Legislative Council.

Tuesday, September 12, 1978.

The PRESIDENT **(the Hon. W. G. Fry)** took the chair at 4.49 p.m. and read the prayer.

NEW MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry) announced that on 12th May he had issued a writ for the election of a member to serve for the North Eastern Province in the place of the Honorable Archibald Keith Bradbury, resigned, and that such writ had been returned to him and by the endorsement thereon it appeared that William Robert Baxter had been elected in pursuance thereof.

The Honorable William Robert Baxter was introduced and sworn.

RESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE V. O. DICKIE

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry): I have to announce that I have received the following communications—

Wednesday, 16th August, 1978

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose copy of a letter of resignation from his seat in the Legislative Council of Victoria for Ballaarat Province, addressed to and received by me today, from the Honourable Vance Oakley Dickie, together with a copy of my acknowledgment to him.

By virtue of Section 30 of the Constitution Act 1975, Mr. Dickie's seat in the Legislative Council became vacant on the 16th August, 1978, being the day upon which his letter of resignation addressed to me was received by me.

Yours sincerely,

HENRY WINNEKE

Governor

16th August, 1978

Your Excellency,

I hereby tender my resignation, on the grounds of ill-health, as the elected Member for Ballaarat Province.

I would like to place on record my appreciation for the privilege of being a Member of the Legislative Council since 1956.

Yours sincerely,

(VANCE DICKIE, M.L.C.)

Chief Secretary

24th August, 1978

His Excellency the Honorable Sir Henry Winneke, K.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., O.B.E., K.St.J., Q.C., Governor of Victoria,

Government House, Melbourne, 3004.

Dear Sir Henry,

Thank you for your letter advising me of the resignation of the Honorable V. O. Dickie.

I have taken immediate action on the matter and propose to make public the programme of dates for the issue of Writs and Polling Day, tomorrow Friday, 25th August, all being well.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. W. G. FRY, M.L.C.

President

Legislative Council.

THE MINISTRY.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): Mr. President, I desire to inform the House of changes in Ministerial arrangements consequent upon the resignation you have just announced. I have been elected as Leader of the Government in place of the Honorable V. O. Dickie and my colleague, Mr. Crozier, has been elected Deputy Leader.

In respect of questions and legislation handled on behalf of Ministers from the Legislative Assembly the arrangements will be as follows: I will deal with matters relating to the Premier's Department and Treasury. Mr. Crozier will deal with matters relating to conservation, transport, public works, property and services and immigration and ethnic affairs. Mr. Houghton will deal with matters relating to lands, soldier settlement, agriculture, social welfare and matters handled by the Assistant Minister of Health. Mr. Granter will deal with matters relating to housing, minerals and energy, youth, sport and recreation, and labour and industry. Mr. Haddon Storey will deal with matters relating to education, the Chief Secretary's Department, special education, consumer affairs and the Ministry of the Arts.

It is a privilege to serve in my new post, but like everyone else on the Government side of the House I regret sincerely the circumstances

which have made these changes necessary. Mr. Dickie gave a lifetime of public service to his local community. He first entered the Bacchus Marsh Shire Council more than 30 years ago and held a record unique in the State, becoming the president of the shire on the day on which he entered the council chamber. He served in practically every sphere of activity in which it is possible to serve in his local community of Bacchus Marsh, and that led him to a wider field of service in this Parliament in 1956, where he served for 22½ years. He was a Minister for fourteen years and prior to that he was Secretary of the Cabinet, a member of the Statute Law Revision Committee and Chairman of the Distribution of Population Committee. The portfolios he held included State development on two occasions, health, tourism, immigration and, of course, housing and, prior to his retirement that of Chief Secretary.

He was also responsible for establishing the Environment Protection Authority and was the first Minister in charge of that authority. He served as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and as Deputy Leader and Leader of the Government in this House. He was leader of several overseas missions and I appreciated working with him as a colleague. One always knew where one stood with him; his word was his bond and his integrity was absolutely beyond doubt.

I will miss him as will all members of the Government party. We are sorry that he has had to retire because of his health and we wish him well in his retirement.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE.

New Appointments.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry): I have to announce that, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by the Parliamentary Officers Act 1975, I have nominated Mr. Robert Keegan Evans, previously Usher of the Black Rod and Clerk of the Records, for the office of Clerk-Assistant and Clerk of Committees, in the place of Mr. Graham Norman Hallett Grose, deceased; and His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to make such appointment in accordance with that nomination.

Following thereon I have nominated Mr. Allan Victor Bray, Committee Clerk in the Department of the Legislative Assembly, for the office of Usher of the Black Rod and Clerk of the Records and now await the approval thereto of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

DEATH OF THE HONORABLE KEITH HECTOR TURNBULL.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): I move—

That this House place on record their deep regret at the death of the Honorable Keith Hector Turnbull, a former member of the Legislative Assembly, and their keen appreciation of the long and valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Korong from 1950 to 1955 and for the electoral district of Kara Kara from 1955 to 1964, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Soldier Settlement from 1955 to 1964 and Minister for Conservation from 1961 to 1964.

Not many members of this House served concurrently with the Honorable Keith Turnbull. Those who did were Mr. Galbally, Mr. Walton, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Knight—briefly—Mr. Campbell, and myself.

Keith Turnbull had a distinguished record in the Parliament and in the Ministry. The motion itself records that he was Minister of Lands and Soldier Settlement for nine years—from 1955 to 1964—and that he was Minister for Conservation from 1961 to 1964. The year 1964 saw his defeat at the general election, not because of any loss of popularity—quite the converse. He increased his vote so greatly that the Labor Party was beaten in third position and its preferences then went to what was then the Country Party. As a result of a resounding electorate success, he was unfortunate enough to lose the election. Rumour has it that he feared that this might occur and that he rounded up several hundred friends to vote Labor in the hope

that the Labor Party would finish ahead of the Country Party, but that did not eventuate.

Eighteen months later the Honorable Keith Turnbull was appointed Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board, a position he held with distinction for twelve years. He was a colourful figure, one of the breed that seems to be fast disappearing from our public life today. He was missed when he left this Parliament. He will now be missed by many. On behalf of the House, I express sympathy to the family of the late Keith Hector Turnbull.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province): Keith Turnbull was a friendly member of Parliament, a hard-working and able Minister and an amusing and charming companion. After leaving this Parliament, under circumstances that might be thought unfortunate, he became the Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board. In that capacity he might have been better known to members of this House, particularly to country members. Parliament needs men of the calibre of Keith Turnbull. It was always enjoyable to be in his company and his work was always admired.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province): The National Party supports the motion moved by the Leader of the House. I did not know the late Keith Turnbull when he was a Minister but I came to know him well as Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board. He was a member of Parliament for fourteen years, and of those fourteen years, he was a Minister for nine.

I represent the area from which Keith Turnbull came, Wedderburn, and the Turnbull family name is well known in that area. Keith Turnbull was certainly held in high regard and great respect. When he was defeated in 1964 he became Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board and he took to that important office an acknowledged capacity as an administrator. During his term as Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board, he carried out his duties with distinction.

Members of the National Party respected the late Keith Turnbull when he was a member of the Victorian Parliament and, later, when he was chairman of the Grain Elevators Board. He gave 26 years of faithful service to this State. The National Party supports the motion and on behalf of its members I express to his family our deepest sympathy.

The Hon. C. A. M. HIDER (Monash Province): I also rise to support this motion. As the House knows, the late Keith Turnbull was my father-in-law and therefore I probably got to know him better than many members of Parliament. I first met him when he was still a member of Parliament, and I assisted him in the campaign at which his very popularity, nature and character, won too many votes from the Labor Party and caused that party to fall into third place, thus ensuring the election of Mr. Bill Phelan, the Country Party candidate.

There is no doubt that Keith Turnbull was a popular member. He was a humane man, with a great sense of humour and a great love of living. He served his electorate and community well. He worked hard for his electorate, seven days a week, as so many members do. In the country in particular, the week-end is a convenient time to see constituents, and he spent many Sundays interviewing and assisting his constituents.

Honorable members may remember that in 1962 and 1963 he was not well. He suffered a series of heart attacks and his ill health, which no doubt arose from his great dedication and hard work, was probably a factor in his defeat in 1964.

In Wedderburn, he was a successful farmer and breeder of stud Corriedale sheep and a successful showman. He farmed later at Sunbury and at the time of his death he was farming part-time at Clunes.

As has been mentioned, he was Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board, a member of the Trotting Control Board and the Totalizator

Agency Board. Trotting, in particular, was a sport he loved. He bred trotters and raced them. He enjoyed the sport and meeting people connected with it and he contributed what he could to it. I do not doubt that part of the success of trotting today owes something to the interest and activity of men such as Keith Turnbull.

It is interesting that he, indeed, served this community for 26 years in and out of Parliament. Perhaps it is ironic, and slightly sad, that so shortly after full retirement he was so suddenly taken. That so often happens with men who have led a very active life, when upon full retirement there is not perhaps the same interest in life and events overtake them.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry): I knew Keith Turnbull only a little. I met him at various social functions and I always found him a pleasant companion. Because of the time I spent in northern Victoria we were able to chat about friends in common and topics of interest to both of us. I regret his passing. He lived in my province and I met him from time to time in my capacity as a member of Parliament.

The motion was agreed to in silence, honorable members showing their unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

DEATH OF THE CLERK-ASSISTANT.

MR. GRAHAM NORMAN HALLETT GROSE.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): By leave, I move—

That this House place on record their deep sense of the loss they have sustained through the death of their Clerk-Assistant, Graham Norman Hallett Grose, and their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him as an Officer of Parliament.

No greater tribute can be paid to the late Graham Grose than that reflected in the number of members of this House who attended his funeral service last week. I am sure that his family greatly appreciated the gesture.

Graham Grose was a remarkable man and his death at only 52 years is a very sad loss indeed, leaving, as he does, a widow and young daughters.

Graham had a very active community life, quite apart from his life in this Parliament. I first knew him as a member of the Apex Club. He was President of the Mordialloc Apex Club when I first joined the Mornington club. He went on to become, successively, district governor, zone president, national president, and association president, and was one of the founders of the World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs and was a member of that council.

He was a member of the Sandringham and District Memorial Hospital Appeals Administration Committee and a life governor of that hospital. He was a member of the Black Rock Primary School Committee for a number of years and a member of the Highett High School Advisory Council for several years.

After service as a clerk of courts, Graham joined the Legislative Assembly staff in 1950 and transferred to the Legislative Council in 1951, serving for some years as Clerk of the Papers, as Usher of the Black Rod from 1962 to 1969 and as Clerk-Assistant from 1969 until the date of his death.

He also served as secretary to quite a number of Parliamentary Select Committees and many members of this House got to know his real worth from the work he did in those committees. Many of us enjoyed his fellowship when committees travelled interstate on their studies.

Graham was an honest, discreet and impartial adviser at all times. One could go to him in complete confidence and the advice he gave was sound. We were aware two years ago that he was suffering a serious illness and honorable members will recall that he came back to this place having lost a great deal of

weight. He knew then that he possibly had cancer of the liver and that his life with us could be limited. Although he knew that, I doubt whether many members knew it at the time, because Graham never showed it by his demeanour. He went about his work in the same way as he had done in the past.

