent actively involved in the community, I have been acutely aware of the politics involved in local government.

Past protestations uttered by the conservative elements in the community of there being no politics in local government, are utter nonsense.

One has to look only at Jim Clarko, Ernie Bridge, Clive Griffiths, Dick Old and Graham Burkett—to name just a few who began their political careers in local government—to see just how rife with politics local government is and has been.

If I may cite the Shire of Wanneroo as a case in fact, the campaign waged to unseat the President of the Wanneroo Shire, Keith Pearce, was a very clever strategy on behalf of the Liberal Party. It was made clearer on the night of the shire elections by the "heavies" from the Liberal Party who were out in force with their candidates and stooges from all four wards of the Shire of Wanneroo.

They included my predecessor, an ex-member of Parliament, a dismissed ex-shire clerk, and a number of ex-councillors with axes to grind against an efficient, forward thinking, and socially aware administration.

May I serve warning that the Australian Labor Party at least has realised that honesty is the best policy and has begun the honesty process by endorsing, for the first time in the Shire of

Wanneroo, a candidate for the forthcoming by-election to be held on 24 September, and where possible we will continue to endorse candidates of the calibre of Phil Davenport if those candidates are worthy of bearing the endorsement of the Australian Labor Party.

An example of the foresight of the previous President of the Wanneroo Shire was the commencement of the Wanneroo Tourist Council of which I am a member.

Tourism is a labour-intensive industry as yet barely tapped in Western Australia. The last 10 years have seen the almost total neglect of the tourist industry at the hands of a resource-orientated Government. No priority was given to tourism; in fact it was usually the most junior Minister who held the Tourism portfolio.

Since 19 February this attitude has changed. The Premier recognises the value of the tourist industry and has taken on that portfolio himself.

Despite the fact that a very low priority was given to the tourist industry, Australia has shown real growth in this area, while most industries have been in an economic recession. This is very encouraging when one considers the growth has occurred with little emphasis being given to tourism.

By the year 2000 tourism will be the biggest industry in Australia. Currently it employs 400 000 people throughout Australia, and 35 000 in Western Australia; so the potential is enormous, especially when one considers the major social ill in the community is unemployment.

Unlike the resource industries tourism is labour-intensive. It is not affected by the silicone chip so it can make a major contribution to the economic welfare of this State and its people. To create one job in the mining industry requires a capital investment of \$1 million. To create one job in the tourist industry requires a capital investment of just \$30 000, just a fraction of the cost in comparison with other industries.

In regional areas tourism is turned to only when other industries take a nose dive.

Tourism is not as cyclical as other industries and therefore it should be developed through the good and bad times, and not turned on and off like a tap. Investment in tourism must be an ongoing activity. Provided this is ensured, the flourishing tourist industry will help keep the economy buoyant if the bottom falls out of other industries. But it must be an ongoing commitment. Currently, tourism in Western Australia contributes \$800 million to the economy and the surface as yet has barely been scratched.

By acknowledging the fact that it is a sunrise industry with huge potential for employment growth, we will be on our way to becoming the best tourist State in Australia. It will take courage and foresight for this potential to be realised. Hard economic decisions will have to be made.

In making those decisions we will have long-term perspectives rather than short-term adventures that generate a fast buck for the few and leave misery and chaos in aftermath.

Cutting wages and conditions of the workers at present employed in the industry is not the answer and will not fulfill the objectives of making tourism the largest industry in Australia by the year 2000.

In achieving these goals we will require the co-operation of all members in this Parliament to become involved and enthusiastic about tourism and to support the initiatives instigated by this Government.

In closing Mr Speaker, may I congratulate you on attaining the office of Speaker of this House and thank the people of my electorate who voted for me in such overwhelming numbers, thus enabling me to be here today, to make my maiden speech.

[Applause]

MR D. L. SMITH (Mitchell) [10.41 p.m.]: I begin by offering congratulations to you Mr Speaker on attaining your high office. I recall when I first met you in Kalgoorlie when I went there as a young solicitor to practise, I recognised then the qualities which have made you Speaker today. You have the admiration of both sides for the qualities you have retained notwithstanding your period of political office. It is often said that after a period in office politicians lose many of the qualities that first attracted electors who put them there. You are one of the people who has retained those qualities throughout your period in politics and I congratulate you on that and on attaining office.

I also want to say how pleased I am to follow the member for Joondalup who made her maiden speech. It is a noteworthy occasion when maiden speeches are made by women today both in this House and in another place in this Parliament. It is a great occasion because they are not nominal women put up by a political party in order to win women's votes. Nor are they pseudo women who have displayed masculine qualities to enter the hurly-burly of politics. They are real women interested in women's issues and also in the issues that concern us all. The active participation of all the women who have come into this House after the last election in the Caucus committees and