A few honorable members who were perhaps a little closer to him visited him during his terminal illness and were shocked at his drawn appearance and the way in which he had lost so much weight, yet Graham himself, knowing that the end was near, remained perfectly cheerful and put all those who visited him completely at their ease. He even made many of the arrangements for his own funeral.

Mr. President, we will miss him and we extend to his widow and his daughters our deepest sympathy and understanding in the sad loss they have suffered.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province): Graham Grose was an extraordinarily brave man and we all recognize that, but it must have been a great comfort to his wife and family to see him carrying on so courageously right to the end.

I first recall him as an imaginative and resourceful clerk who served up to me motions that I had no doubt would put the Government in a panic and restore the Opposition to government. Whenever I went to him with a problem, there was always a chuckle. Sometimes he would say, "Well, I will perhaps need a little time on this", but he always came up with the answer.

His family must have been greatly consoled by the service given for him. I do not know how other members felt, but I found it one of the most touching occasions at which I have been present. I was very touched to see his courageous widow and that wonderful family and to know of the way in which he had superintended all the details. It was remarkable. He was a man who took what was coming to him, not with a grudge, but with a smile. It was great to have known him and to have worked with him.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province): I support the comments that have been made by Mr. Hunt and Mr Galbally. The service we attended last week was a magnificent tribute to Graham Grose, and I am sure his family would have been encouraged and heartened by the expressions of sympathy and support they received on that day.

Anyone who examines the record of the service Graham Grose gave to this Parliament and to the community generally would appreciate the enormous contribution he made. I have been a member of this place for some time, but I was not aware of Graham's wider interests in the community. To have reached the top of the Apex Club organization is in itself a tremendous achievement.

During his period of service in this Parliament I found—as I am sure all other honorable members found—that one could go to him for advice and assistance and find that that advice and assistance were freely, cheerfully and capably given. If I could say one thing about Graham Grose it would be that throughout the time I knew him, including his period of adversity, he was the most cheerful person I have met. In the circumstances, that says something for his character.

The motion expresses the deep sense of loss felt by the House and, on behalf of the National Party, I am pleased to support the motion. I extend to Mrs. Grose and her family the deepest sympathy on behalf of the National Party.

The Hon. GLYN JENKINS (Geelong Province): I wish to be associated with the sincere expression of regret at the sad passing of Graham Grose. I first knew Graham twenty years before I came to this Parliament, when he was a member, and later President, of the Apex Club of Mordialloc. In a small aside I will relate that in approximately 1956 Graham somehow or other man-

oeuvred to obtain the number plate GNH-144 for his car. Allowing for a slight discrepancy in the spelling, Graham was the only person I have known who had his full initials and name on a personalized number plate.

My first intimation of Graham's great ability took place at Marysville in October, 1957. At that time he was Vice-President of Zone 1 of the Association of Apex Clubs and a large zone convention was to take place. At the last minute the President could not come. Graham took over and ran that convention as though he had been fully prepared. He controlled all the meetings associated with the convention with great skill, tact and understanding. Members of this House have come to recognize those qualities since that time.

As the Leader of the House said, Graham later became National President and the first Association President of the Apex Clubs and later went on to become a delegate to the World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs. In the interim I had been appointed as National Secretary Treasurer of the Association of Apex Clubs.

We spent many hundreds of hours travelling Australia together or discussing matters of importance to the Apex movement, many of those hours in this Parliament, in the old Papers Room.

I recall attending the handover dinner of the Apex Club of Mordialloc in August, 1966. Graham had just passed his 40th birthday, following which a member of Apex has to retire. Interestingly, the guest speaker at the dinner was Phillip Lynch, who had been a National President of the Jaycees and later became a member of the House of Representatives and Federal Treasurer.

One of the real pleasures on being elected to this House was renewing a close personal working relationship with Graham Grose. I appreciated the assistance and advice that he gave to me as a back-bench member.

When he became very ill, I visited him at his home about three weeks ago. His courage and his philosophical approach to life and even to death was an encouragement to me. I frankly enjoyed the two hours that I spent with Graham Grose, his wife Joyce, and other members of his family on that occasion.

The presence at his funeral of the President, Ministers and party Leaders and other members of this Chamber was appreciated by his family and was a tribute to him. Officers and members of his staff of this Parliament are unable to speak to this motion expressing appreciation of his valuable services. I know that John Campbell, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and John Little, Serjeant-at-Arms, who camped, bush walked and fished away many weekends in the mountains with Graham and shared many hours out on the bay off Black Rock seeking the elusive schnapper will miss him greatly.

I mourn his passing. He was a great man whose life was terminated in such an untimely manner. He lived life to the full and made a valuable contribution to the community and to the workings of this Parliament. I should like to place on record my appreciation of the work of the Clerks of the Parliament. In their hands to a great extent really lies the future of democracy and the Westminster system of Government. Members come and go, but it is the approach of the Clerks to the system and the advice they give, which will ensure the future of democracy. Their work is not always appreciated.

To his wife, Joyce, his four daughters, and other members of his family, I express my sincere sympathy.

The Hon. H. R. WARD (South Eastern Province): I wish to add a few remarks in regard to the late Graham Norman Hallett Grose. I knew Graham Grose longer than any other person in this House. I went to school with him at the Wangaratta High School where he was a highly

respected pupil. He was conscientious and maintained that conscientiousness throughout his working life. He maintained a very earnest stewardship towards life and his responsibility to the community. In later years, he was particularly courageous. He was well organized and was an inspiration to individual members of this House. It was a privilege to owe him a favour; it was never a debt. He was a man who organized himself and, when I saw him shortly before his death, I believed he really understood life and mortality. Truly he worked with honour and upheld the school motto *Honore Et Labore.*

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry): At 52, Graham Grose was too young to die. At the end of the last sessional period, he took his place at the table right through to the last word on the very last day, but very few of us knew that we would not see him again in that position. However, he knew and he performed his duties with the utmost courage. The late Graham Grose was a modest man. Honorable members have heard the Leader of the House outline his list of achievements and service to the community. Although I was closely associated with the area, I had no idea of his wide involvement in these community affairs. I had met him at functions associated with some of the organizations mentioned and, for example, it was a long time before I discovered that he had been made a Life Governor of the Sandringham and District Memorial Hospital. Certainly, he never told me anything.

What he mostly did was to try to get out amongst the schnapper referred to by Mr. Jenkins and often I would return home to find a couple of schnapper wrapped in newspaper at my back door. Whenever I laboured up the hill to thank Graham Grose for the fish, he must have known that I was coming because he was never home to receive my personal thanks. Invariably, I finished up dropping him a " thank you " note. That was the sort of man he was and that is how he carried out his duties as Clerk-Assistant in this place. He held the scales of justice, as he saw it, with equal poise. He gave equally good advice to members from all sides of the House without fear and without favour. The advice he proferred was the best advice as he saw it. I doubt whether I have ever seen a more dignified man in his position. He had an innate dignity that was respected.

To his family, his widow, Joyce, and his daughters, Louise, Claire, Anne, and Sara, one can only extend one's condolences. Our hearts must go to his widow who on the day of the funeral gave us all an example of fortitude. She was probably the one who showed the least emotion when we all said goodbye to Graham.

I have known some people who knew they were going to die and had made certain arrangements but I have known of no one who has gone to the extent of putting money aside to meet the cost of refreshments following the funeral. Our late friend did that and decreed that this should happen.

As I sat with Graham only a couple of nights before he died, we looked out of the window which overlooked his beloved Port Phillip Bay. He looked out across the bay and discussed the magnificence of the sunset which on that occasion compared with one a couple of years ago. It was a real Turner sky with its yellows and flaming reds. He uttered not one word of complaint. He was a wonderful man and we can only regret his passing and express our sympathy to his wife and family at this time.

The motion was agreed to in silence, honorable members showing their unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

REPORT ON MENTAL RETARDATION.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North Western Province): I direct a question to the Minister of Health. What action does the Victorian Government

intend to take to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the interim committee on mental retardation, and will an office of mental retardation be established in Victoria as recommended by that report? If so, when?

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON (Minister of Health): The report to the Premier on mental retardation contains 137 recommendations. A large number of those recommendations have already been put into effect. Currently many of the recommendations are under examination for action. Many other recommendations will need to be considered for a much longer period, in association with the amount of money that will be available to carry them out. The Government accepts the main thrust of the report which is one for normalization and de-institutionalization, and almost all of the 137 recommendations can be related to those two principles.

Careful consideration was given to the recommendation for an office of mental retardation being a statutory body outside the control of any other department of the Government. That recommendation came in when the Health Commission was being appointed and set up and the commission is still in that process. It seemed to me most inappropriate that a responsibility which has always been one of health should at that stage be removed from health. In any case, consideration is being given and has been given for some time to the separation of mental retardation and mental health. In the Health Commission there will be a separate division of mental retardation, so in a sense the recommendation is partly achieved.

As I say, that recommendation was carefully considered and it seems to me and to others responsible for making decisions about this matter, that the field of mental retardation will be much better served by being a division of the Health Commission because it will have the back-up of a large and important Government department and a lot of other back-up as well. I and many others believe, although it is still subject to review at any time, that the mental retardation division of the Health Commission will serve the interests of the mentally retarded in the best possible way.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN BALLARAT.

The Hon. D. R. WHITE (Doutta Galla Province): I address a question to the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism. In view of the fact that there are now 48 registered young job seekers and eighteen unemployed adults to every job vacancy in Ballarat, making it clear that the Government's existing decentralization initiatives are not working for the people of Ballarat, what steps and what new initiatives does the Government intend to take to overcome the increasing problem of unemployment in Ballarat?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): I preface my reply to Mr. White's question by making it unequivocably clear that I do not accept the premise and conclusions that Mr. White has drawn of the alleged situation existing in Ballarat. I assure the House that the considerable decentralization incentives of which Ballarat is a prime example as a recipient, will continue. The unemployment situation in Ballarat and elsewhere would undoubtedly be far worse were it not for the Government's continuing decentralization efforts.

The continuing and substantial assistance remains the envy of every other State. Indeed, by way of comparison I refer the House to a recent remark by the Premier of New South Wales. From time to time Mr. White is perhaps inclined to take a little more notice of what the Premier of New South Wales says than what I say, and he is entitled to do so. However, I am inclined to take a little more notice of what the Premier of New South Wales says than what Mr. White says. During his Budget speech

the Premier of New South Wales remarked that Victoria had been far ahead of New South Wales and any other State in its decentralization programme. I am prepared to give to the House the details of the Government's assistance, particularly since the inception of the ten-point plan for decentralization in 1972. The rules of the House preclude me from doing that on this occasion, but I entirely reject the thrust of Mr. White's question.

DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

The Hon. F. S. GRIMWADE (Bendigo Province): Did the Minister for Local Government in company with the Minister of Water Supply and the Minister for Conservation in another place recently visit the Shire of McIvor to have discussions with members of the shire council? Did they discuss matters concerning the disposal of industrial waste and is the Minister prepared to tell the House the results of those discussions? Can he confirm that this disposal will not include nuclear wastes as reported in the *Bendigo Advertiser* this morning?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): I was shocked to learn that a report had appeared in the *Bendigo Advertiser* today alleging that nuclear radioactive wastes were to be disposed of at that site. There is no truth whatsoever in the suggestion; it is not under contemplation. In fact, at the meeting last week the council asked whether radioactive wastes would be disposed of at the site and was given an unequivocal answer that they would not be so disposed of.

PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF MEMBERS.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province): I ask the Minister for Local Government whether the Government is considering or has considered introducing the proposal that is being introduced in South Australia whereby members of Parliament and their families will be required to disclose or register their pecuniary or financial interests.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): The matter is currently under consideration.

PAY-ROLL TAX.

The Hon. W. A. LANDERYOU (Doutta Galla Province): I direct a question to the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism. In view of the deplorable state of employment in Victoria, particularly in rural areas, has the Government any plans to remove the current pay-roll tax which acts as a deterrent against employment in the tertiary sector of industry operating outside the metropolitan area?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The Government has no immediate plans for removing this tax, but it is a matter of record that it is the policy of the Liberal Party to do so when it is feasible, and the Premier has made this plain on more than one occasion.

Apparently Mr. Landeryou is not aware, or has conveniently forgotten, that one of the principal advantages of a manufacturing industry operating outside the metropolitan area is that it is entitled as of right to a 100 per cent rebate on pay-roll tax. Members on the other side of the House, particularly, as they do not often visit these areas, might be interested to learn that in the current fiscal year, some $18 million was reimbursed to industries in this category.

The assessment of my department of the totality of decentralization incentive in the current fiscal period is that it will be in the order of $25 million.

HOME CARE SERVICE SUBSIDY.

The Hon. B. A. CHAMBERLAIN (Western Province): I direct a question to the Minister of Health. Following the Federal Government's

unilateral decision to reduce its support for home care services from $2 to $1 to $1, will he advise whether the Victorian Government will maintain its efforts in this field, particularly in view of its aim of keeping people out of hospital?

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON (Minister of Health): The Victorian Government's intention is to maintain its full contribution to the home help service. In fact, it intends to increase it marginally from $42.70 to $43.30 for every $100 spent by municipalities on this service—a small increase, but nevertheless an increase. The contribution to municipalities for this service will not be reduced in any way.

WATER RESOURCES STUDY.

The Hon. I. B. TRAYLING (Melbourne Province): I direct a question to the Minister of Water Supply. I understand that a study is being conducted by the Water Resources Council into the investment needs of water and sewerage authorities up to the year 2000. Has that study been completed, and if so, when will the results be made known to honorable members?

The Hon. F. J. GRANTER (Minister of Water Supply): The study has not been completed. I am not fully aware of the study to which Mr. Trayling refers, but I believe it is being carried out by the Water Resources Council under the chairmanship of Mr. Hann. I will make inquiries with the Director-General of Water Resources and advise Mr. Trayling.

HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON (Minister of Health), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Health Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

SECURITIES INDUSTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Securities Industry Act 1975 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

DOMICILE BILL.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to abolish the dependent domicile of married women and otherwise to reform the law relating to domicile.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

CRIMES (COMPETENCE AND COMPELLABILITY OF SPOUSE WITNESSES) BILL.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to competence and compellability of married persons and to the privilege attaching to marital communications, to amend the Crimes Act 1958 and the Evidence Act 1958, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

COMMAND PAPER.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General) presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor, the report of the judges of the Supreme Court for the year 1977.

It was ordered that the report be laid on the table.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

WATER SUPPLY CHARGES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES.

The Hon. R. I. KNOWLES (Ballarat Province) presented the report of the Subordinate Legislation Committee on by-law No. 153, relating

to water supply charges for special purposes, Statutory Rule No. 146 of 1978.

It was ordered that the report be laid on the table.

PAPERS.

The following papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid on the table by the Clerk—

Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation—Report and accounts for the year 1975–76.

Arts Council—Report for the year 1976–77.

Education—Statement of guarantees executed by the Treasurer in respect of educational institutions for the year 1977–78.

Education Act 1958—
Primary Teachers Registration Board Regulations 1977.
Resumption of land at Riddells Creek and Shepparton—Certificates of the Minister of Education (two papers).

Exhibition Trustees—Report for the year 1977–78.

Friendly Societies—Reports of the Registrar upon Benefit Associations, Friendly Societies, Industrial and Provident Societies and Trade Unions for the years 1975–76 and 1976–77 (two papers).

Geelong Harbor Trust Commissioners—Statement of accounts for the year 1977.

Grain Elevators Board—Report for the year ended 31st October, 1976.

La Trobe University—Report of the Council, together with Statutes approved by the Governor in Council, for the year 1977 (seven papers).

Law Reform Commissioner—Report for the year 1977–78.

Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958—
Proclamation revoking a Proclamation declaring Chicory a commodity.
Proclamation declaring that Oranges, Mandarins and Grapefruit shall become the property of the Citrus Fruit Marketing Board for a further period of two years.
Proclamation declaring that Tobacco Leaf shall become the property of the Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board for a further period of two years.

Motor Accidents Board—Report for the year 1976–77.

National Fitness Council—General report of activities for the year 1977–78.

Ombudsman—Reports and recommendations *re* a complaint by J. N. Randall against the Committee of Classifiers for the Primary Schools Division.

Parliamentary Officers Act 1975—
Statements of appointments and alterations of classification in the Departments of the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly, the Library, the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates and the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly House Committee, for the year 1977–78 (five papers).
Statements of persons temporarily employed in the Departments of the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly, the Library, the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates and the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly House Committee, for the year 1977–78 (five papers).

Police Service Board—Determinations Nos. 295 to 300 (six papers).

Railways Board—Report for the quarter ended 30th June, 1978.

Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959—General abstract of live births, still-births, deaths and marriages in Victoria during the year 1977.

River Improvement Act 1958—Notice of Intention to convert the Gooramadda, Carlyle and Carlyle West Drainage Areas into a River Improvement District which is to be included in the Black Dog Creek Improvement District.

River Murray Commission—Report for the year 1977.

Science Museum—Reports of the Council for the years 1974–75 and 1975–76 (two papers).

Small Business Development Corporation—Report for the year 1977–78.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament—
Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act 1973—No. 239.
Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966—No. 242.
Agricultural Colleges Act 1958—No. 164.
Bail Act 1977—No. 299.
Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act 1970—Nos. 119 and 120.
Building Industry Long Service Leave Act 1975—No. 118.
Cemeteries Act 1958—No. 173.
Chiropodists Act 1968—No. 98.
Closer Settlement Act 1938—No. 168.
Coal Mines Act 1958—Nos. 291 and 294.
Companies Act 1961—No. 138.
Consumer Affairs Act 1972—No. 123.
Country Fire Authority Act 1958—Nos. 195, 196 and 237.
Country Roads Act 1958—No. 304.
County Court Act 1958—No. 290.
Credit Reporting Act 1978—No. 249.
Crown Proceedings Act 1958—No. 300.
Dairy Products Act 1958—No. 184.
Dental Technicians Act 1972—No. 100.
Dentists Act 1972—No. 101.
Education Act 1958—No. 251.
Egg Industry Stabilization Act 1973—No. 133.

Environment Protection Act 1970—Nos. 124 to 126, 129, 137 and 303.
Equal Opportunity Act 1977—No. 245.
Explosives Act 1960—Nos. 141 and 214.
Extractive Industries Act 1966—Nos. 258 and 292.
Finance Brokers Act 1969—No. 296.
Fisheries Act 1968—Nos. 130, 134, 143, 197, 198, 204 and 205.
Forests Act 1958—Nos. 160 and 271.
Friendly Societies Act 1958—No. 206.
Fruit and Vegetables Act 1958—No. 252.
Hairdressers Registration Act 1958—No. 250.
Health Act 1958—Nos. 94, 99, 104, 174 to 182, 217, 266 and 269.
Historic Buildings Act 1974—No. 136.
Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965—No. 102.
Housing Act 1958—No. 248.
Industrial Training Act 1975—Nos. 106, 114 to 116, 161, 163, 186, 222, 236 and 254.
Inflammable Liquids Act 1966—No. 215.
Instruments Act 1958—No. 284.
Labour and Industry Act 1958—Nos. 117, 132, 151 and 152.
Land Act 1958—No. 153.
Land Surveyors Act 1958—No. 188.
Land Tax Act 1958—No. 162.
Legal Profession Practice Act 1958—No. 150.
Liquor Control Act 1968—Nos. 212 and 256.
Local Government Act 1958—Nos. 190 to 194 and 301.
Magistrates' Courts Act 1971, Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975, Landlord and Tenant Act 1958—No. 295.
Marine Act 1958—Nos. 139, 200 to 203 and 229 to 235.
Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958—Nos. 158 and 165 to 167.
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958—Nos. 145 to 148 and 288.
Melbourne Harbor Trust Act 1958—No. 128.
Melbourne Fire Brigades Superannuation Act 1976—No. 220.
Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Act 1970—No. 275.
Mental Health Act 1959—No. 276.
Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1958—No. 240.
Mines Act 1958—Nos. 257, 259 to 263, 280 and 281.
Mining Development Act 1958—No. 293.
Ministry for the Arts Act 1972—No. 97.
Motor Boating Act 1961—No. 154.
Motor Car Act 1958—Nos. 142, 157, 183 and 265.
Motor Car Traders Act 1973—Nos. 113 and 238.
Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort Act 1972—No. 171.
National Gallery of Victoria Act 1966—No. 244.
Nurses Act 1958—No. 140.
Optometrists Registration Act 1958—No. 219.
Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968—No. 289.
Petroleum Act 1958—No. 264.
Pharmacists Act 1974—No. 103.
Physiotherapists Act 1978—No. 273.
Pipelines Act 1967—Nos. 255 and 277.
Poisons Act 1962—Nos. 105 and 267.
Police Offences Act 1958—No. 208.
Police Regulation Act 1958—Nos. 121, 155, 216, 227 and 270.
Printers and Newspapers Act 1958—No. 283.
Private Agents Act 1966—No. 213.
Property Law Act 1958—Nos. 253 and 282.
Protection of Animals Act 1966—No. 207.
Public Records Act 1973—No. 211.
Public Service Act 1974—Nos. 144, 172, 228 and 274; PSD Nos. 44, 47 and 50 to 85.
Racing Act 1958—Nos. 96, 111 and 272.
Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959—No. 210.
Religious Successory and Charitable Trusts Act 1958—No. 287.
Road Traffic Act 1958—Nos. 156 and 185.
Rural Finance and Settlement Commission Act 1961—No. 187.
Sale of Land Act 1962—No. 298.
Scaffolding Act 1971—No. 112.
Second-hand Dealers Act 1958—Nos. 189, 221, 246, 268, 278 and 279.
Seeds Act 1971—No. 241.
Shearers Accommodation Act 1976—No. 131.
Stamps Act 1958—Nos. 159 and 170.
Stock Foods Act 1958—No. 95.
Strata Titles Act 1967—No. 286.
Sunday Entertainment Act 1967—No. 209.
Supreme Court Act 1958—Nos. 107 to 110, 297 and 302.
Survey Co-ordination Act 1958—No. 199.
Taxation Appeals Act 1972—No. 169.
Teaching Service Act 1958—No. 127.
Town and Country Planning Act 1961—No. 305.
Transfer of Land Act 1958—Nos. 218 and 285.
Valuation of Land Act 1960—Nos. 135, 223 and 224.
Vegetation and Vine Diseases Act 1958—No. 243.
Victorian Film Corporation Act 1976—No. 122.
Water Act 1959—Nos. 225 and 226.
Weights and Measures Act 1958—No. 149.
Wildlife Act 1975—No. 247.

Stock Foods Act 1958—Proclamation altering the chemical standards of Bran and Pollard.

Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority—Accounts and financial statements for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

Teaching Service Act 1958—
Teaching Service (Classification, Salaries and Allowances) Regulations—Amendments Nos. 455 to 462.
Teaching Service (Teachers Tribunal) Regulations—Amendment No. 454.

Tourism—Report of the Director for the year 1976–77.

Town and Country Planning Act 1961—

Ballarat and District Planning Scheme 1966—Amendments No. 2 (Shire of Grenville); Nos. 5 and 6, 1977 (Shire of Buninyong); No. 10, 1978 (Borough of Sebastopol); and Nos. 33 and 38 (City of Ballarat) (six papers).

City of Benalla Planning Scheme—Amendments Nos. 17, 19 and 22 (three papers).

City of Camberwell Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 44, 1978.

City of Colac Planning Scheme 1963—Amendment No. 12, 1977.

City of Echuca Planning Scheme—Amendments Nos. 33, 34, 36 and 38, 1977 (four papers).

City of Frankston Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 9, 1976, with map (two papers).

City of Horsham Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 36.

City of Knox Planning Scheme 1965—Amendment Nos. 148, 177 and 187, 1977; and No. 191, 1978 (four papers).

City of Mildura Planning Scheme—Amendments Nos. 20 and 24, 1977 (two papers).

Cranbourne Planning Scheme 1960—Amendments No. 23, 1976, and No. 25, 1977 (two papers).

Lake Bellfield Planning Scheme 1968—Amendment No. 9.

Lake Glenmaggie Planning Scheme 1977—Amendment No. 2.

Maldon Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 1.

Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme—Amendments No. 21, Part 8A, with sixty-seven maps; No. 45, with map; No. 62, Part 2, with three maps, No. 64, Part 2, with five maps; No. 64, Part 2A, with map; No. 66; No. 72, Part 1, with fifty-five maps; No. 76, Part 1, with map; No. 77, Part 1, with thirteen maps; No. 77, Part 2, with map; No. 81, Part 1, with thirty-seven maps; Nos. 95, 98, 105 and 106, each with a map; and No. 108 (two hundred and forty-eight papers).

Ocean Road Planning Scheme 1955—Amendment No. 14 (Shire of Otway).

Phillip Island Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 3.

Seymour Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 37.

Shire of Benalla Planning Scheme 1953—Amendment No. 8, 1977.

Shire of Bulla Planning Scheme 1959—Amendment No. 63, 1977.

Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme 1962—Amendment No. 104, 1977.

Shire of Kilmore Planning Scheme—Amendments Nos. 20, 22, 24 and 26, 1977 (four papers).

Shire of Alexandra Planning Scheme—Amendments Nos. 1 and 3, 1977 (two papers).

Shire of Lillydale Planning Scheme 1958—Amendments No. 71, 1976, and No. 78, 1977 (two papers).

Shire of Maffra Planning Scheme (Heyfield Township)—Amendments Nos. 3 and 5, 1977, and No. 6 (three papers).

Shire of Maffra Planning Scheme (Maffra Township)—Amendment No. 16.

Shire of Mornington Planning Scheme 1959—Amendment No. 118, 1978.

Shire of Rochester (Rochester Township) Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 8.

Shire of Sherbrooke Planning Scheme 1965—Amendment No. 91, 1975.

Shire of South Gippsland Planning Scheme—Amendments Nos. 31 and 34, 1977 (two papers).

Shire of Tambo (Lakes Entrance) Planning Scheme, with maps; and Amendment No. 8 (three papers).

Shire of Werribee Planning Scheme 1963—Amendments No. 46, and Nos. 49 and 52, 1977 (three papers).

Town of Bairnsdale Planning Scheme—Amendments Nos. 15 and 17 (two papers).

Town of Stawell Planning Scheme 1963—Amendment No. 14, 1977.

Waratah Bay Planning Scheme—Amendment No. 9, 1977 (Shire of South Gippsland).

Warragul Planning Scheme 1954—Amendment No. 30, 1977.

Victoria Institute of Colleges—Summary of statement of accounts in relation to affiliated colleges for the year 1976.

Victorian Public Offices Corporation Act 1974—Report of the Corporation pursuant to sub-section (2) of section 9.

SECURITIES INDUSTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

During 1975 a review was undertaken of the Securities Industry Act of the four participating States under the Interstate Corporate Affairs Agreement—Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. As a result of this review the Securities Industry Act 1970 was repealed by the Securities Industry Act 1975, which came into operation on 1st March, 1976.

Part IX. of the 1975 Act deals with fidelity funds maintained by stock exchanges. There were no radical changes effected by the provisions in this Part, but one significant amendment was the increase from $250,000 to $500,000 of the maximum amount payable from the fidelity fund of a

stock exchange in respect of defalcations or fraudulent misuses of property by or in connection with: (*a*) a sole trader; or (*b*) a member firm.

Although the intention was simply to increase the maximum amount to $500,000, section 97 (3) of the 1975 Act was rephrased, with the unintended result that the new maximum amount of $500,000 became payable in respect of each person suffering loss.

At a meeting of the Ministerial Council held earlier this year, it was agreed that the position under the Securities Industry Act 1970—except the limitation of $250,000—should be restored. This Bill gives effect to that agreement. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

DOMICILE BILL.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

At first sight, this Bill might appear to be a Bill of little social significance because it deals with a very specialized and difficult part of the law, but in my view this is not so. It affects citizens in very important aspects of their lives.

At common law a person's domicile determines the law that is applicable to the devolution of his or her property on death, his or her capacity to marry and the whole range of matrimonial relations, and his or her liability to taxation. Domicile is also relevant in many cases where there has to be a choice as to which law will govern a person's rights and duties.

The Bill does not seek to codify the law relating to domicile but makes three fundamental changes in that law and generally does away with some of the rigidities that have developed in the application of the law.

I draw the attention of honorable members specifically to clause 4 of the Bill which determines the application of the changes in the law. The Bill will not be retrospective in its operation, so that if any question arises as to the domicile of a person at a time before this Act comes into force, it will be determined in accordance with the old law. When any question arises as to the domicile of a person after the Act comes into force, that matter will be determined as if the legislation had always been in force.

The fundamental changes that are made to the law are—

1. The rule that a married woman has at all times the domicile of her husband is abolished. This will remove the last legal incapacity, so far as I am aware, that applies to married women.

2. The rule that the domicile of origin revives upon the abandonment of a domicile of choice unless and until a new domicile of choice is acquired is abolished. The domicile of origin is the first domicile that is acquired by a person at birth. The effect of the old rule was that a person born in England of English parents and therefore domiciled in England who had migrated to Victoria and lived in Victoria for 30 years and then moved to New Zealand with no intention of returning to Victoria would become again domiciled in England unless he or she formed the intention of remaining permanently in New Zealand. It is suggested that such a result has nothing to commend it. Under the new law such a person would retain his or her Victorian domicile until another domicile of choice was acquired.

3. The rules as to capacity to acquire a domicile of choice are altered so that any married person of whatever age and any person who has attained the age of eighteen years may acquire a domicile of choice.

This is in line with the general change in the law that has recently taken place which treats persons as adults when they attain the age of eighteen years.

Clause 8 deals with the difficult questions that can arise in relation to the domicile of a child, that is, an unmarried person under the age of eighteen years, and provides that a child who has a principal home with one parent will have the domicile of that parent. Secondly, a child who is adopted will have his or her domicile determined as if the child had been born to the adoptive parents at the time of the adoption. The rules will be the same whether the parents are married or not.

The subsidiary clauses remove some undesirable developments that have taken place in the law over the centuries.

The Bill makes it clear that the intention necessary to acquire a domicile of choice is the intention to make a home indefinitely in a particular country. The present law suffers from two serious defects, namely, the excessive importance attached to the domicile of origin and the difficulties involved in proving an intention to change one's domicile. These defects are, I think, substantially demonstrated by two decisions of the House of Lords, namely, *Winans* v. *Attorney-General* (1910) A.C. p. 27 and *Ramsay* v. *Liverpool Infirmary* (1930) A.C. p. 588.

These problems are dealt with in the Bill by stating specifically that the intention that a person must have to acquire a domicile of choice is simply the intention to make a home indefinitely in a country, and by providing that the evidence that would establish a new domicile of choice if the previous domicile had been a domicile of choice will be sufficient even though the previous domicile was the domicile of origin. In other words, there is to be no peculiar difficulty in establishing a change from the domicile of origin.

The final change in the law deals with a problem that is peculiar to Federal systems. A person may be domiciled in Australia under Federal law and yet not domiciled in any State or Territory of Australia. Such a case would be that of a person who has cut ties completely with his or her homeland and migrated to Australia. The person may have no intention of ever returning to the place in which that person was domiciled, but until he or she forms the intention of living indefinitely in a particular territorial jurisdiction in Australia, for example, Victoria, that person would be in the curious situation of being treated as domiciled in Australia for the purposes of Federal law but domiciled in, say, Germany for the purposes of Victorian law.

The Bill seeks to deal with the problem of a person who has acquired an Australian domicile but not a domicile in any particular State or Territory by declaring that such a person will be domiciled in the particular State or Territory with which he or she has for the time being the closest connection.

Finally, the Bill makes consequential amendments to the Adoption of Children Act. This Bill deals with, as I have said, highly technical law and has been the subject of the deepest research in the United Kingdom and Australia for more than 30 years. The Bill results from deliberations of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General over at least ten years and is intended to be adopted in a uniform manner throughout Australia. New Zealand has collaborated closely with Australia in the development of this legislation because it is the unanimous view of the Attorneys-General that it would be better to leave the law as it is than to have different rules of law applicable in different parts of Australia. To a somewhat lesser extent, uniformity with New Zealand is also desirable. For these reasons I do not propose to recommend to the Governor in Council that this

Act should be proclaimed until similar legislation has been passed in every jurisdiction in Australia. I commend the Bill to the House.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province): I move—

That the debate be now adjourned.

I presume that the Attorney-General is able to give the House an assurance that this question of domicile does not embrace league footballers, because if it does there will be some trouble in sorting them out.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): I can give that assurance. Mr. Galbally may wish to move an amendment during the Committee stage. Then, of course, consideration will be given to that amendment.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate was agreed to, and it was ordered that the debate be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCE—UNIFORM BUILDING REGULATIONS—VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT TRAVEL AUTHORITY—DEATH CERTIFICATES—GELLIBRAND HILL NATIONAL PARK—FLUORIDATION AT HORSHAM—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—GELLIBRAND RIVER.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): By leave, I move—

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, September 19.

The motion was agreed to.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

The Hon. H. R. WARD (South Eastern Province): I raise a matter for the attention of the Attorney-General's Department. I refer to an article that appeared in the *Age* on Saturday, 2nd September, 1978, which was titled—

Jail for killer rapist.

Victim's family angered by 'lenient' sentence.

This referred to the rape and manslaughter of a Mrs. Cooper in a Hawthorn home by a Colin George Graham, aged nineteen. He was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment and ordered to serve seven years before being paroled. This means that he will be aged 26 when released. Colin George Graham acknowledged a number of prior convictions, including attempted rape, assault with intent to rape and indecent assault. In sentencing Graham, Mr. Justice King said—

It is apparent that without constant and effective supervision, you are a threat to society.

In view of this dastardly and despicable crime and the comments of Mr. Justice King, I ask the Attorney-General to appeal against the leniency of this sentence of seven years for one of the worse crimes ever committed on a person who set out to assist this man through an advertisement in a newspaper.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): This case was heard whilst I was interstate and I was not aware of the circumstances of it until I returned to Melbourne, and I was informed of it yesterday. I have sought urgent advice on whether there should be an appeal and I am expecting to receive that advice very soon. I shall inform the honorable member then whether an appeal will or will not be instituted.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province): I refer a matter of Government administration to the Minister for Local Government. I ask the Minister to explain to the House the position regarding the formulation of new Uniform Building Regulations in reference to flood heights. About three or four weeks ago there was a press statement by the Premier indicating a decision had been made. This is of great importance to cities such as Echuca, and other cities on the northern flood plains, and I ask the Minister to indicate to the House the result.

The Hon. D. R. WHITE (Doutta Galla Province): I raise a matter concerning the new Victorian Government Travel Authority. It has been referred to me by a number of the staff and it concerns positions created within the new authority. In a memorandum circulated to the staff of the new authority there was a clear indication that they would be informed of any new positions created and that these positions would be advertised throughout the community so that any intending applicant within the authority or the community could apply for them.

The staff are gravely concerned that no indication was given to them or no advertisement was made, of the position of assistant-general manager which has recently been occupied by Mr. Peter Brown, the former personal assistant to the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, Mr. Crozier. The staff are concerned and worried about their tenure and security, and the future of the authority. They are particularly concerned that future positions should be advertised widely so that everyone in the community will have a chance to apply for those positions.

I should like to know why in this case the position of assistant general manager, now occupied by Mr. Peter Brown, was not advertised within the authority or in the daily press.

The Hon. B. A. CHAMBERLAIN (Western Province): I bring to the attention of the Attorney-General, representing the Chief Secretary, a matter dealing with delays in the issuing of death certificates where the death is the subject of an inquest.

Under section 18 (2) of the Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act, provision is made for the registration of the death to await the Coroner's findings. Considerable delays between the date of death and the hearing of the matter by the coroner often occur. That is, of course, no reflection on the Coroner. Technical or other evidence often has to be prepared. Recently, a coronial inquiry was held into a bus accident that occurred eight months ago.

A problem arises where the life of the deceased person was the subject of an assurance policy. Life assurance companies will not pay out the proceeds of what can be quite large policies until they receive a full Government Statist's certificate. With some of the smaller companies this can be used as an excuse to hang on to the money, but whatever the reason the family of the deceased person faces a considerable loss because usually no interest is paid on the proceeds of the policy. If, for example, a policy in the sum of $50,000 is not paid for six or eight months, the family concerned suffers a substantial loss.

My question is whether an investigation can be held into the desirability of amending the legislation to provide for the issue of interim death certificates, which could simply state that a particular person died on a particular date. In some cases that will not be sufficient to satisfy the full ramifications of particular policies—for instance, where extra benefits are payable in the event of accidental death—but at least interim payment of the basic cover could then be made.

The only other circumstance that would interest a life assurance company would arise in the case of death by suicide. Some policies exempt payment in the event of suicide, but those policies usually stipulate that the suicide must take place within a short period of the issue of the policy.

A procedure such as I suggest under the Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act would assist families faced with this unfortunate situation, and I ask the Attorney-General to advise me on this matter.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry): Order! The Attorney-General may answer that question if he chooses, but as it is fairly long and

complicated it may be that the honorable gentleman will prefer to do so in writing.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province): I raise two important points that have been brought to my attention by citizens of the Shire of Bulla in recent months. One of the matters concerns the Government's intentions about the Gellibrand Hill National Park. The Government has acquired most of the land concerned, and the remainder is owned by Factors Ltd. An announcement concerning the proposed national park was made in 1974, but the situation has been frozen since then. This area is a magnificent tract of land containing superb gum trees in untouched country. It is one of the most beautiful areas near Melbourne that remains unspoiled.

I understand that the Government's intentions are acceptable to the local community but the people want to know when the Government intends taking some action. This is a question of great importance to many people in the Shire of Bulla. The next matter——

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry): Order! I remind the honorable member that on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting it is permissible to raise only one matter.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT: I apologize, Mr. President. The one I have raised will be sufficient.

The Hon. K. I. WRIGHT (North Western Province): I raise a matter of Government administration relating to the fluoridation of a water supply. This matter comes within the ambit of the Health Fluoridation Act, and I refer to a direction issued by the Department of Health to the Horsham Water Trust instructing the trust to have the water supply at Horsham fluoridated by 1st July, 1980. Immediately after receipt of the instruction there was a great deal of consternation amongst the local people. The instruction was issued by the department without members of the local community having had an opportunity of voting on the issue.

Following a request from the Horsham Anti-fluoridation Committee, a poll was conducted by Horsham City Council at the time of the council election in August this year. Ninety-seven per cent of ratepayers voting at the election cast a vote in the poll and of those 84 per cent voted against fluoridation. A deputation then met with Horsham City Council, which decided unanimously to approach the State Government to have the Health Fluoridation Act repealed.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. W. G. Fry): Order! This is almost becoming a speech on the subject of fluoridation in Horsham. I understand what the honorable member is saying, but I ask him to come to the point of his question to the Minister.

The Hon K. I. WRIGHT: I am just coming to that now. The Horsham City Council decided unanimously to approach the State Government and request that fluoridation not be instituted without a poll of the ratepayers.

I ask the Minister of Health to take this into account and to recommend to the State Government that it gives consideration to the great indication of public support for a poll and recommend that the Act be amended accordingly.

The Hon. W. A. LANDERYOU (Doutta Galla Province): I raise a matter of considerable concern to myself, if not to other honorable members of this House. I direct the matter to the attention of the Leader of the House. The House is now meeting for the first time in many months, yet there has been virtually no Government business presented to the House. We must have one of the best jobs in the world! We knock off before the May school holidays and come back after the September school holidays.

The question I pose is whether the Government intends to continue to call members of the House together when it has nothing to put forward as Government business to be debated by the House as a House of review or to be dealt with as proposed legislation initiated by a Minister in this House arising from his own department or his own areas of responsibility. This is particularly important in view of the outstanding Bills on the Notice Paper, one of which will allow interest rates of 48 per cent.

The Hon. GLYN JENKINS (Geelong Province): I direct a matter to the attention of the Minister of Water Supply. The honorable gentleman will recall that during the last sessional period I raised the question of an inquiry into the water resources of the Gellibrand River and their eventual allocation. At that time the Minister indicated that the matter would be referred to Public Works Committee of the Parliament. I asked the honorable gentleman whether that reference has yet been made and when the Public Works Committee is likely to initiate the inquiry.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): I shall deal first with the question raised by Mr. Landeryou concerning the sittings of the House. As the honorable member is well aware, the majority of Bills must, because they contain financial provisions, be initiated in another place and cannot be initiated in this Chamber. Many of those Bills will follow the Budget tomorrow, but they will not be dealt with here until they have been dealt with in the Legislative Assembly.

However, the Government proposes to put forward a change to the Constitution to enable a greater amount of proposed legislation to be initiated in this House and to enable the presentation of proposed legislation where financial conditions are ancillary only and do not go to the root of the Bill. This should, if the proposal is adopted, facilitate the smooth running of the two Houses, rather than ensuring that this House has a rush at the end of the sessional period and a paucity of business at the beginning of the period.

I point out that two Government Bills have been introduced today and that either notice has been given or first readings have taken place for a number of others. We will, therefore, be able to debate those Bills in the near future. With respect to the five items of Government business listed on the Notice Paper, the first must be dealt with by the Statute Law Revision Committee before the debate can be resumed here. Items 2, 3 and 4 are major Bills, and comment from the whole community has been sought before those Bills can be proceeded with.

The Government was prepared to proceed with the fifth item tonight, but I was advised that the member in charge of the Bill for the Labor Party was not ready.

I hope the amendment to The Constitution Act, which I have foreshadowed, will meet with general acceptance. I am sure that it will assist greatly in the organization of the business of the Parliament.

Mr. McDonald refered to flood-prone lands. Obviously, the honorable member is well aware of the Premier's press statement last month which dealt with quite a number of related issues. The first related to amendments to clause 1701 of the Uniform Building Regulations. The amendments have now been completed in what the Government hopes will be their final form. They are with Parliamentary Counsel for final checking of the verbiage and form as to certainty. As recently as this afternoon, I have given instructions to expedite the finalization of the amendments so that the Premier's assurance to bring the amendments into effect this month can be honoured.

It is hoped that, on the same day as the amendments come into force, the proclamation concerning section

205 of the Health Act will take place. This section precludes the construction of any dwellings on land which may be flood prone.

Furthermore, a volume on guidelines concerning flood-plane management has been produced under the auspices of the Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply, following comments by municipalities throughout the State upon the draft documents. This has now been finalized and is being reprinted in final form for publication. The Government has accepted it as a set of guidelines and not as an invariable policy because the Government recognizes that the approach must vary to meet differing circumstances in different areas, and that local government should have a more effective say in determining the conditions that shall apply in a particular area.

Moreover, amendments are envisaged to the Drainage of Land Act to enable the delegation of some powers of water authorities to the local municipality and thus avoid the possibility of conflict. The Premier's statement also indicated that guidelines to the management of different catchments would progressively be developed as technology and resources permitted.

All in all, it has been an effort to bring together many different departments so that a common approach can be adopted on the vexed question of flood-plane management. The Government is very pleased with the high degree of co-ordination that has been achieved.

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): Mr. White asked for an assurance that in future the newly formed Victorian Government Travel Authority, before making any appointments, would ensure that such positions were widely advertised. Naturally, I can give no such assurance and the reason for the unequivocal rebuttal is quite simple. Were the travel authority part of the Public Service, then the normal procedure of advertising, appeals and so on would apply. However, the whole rationale of removing the Government's marketing arm of tourism from the umbrella of the Public Service was to give it the entrepreneural bite and zest which would not apply if it were within it.

It is extraordinary that Mr. White should raise the question except for the one small coincidence that Mr. Peter Browne, the officer of the travel authority to whom he refers, was previously my personal assistant. I was fortunate to inherit him from the staff of my predecessor, the Honorable Murray Byrne. Mr. Browne served both Mr. Byrne and myself with great diligence and effect.

When the position he now holds became vacant, Mr. Browne told me that he was applying for it. Naturally, I was reluctant to lose his services. Needless to say, I would not stand in his way knowing that he wished to pursue his career in the travel industry for which he was obviously well suited.

I find it necessary to remind the House of some other essential features of the new travel authority. Section 12 of the Act establishing the authority makes it quite plain that those officers who were officers of the former Victorian Government Tourist Bureau, who elected to continue on with the authority, had the usual portability of entitlement which applies to other similar statutory bodies. In other words, if they wished, and when they wished, they were eligible for reappointment by the Public Service Board.

Section 15 (2) of the Act makes it very plain that officers and employees who join the authority without that eligibility will not, by virtue of their employment, be subject to the Public Service Act. Therefore, whilst there is still this entitlement for those officers who decide to remain with the new authority, having been formerly officers of the Victorian Government Tourist Bureau, the entitlement does not apply to new officers.

This is pertinent to the establishment of the new authority. The authority has been given wide discretionary powers of management, subject of course to the usual provisions and general control by the responsible Minister, who is the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism. Indeed, it would be contrary to the concept and the aims of the new authority which I believe were succinctly spelt out in the Minister's second-reading speech on the Bill to establish the authority. I understood that it was accepted by all parties in this place that the authority should not be subjected to the sort of control and inhibitions that apply to a Government department.

Therefore, it is entirely at the discretion of the management whether it advertises a position in the same way that it is up to the management of any public or private company to decide whether it advertises an executive position. Again, the acid test, as I have said publicly before, is the performance of the authority and that performance can only be retarded if the sort of provisions that Mr. White talks about were indeed a fact.

I know that there is some disquiet amongst some members of the Public Service who chose to remain with the new authority. My advice to those members who are still employed is to avail themselves of the entitlements under section 12 of the Act and to get back under the umbrella of the Public Service. In other words, they ought to act on the principle that applies in private enterprise generally: If they do not like the heat, get out of the kitchen.

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON (Minister of Health): In regard to the matter raised by Mr. Wright, when the request comes from the Horsham area, it will certainly be considered.

The Hon. F. J. GRANTER (Minister of Water Supply): Concerning the matter raised by Mr. Jenkins and the proposed inquiry by the Public Works Committee, as I said previously when he raised this matter, I felt that there may be other competing interests for the water resources. Accordingly, I have referred the matter to the Premier with suggested terms of reference for inquiry by the Public Works Committee.

I reminded the Premier only recently of the proposed inquiry and asked him to refer it to the Public Works Committee, and I hope this will take place at an early date.

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): In answer to the matter raised by Mr. Chamberlain, it seems most unfortunate that people may be delayed in receiving payments under insurance policies because of an inability to issue a death certificate until an inquest is held. One can understand that the full death certificate cannot be issued until the Coroner has made his decision on the cause of death. There may also be certain types of insurance policies in which the cause of death is an essential element in determining what liability, if any, an insurance company has. Nonetheless, I believe the matter should be examined, as Mr. Chamberlain has suggested, and I will draw it to the attention of the Chief Secretary and ask him whether he can institute an inquiry to determine whether there is some method of easing this problem.

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): With your permission, Mr. President, I must apologize to Mr. Elliot. I was so preoccupied with the matter to which I previously referred in response to Mr. White's question that I completely forgot that Mr. Elliot had also asked a question about a national park. I assure him that I will refer the matter to my colleague, the responsible Minister.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.32 *p.m. until Tuesday, September* 19.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN WESTERN PROVINCE.

(Question No. 8)

The Hon. B. A. CHAMBERLAIN (Western Province) asked the Attorney-General, for the Minister of Education—

(*a*) How many students attend technical schools in the Western Province, and how many teachers are available to each of those schools?

(*b*) What capital expenditure is planned at each of those schools in the year 1977–78?

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): The Minister of Education has advised the honorable member by letter dated 11th September, 1978, as follows—

(*a*)

School	Enrolment full-time	Enrolment TAFE full-time	Enrolment TAFE part-time	Teaching staff equivalent full-time
Ararat	301	..	233	38·1
Cobden	418	..	37	48.5
Hamilton	524	41	564	72·8
Portland	400	12	156	46·1
Stawell	310	28	189	41·9
Warrnambool	927	..	257	93·8
Warrnambool North	476	..	367	60·3

(*b*) At Hamilton Technical School the gymnasium is under construction and at Portland Technical School the relocatable woolclassing building was sited last financial year. The following projects are proposed at schools as indicated but the carrying out of these works will be subject to availability of funds.

Hamilton Technical School	Joint music block
Hamilton High School	
Warrnambool North Technical School ..	Joint-use library
Warrnambool High School	
Warrnambool North Technical School ..	Gymnasium
Casterton High School—technical component	Relocatable complex
Warrnambool North Technical School ..	Class-room modifications and additions
Hamilton High School	
Hamilton Technical School	Joint home economics facility

HIGH SCHOOLS IN WESTERN PROVINCE.

(Question No. 14)

The Hon. B. A. CHAMBERLAIN (Western Province) asked the Attorney-General, for the Minister of Education—

(*a*) How many students attend high schools in the Western Province, and how many teachers are available to each of those schools?

(*b*) What capital expenditure is planned at each of those schools in the year 1977–78?

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

(*a*)

School	Enrolment	No. of teachers at 6th March, 1978
Apollo Bay Higher Elementary School	135	18·6
Ararat High School	596	45·5
Balmoral High School ..	150	18·4
Camperdown High School ..	508	38·8
Casterton High School ..	502	38·6
Derrinallum High School ..	207	25·2
Edenhope High School ..	251	27·0
Hamilton High School ..	652	49·2
Hawkesdale High School ..	182	22·5
Heywood High School ..	181	24·5
Lake Bolac High School ..	226	25·6
Lavers Hill Community School	58	9·4
Mortlake High School ..	212	27·6
Portland High School ..	382	32·2
Stawell High School ..	494	38·8
Terang High School.. ..	359	32·0
Timboon High School ..	396	33·2
Warrnambool High School ..	851	60·0

(*b*) In respect of capital expenditures—

Extensions to the assembly hall at Ararat High School at an estimated cost of $63,000 are under construction.

Cyclic maintenance at a cost of $53,000 was carried out at Camperdown High School.

Repair works and general painting at a cost of $51,000 was completed at Casterton High School.

Art–craft, needlework, book store, staff improvements and general conversion works are due for tendering shortly at Edenhope High School.

At Portland High School staff improvements at an estimated cost of $54,000 are under construction.

And at Terang High School an assembly hall at a cost of $311,000 was occupied.

PRISONS ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(Question No. 43)

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Thomastown Province) asked the Minister of Health, for the Minister for Social Welfare—

(*a*) How many times did the Prisons Advisory Council meet during 1977?

(*b*) What were the attendances of each member?

(*c*) Where did each meeting take place, and for what duration?

(*d*) How much was each member paid in travelling allowances, and how much did each receive in other fees?

(*e*) How many reports have been submitted to the Minister?

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON (Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister for Social Welfare is—

(*a*) During 1977, the Prisons Advisory Council met on twenty occasions.

(*b*) On the 20 meetings, four members attended on all occasions, one member attended 19 meetings, one member attended 18 meetings, one member attended 17 meetings, one member attended 9 meetings and one member attended 7 meetings.

(*c*) Of the 20 meetings, 6 took place in the Social Welfare Department's Conference Rooms, 4 took place in the professional rooms of one of the council members, Dr. D. Barnes, 2 at Pentridge Prison, 2 in prisons in Queensland, one at Bendigo Prison, one at a motel in Bendigo, one at "J" ward of Ararat Mental Hospital, one at Ararat Prison, one at a motel in Ararat and one at Langi Kal Kal Youth Training Centre.

The duration of meetings varied, however the average time amounted to approximately three hours for each.

(*d*) It is not practical to indicate precisely the amounts that members were paid in travelling allowances as they are reimbursed for various costs including travelling and accommodation simultaneously. Amounts paid to each member for 1977 are as follows —(The chairman is entitled to a fee of $1,000 per annum and all members receive $20 for each meeting attended).

	Fees	*Expenses*
Mr. E. D. Lloyd	$1,340	$121.80
Mrs. C. Benjamon	400	31.80
Dame Phyllis Frost	360	157.95
Mr. N. D. Banner	380	160.00
Dr. D. T. Barnes	180	42.00
Mr. D. Hundley	400	180.00
Mr. S. W. Johnston	400	125.00
Mr. J. L. McArdle	400	141.10
Mr. P. Lynn	200	90.00
Mr. J. Dawes	140	80.00

(Mr. Dawes succeeded Mr. Lynn as Director of Prisons during 1977 and as such also replaced him as a member of the council.)

(*e*) During the year, the council submitted advice to me on 35 instances.

MOTOR CAR EXHAUST SYSTEMS.

(Question No. 92)

The Hon. J. V. C. GUEST (Monash Province) asked the Minister of Water Supply, for the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

(*a*) Is the Minister for Minerals and Energy aware of attachments to or integral parts of exhaust systems for motor cars which can be economically used to remove a substantial part of the lead from the exhaust of cars using petrol with a high lead content?

(*b*) Has it been shown that such devices aid the conservation of oil resources by making it less necessary to prohibit the use of substantial amounts of lead in motor fuel for the prevention of dangerous air pollution?

(*c*) What steps has the Government taken, and what steps will it take, to make the fitting of such devices compulsory?

The Hon. F. J. GRANTER (Minister of Water Supply): The answer supplied by the Minister for Minerals and Energy is—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Australian Design Rule 27A and its implications for energy conservation is currently under examination by the Australian Transport Advisory Council on which this State is represented.

SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMMES.

(Question No. 109)

The Hon. K. I. WRIGHT (North Western Province) asked the Attorney-General, for the Minister of Education—

(*a*) Does the Education Department intend to remove the social studies course "Man: A Course of Study" (MACOS) from the Victorian State school system following its removal from Queensland schools?

(*b*) Has the use of Social Education Materials Project (SEMP) been authorized in the Victorian school system; if so, will SEMP be withdrawn from use in Victorian State schools?

(*c*) Will the philosophy and content of SEMP be investigated?

(*d*) Will the use of Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) resource materials be authorized?

(*e*) How many schools have introduced or intend introducing the social studies programme MACOS in their curriculum?

(*f*) To what extent do curriculum planners follow Unesco quidelines?

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): The Minister of Education has advised the honorable member by letter dated 3rd August, 1978, as follows—

(*a*) No. MACOS is an alternative program in social studies that can be used in Victorian primary schools. Schools have the responsibility, within broad guidelines developed by the Education Department, of providing education programmes which cater for the intellectual, emotional, social, aesthetic and physical growth of students. Thus the decision to use MACOS in a school rests with that school. However, it is expected that parents would be given the opportunity to become familiar with the materials and the teaching methods employed before they are adopted and that teachers would have received suitable training in the use of such materials before they attempt to use them in class.

(*b*) Individual secondary schools are free to use SEMP if they believe that the materials and activities associated with them contribute to the educational programmes currently being provided for their students. However, because some units examine issues that are potentially controversial schools are advised that parents should be informed and consulted before the materials are integrated into courses and that teachers should undertake inservice training in the handling of such issues so that students who support a minority view are safeguarded. Varying value positions must be respected.

(*c*) SEMP is a national project in which all State Education departments, including Victoria, co-operated. The Headmasters' Conference of New South Wales was also involved. Eight teams of teachers produced the materials. Two of these teams were Victorian and the national co-ordinator of the project was Mr. Colin Tonkin, formerly a member of the Board of Inspectors of Secondary Schools. The materials were trialed and evaluated in a number of Victorian schools, both government and non-government.

(*d*) The final decision whether to use Curriculum Development Centre materials will rest with individual schools. However, all C.D.C. projects are advised by panels of highly qualified people and carried out with the co-operation of State education departments. This procedure helps to ensure that the materials produced are educationally sound.

(*e*) Currently 49 Victorian schools are using MACOS materials. These schools include primary, secondary, government and non-government.

(*f*) I am not aware of the UNESCO guidelines which may be useful for curriculum planning.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

(Question No. 137)

The Hon. Dr. FOLEY (Boronia Province) asked the Minister for Local Government for the Chief Secretary—

(*a*) Is the list of 210 Government instrumentalities classified according to function, appearing on pages 151 to 153 of the 1977 *Victorian Year Book*, a complete record of statutory bodies created by or under State legislation to carry out activities on behalf of the Victorian Government, or incorporated organizations in which the State Government has a controlling interest; if not, what was the complete list of such organizations as at 30th June, 1977?

(*b*) What was the gross expenditure for the fiscal year 1976–77 for each of those organizations?

(*c*) What proportion of the total funds expended by each authority in the fiscal year 1976–77 was appropriated from the Consolidated Fund?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

(*a*) I am advised that the list of Government instrumentalities as published in the 1977 *Victorian Year Book*, was compiled up to November, 1975. The list of such instrumentalities compiled as at January, 1977,

is to be included in the 1978 *Year Book* which will be published by September, 1978.

(*b*) and (*c*) This information is not available to me.

HAMILTON–HORSHAM RAILWAY.

(Question No. 148)

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism—

In relation to the Hamilton–Balmoral–Noradjuha–Horsham railway between the perimeters of the railway yards at Hamilton and Horsham (not including the immediate environs of those places)—

(*a*) What was the actual expenditure in each of the financial years from 1970–71 to 1976–77 on—(i) salaries and/or wages of railway personnel located at places along the railway; (ii) salaries and/or wages of railway personnel engaged on maintenance of the railway line and its associated sidings, equipment and buildings; (iii) salaries and/or wages of crews operating trains travelling from Hamilton to Horsham, or vice versa, or between either of those places and points in between; (iv) materials and/or equipment for maintenance of the railway line and its associated sidings, equipment and buildings; and (v) capital works along the line?

(*b*) In each of those financial years, what was the revenue collected as a result of—(i) passengers carried from or to stations along the railway; (ii) freight carried from or to places along the railway; and (iii) freight carried over the railway but which originated from, or was destined for, places other than those between Hamilton and Horsham along the railway line?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that the detailed information sought by the honorable member is not readily available in the form requested.

According to the board it would be a sizeable task, involving a considerable number of man-hours, to provide the information in the form requested. However, I invite the honorable member to contact me and I will make arrangements for him to discuss this matter with railway management.

VICRAIL RESIDENCES.

(Question No. 149)

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism—

(*a*) How many residences were owned and how many were leased by VicRail or by other Government instrumentalities to accommodate railway personnel necessary to operate and to maintain the railway between Hamilton and Horsham via Balmoral and Noradjuha in each of the years 1960, 1965, 1970 and 1975, and where are, or where were the residences located?

(*b*) If the number of residences owned or leased in 1978 is less than the number in 1960—(i) which particular residences have been disposed of; and (ii) how were they disposed of and, if they were previously owned, what price was paid for the sale, removal or demolition in each case?

(*c*) Of the residences in existence as at the 31st March, 1978—(i) which are occupied by railway personnel; (ii) which are vacant, and what is intended to be done with each of those residences; and (iii) which are occupied by non-railway personnel, and what revenue is being obtained in each case?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

(*a*) All of the houses detailed below were owned by the Victorian Railways Board at the date shown. The board's records do not indicate whether the employees occupying these houses were utilized solely on the operation or maintenance of the Balmoral line.

	1960	1965	1970	1975
Horsham	10	10	11	11
Quantong	1	1	1	..
Toolondo	2	2	2	1
Balmoral	7	6	6	5
Cavendish	3	3	3	3
Hamilton	15	19	21	21
	38	41	44	41

I understand that neither the board nor any other Government instrumentality has leased houses for the accommodation of railway staff in this area.

(*b*) Details of the disposals are as follows—

Location	Residence No.	Means of disposal	Sale price
			$
Horsham	2833	Sold for removal	217
Quantong	1463	Sold in situation	400
Toolondo	1941	Sold for removal	350
Toolonda	1942	Sold for removal	450
Balmoral	2338	Sold for removal	1,500
Balmoral	2349	Sold for removal	550
Balmoral	2350	Sold for removal	619
Balmoral	2351	Sold for removal	503
Balmoral	2352	Sold for removal	612
Balmoral	3352	Relocated to Hamilton	—
Cavendish	2242	Sold for removal	505
Cavendish	2243	Sold for removal	2,105
Cavendish	2244	Sold for removal	610
Hamilton	2370	Sold for removal	1,500
Hamilton	2446	Sold in situation	11,000

(c) Details of residences owned by the board in the area referred to as at 31 March, 1978.

(i) and (ii).

Location	Residence No.	Occupant	Rental per week	Proposed action
			$	
Horsham	1465	Victorian Railway employe	8.80	
	1914	Victorian Railway employe	Free	
	2941	Victorian Railway employe	9.45	
	3905	Victorian Railway employe	13.75	
	3941	Victorian Railway employe	14.65	
	3978	Victorian Railway employe	13.75	
	1907	Vacant		For staff on transfer
	2490	Vacant		For staff on transfer
	3023	Vacant		For staff on transfer
	4390	Vacant		For staff on transfer
	4427	Vacant		To be sold in situation
Balmoral	4119	Victorian Railway employe	13.40	
Hamilton	1707	Victorian Railway employe	8.75	
	2120	Victorian Railway employe	Free	
	2517	Victorian Railway employe	8.20	
	2543	Victorian Railway employe	8.50	
	3323	Victorian Railway employe	11.85	
	3352	Victorian Railway employe	13.75	
	3831	Victorian Railway employe	14.30	
	4017	Victorian Railway employe	14.30	
	4121	Victorian Railway employe	13.75	
	4135	Victorian Railway employe	14.15	
	4152	Victorian Railway employe	13.75	
	4157	Victorian Railway employe	14.65	
	4158	Victorian Railway employe	14.30	
	4267	Victorian Railway employe	13.75	
	4348	Victorian Railway employe	13.75	
	2239	Vacant		Awaiting occupant
	2391	Vacant		Future being assessed with a view to sale
	4167	Vacant		For staff on transfer
	4367	Vacant		Future being assessed with a view to sale

(iii) There are no houses in the area referred to occupied by non-railway personnel.

CARRIAGE OF SUPERPHOSPHATE.

(Question No. 150)

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, for the Minister of Transport—

(*a*) How many road truck loads of superphosphate have been carried between 1st January, 1977, and 31st March, 1978, by contractors to VicRail from Portland to Kanawalla, Kyup, Cavendish, Gatum, Vasey, Jallumba, Englefield, Balmoral, Konagulk, Jefferies, Toolondo, Noradjuha, East Natimuk, Horsham or to other points along or in the vicinity of the Hamilton–Balmoral–Horsham railway, and to Coleraine, Natimuk, Arapiles, Mitre, Gymbowen, Goroke, Mortat, Carpolac, Vectis, Remlaw Siding, Dooen, Jung, Murtoa, Pimpinio, Wail, Dimboola, Gerang Gerung, Kiata, Salisbury, Nhill, Tarranginnie, Diapur, Miram, Kaniva, Lillimur, Serviceton, Arkona, Antwerp, Tarranyurk, Jeparit, Ellam, Pullut, Rainbow, Albacutya, Yaapeet, Detpa, Lorquon, Netherby, Yanac, Minyip, Nullan, Sheephills, Warracknabeal, Lah, Brim, Galaquil, Beulah, Rosebery, Goyura, Hopetoun, Yarto, and Patchewollock, respectively, and what was the tonnage of each road truck load?

(*b*) What revenue was collected by VicRail for each road truck load, that is, what was the amount actually paid by the consignees in each case?

(*c*) What was the actual cost to VicRail for each road truck load, that is, what was the actual amount VicRail paid the contractor(s) for each road truck load?

(*d*) Did contracted road trucks carrying superphosphate from Portland to each of those places return empty or are the contractors able to obtain return loadings; if so, what was the nature of the return freight and was it carried under contract to VicRail?

(*e*) Were any contracted road trucks, either when carrying superphosphate from Portland or on their return trips involved in road accidents; if so, what was the extent of the accidents, and what was the cost in each case?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

(*a*) I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that during the period referred to the number of truck loads of superphosphate which were carted from Portland to the following locations by road contract carrier were—

Location	Truck loads	Average Tonnage per load
Balmoral	63	19·5
Casterton	108	23·5
Cavendish	111	18.5
Coleraine	12	16·5
Englefield	37	18.7
Gatum	11	19.7
Jallumba	32	24.5
Jeffries	11	20·4
Kanagulk	29	18·4
Kanawalla	3	10·7
Kyup	16	20·0
Woolsthorpe	6	25·0

There have been no road contract deliveries of superphosphate to the other locations mentioned.

(*b*) The average amount paid by consignees for each truck load is as follows—

Location	Average paid per truck load $
Balmoral	96.53
Casterton	92.76
Cavendish	74.50
Coleraine	77.20
Englefield	89.91
Gatum	102.24
Jallumba	128.27
Jeffries	119.13
Kanagulk	95.96
Kanawalla	75.13
Kyup	65.19
Woolsthorpe	122.50

(*c*) The Victorian Railways Board regards contractual arrangements between the board and its clients as confidential.

(*d*) The terms of the contracts with the road truck contractors are not restrictive in relation to return loading. The board is not aware of the extent to which its contracted road operators take advantage of this.

(*e*) The board is not aware of any accidents involving its contracted road trucks either carrying superphosphate from or returning to Portland.

EDUCATION BUILDING WORKS.

(Question No. 154)

The Hon. D. M. EVANS (North Eastern Province) asked the Attorney-General, for the Minister of Education.

What amount was allocated by the Education Department in each of the past two financial years for major building works—(i) in Victoria; and (ii) in each of the country regions?

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

MAJOR BUILDING WORKS IN VICTORIA

Year	Allocation
1976–77	$68.2 million
1977–78	$58.7 million

MAJOR BUILDING WORKS IN REGIONS

(ii)

Year	Allocation
1976–77	$million
Regions—	
Western Metropolitan Region ..	7.98
Northern Metropolitan Region ..	10.57
Central Metropolitan Region ..	3.62
Eastern Metropolitan Region ..	12.62
South Eastern Metropolitan Region	12.62
Gippsland Region	3.14
Benalla Region..	4.23
Bendigo Region	3.82
Geelong Region	5.73
Ballarat Region	2.39
Horsham Region	1.50

Year	Allocation
1977–78	$million
Regions—	
Western Metropolitan Region ..	6.996
Northern Metropolitan Region ..	9.268
Central Metropolitan Region ..	3.169
Eastern Metropolitan Region ..	10.062
South Eastern Metropolitan Region	11.062
Gippsland Region	2.751
Benalla Region..	3.707
Bendigo Region	3.349
Geelong Region	5.023
Ballarat Region	2.093
Horsham Region	1.316

LANGI KAL KAL EDUCATION CENTRE.

(Question No. 155)

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Thomastown Province) asked the Minister of Health, for the Minister for Social Welfare—

When will a special education teacher and a sheet metal teacher be appointed to the Langi Kal Kal education centre?

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON (Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister for Social Welfare is—

Langi Kal Kal Special School has an establishment of four teachers and there had been a vacancy in one position for a considerable time. However, a fourth teacher commenced duty at the school on 8th May, 1978, giving it a full complement.

The person who filled the position of sheet metal instructor finished duty on 17th February, 1978. Prior to that date the position was advertised in the Public Service Notices, and local and metropolitan press. Applicants were interviewed in January but none were found to be suitable. Further advertisements were placed, however again interviews conducted in April revealed no suitable applicant. The department will readvertise once again.

Whilst several of the applicants met the trade qualifications, none so far have fitted the needs for control and supervision of delinquent youths. Obviously this is an important consideration in such a position.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR MILL PARK, BUNDOORA.

(Question No. 158)

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Thomastown Province) asked the Attorney-General, for the Minister of Education—

What are the dates of commencement and completion, respectively of the proposed primary school to be erected at Mill Park, Bundoora?

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

The Minister of Education has advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978, that the commencement and completion dates of the proposed Mill Park Primary School have not been determined. The construction schedule for the school will be dependent on the availability of funds. Following the announcement of the State Budget in September a reassessment of priorities will be made and the situation regarding this proposed school will become clearer.

EDUCATION STAFF.

(Question No. 161)

The Hon. GLYN JENKINS (Geelong Province) asked the Attorney-General, for the Minister of Education—

How many women were on confinement leave in each of the divisions of the Education Department as at the 31st March, 1978?

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

There were 2,264 teachers on confinement leave on the 4th April, 1978 as follows—

Professional	15
Classified Teachers	
Primary	1,349
Secondary	490
Technical	117
Temporary Teachers	
Primary	76
Secondary	147
Technical	70
Total	2,264

RAIL FREIGHT.

(Question No. 165)

The Hon. K. I. WRIGHT (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, for the Minister of Transport—

(*a*) What is the average size, in terms of total tonnage and number of wagons, of trains carrying grain (exclusively or mainly) which have arrived in Portland in the past ten years?

(*b*) What is the amount of fuel consumed by, and what is the cost of fuel required to run, the average size grain train from Horsham to Portland—(i) via Noradjuha, Balmoral and Hamilton; and (ii) via Ararat and Hamilton?

(*c*) What is the actual cost of paying the crew, and of paying other railway personnel necessary to run the average size grain train from Horsham to Portland—(i) via Noradjuha, Balmoral and Hamilton; and (ii) via Ararat and Hamilton?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that the detailed information sought by the honorable member is not readily available in the form requested.

According to the board it would be a sizeable task, involving a considerable number of manhours, to provide the information in the form requested. The board's estimate of the time required to answer this, and other related questions also on the Notice Paper, is 500 man-hours.

However, I invite the honorable member to contact me and I will make arrangements for him to discuss this matter with railways management.

(Question No. 166)

The Hon. K. I. WRIGHT (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, for the Minister of Transport—

In respect of each of the financial years from 1967–68 to 1977–78 (to 31st March)—

(*a*) How many trains, exclusively or mainly loaded with grain, travelled fully loaded from Horsham to Portland—(i) via Ararat and Hamilton; and (ii) via Balmoral and Hamilton?

(*b*) How many trains, exclusively or mainly intended for grain, travelled partly loaded at Horsham but added to their loads of grain *en route* from Horsham to Portland—(i) via Ararat and Hamilton; and (ii) via Balmoral and Hamilton?

(*c*) How many grain trains (loaded, or to be loaded *en route*) travelled from Horsham—(i) to Melbourne; (ii) to Geelong; and (iii) to Adelaide?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that the detailed information sought by the honorable member is not readily available in the form requested.

According to the board it would be a sizeable task, involving a considerable number of man-hours, to provide the information in the form requested. The board's estimate of the time required to answer this, and other related questions also on the Notice Paper, is 500 man-hours.

However, I invite the honorable member to contact me and I will make arrangements for him to discuss this matter with railways management.

(Question No. 167)

The Hon. K. I. WRIGHT (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, for the Minister of Transport—

What was the nature of freight carried from Portland in trains which carried grain to Portland in each of the financial years from 1967–68 to 1977–78 (to 31st March), and what percentage of full train loads did backloading freight represent?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that the detailed information sought by the honorable member is not readily available in the form requested.

According to the board it would be a sizeable task, involving a considerable number of man-hours, to provide the information in the form requested. The board's estimate of the time required to answer this, and other related questions also on the Notice Paper, is 500 man-hours.

However, I invite the honorable member to contact me and I will make arrangements for him to discuss this matter with railways management.

RAILWAY STAFF.

(Question No. 168)

The Hon. K. I. WRIGHT (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, for the Minister of Transport—

How many railway personnel (and dependants of railway personnel) necessary to run trains on, to man stations along, and otherwise to man and/or to maintain railway installations along, the railway connecting Horsham with Hamilton via East Natimuk, Noradjuha and Balmoral, were resident as at 31st March, 1958, 31st March, 1968, and 31st March, 1978, respectively, in Horsham, East Natimuk, Noradjuha, Jallumba, Toolando, Jeffries, Kanagulk, Balmoral, Englefield, Vasey, Gatum, Cavendish, Kyup, Kanawalla and Hamilton, respectively, and other places, giving the names and locations?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that the detailed information sought by the honorable member is not readily available in the form requested.

According to the board it would be a sizeable task, involving a considerable number of man-hours, to provide the information in the form requested. The board's estimate of the time required to answer this, and other related questions also on the Notice Paper, is 500 man-hours.

However, I invite the honorable member to contact me and I will make arrangements for him to discuss this matter with railways management.

RAIL FREIGHT.

(Question No. 170)

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, for the Minister of Transport—

(*a*) What is the amount of fuel consumed by, and what is the cost of fuel required to run an average sized grain train from Kanagulk to Portland—(i) via Balmoral and Hamilton; and (ii) via Horsham, Ararat and Hamilton?

(*b*) What is the actual cost of paying the crew of, and of paying other railway personnel necessary to run the average size grain train from Kanagulk to Portland—(i) via Balmoral and Hamilton; and (ii) via Horsham, Ararat and Hamilton?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that the detailed information sought by the honorable member is not readily available in the form requested.

According to the board it would be a sizeable task, involving a considerable number of man-hours, to provide the information in the form requested. The board's estimate of the time required to answer this, and other related questions also on the Notice Paper, is 500 man-hours.

However, I invite the honorable member to contact me and I will make arrangements for him to discuss this matter with railways management.

(Question No. 171)

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, for the Minister of Transport—

(a) On what dates since 1st January, 1967, have trains carried grain from Kanagulk grain store to Portland travelling south via Balmoral and Hamilton?

(*b*) How many grain-loaded wagons were in each of those trains, and what was the total tonnage of grain carried?

(c) On what dates since 1st January, 1967, have trains carried grain from the Kanagulk grain storage to Portland travelling north (in the first place) to Horsham

and then via Ararat and Hamilton, and why did those trains travel via Horsham, Ararat and Hamilton rather than by the shorter direct route through Balmoral and Hamilton?

(*d*) How many grain-loaded wagons were in each of those trains, and what was the total tonnage of grain carried?

The Hon. D. G. CROZIER (Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism): The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

I have been advised by the Victorian Railways Board that the detailed information sought by the honorable member is not readily available in the form requested.

According to the board it would be a sizeable task, involving a considerable number of man-hours, to provide the information in the form requested. The board's estimate of the time required to answer this, and other related questions also on the Notice Paper, is 500 man-hours.

However, I invite the honorable member to contact me and I will make arrangements for him to discuss this matter with railways management.

VICTORIA POLICE FORCE.

(Question No. 173)

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Thomastown Province) asked the Attorney-General—

(*a*) Which police officers were proceeded against as a result of the recommendations in the report of the board of inquiry into allegations against members of the Victoria Police Force?

(*b*) What was the name of the magistrate concerned in each case, how were magistrates chosen to hear the particular cases, and what was the result of each case?

(*c*) What was the nature of the charges against each officer?

(*d*) How many of these cases were dismissed in Magistrates Courts during 1977?

The Hon. HADDON STOREY (Attorney-General): The answer is—

The whole of the information required to answer this question is not immediately available to me. I am having inquiries made and will write to the honorable member as soon as practicable.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, September 12, 1978.

The SPEAKER **(Sir Kenneth Wheeler)** took the chair at 4.6 p.m. and read the prayer.

DEATHS OF WILLIAM THOMAS DIVERS, ESQUIRE, THE HONORABLE ROBERT JOHN GRAY, THE HONORABLE KEITH HECTOR TURNBULL AND JOHN MICHAEL MULLENS, C.B.E., ESQUIRE.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I move—

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of William Thomas Divers, Esquire, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Footscray from 1958 to 1970.

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of the Honorable Robert John Gray and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Nunawading from 1943 to 1945 and the electoral district of Box Hill from 1945 to 1947 and 1952 to 1955; Minister without Portfolio in 1955.

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of the Honorable Keith Hector Turnbull and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Korong from 1950 to 1955 and the electoral district of Kara Kara from 1955 to 1964; Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, Minister of Soldier Settlement from 1955 to 1964 and Minister for Conservation from 1961 to 1964.

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of John Michael Mullens, C.B.E., Esquire, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Footscray from 1937 to 1945.

It is not often after a break in the sitting of the Parliament that we have to pay tribute to four former members. I cannot remember a previous recess during which so many former members of this Parliament have

passed away. Although we offer our condolences and our recognition of their services to them as a group, they were individuals and we should remember them in that way.

Many honorable members will not remember some of the men to whose families we will now be offering our condolences, but I am certain that all honorable members will remember Bill Divers as a very colourful member of this House and a sturdy member of the Opposition. I found him a likeable and amiable person. He served his electoral district most ably and I am sure he was a well-loved figure in Footscray—no doubt his successor, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, will bear that out. He was relied upon by many people to carry their burdens for them and to present their cases to the Government, to local government or to the various Ministries within Victoria.

On behalf of the Government, I convey to his widow and son condolences at the passing of a man whom we knew and admired.

The record of service of the late Honorable Robert John Gray goes back a little further. He served this Parliament as a member for two electoral districts, and also as Minister without Portfolio in the Cain Labor Government. I can remember him in Box Hill, and I know that he was also a very assiduous member. He had some attractive qualities, one of which was his dry wit. Honorable members have not seen him around the building for a long time; I have not seen him for many years. We regret his passing. Again, on behalf of the Government, I convey commiserations to his immediate family and recognition of the great service that he gave to Victoria.

The third former member is the Honorable Keith Hector Turnbull, who served in this Parliament for fourteen years from 1950 until 1964. On his retirement from Parliament, he was appointed Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board. During his period of office as a Minister and afterwards as Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board, the late Keith Turnbull demonstrated great dedication and breadth of knowledge of country Victoria. During his period with the Grain Elevators Board, the board flourished and developed, and certainly produced a highly desirable cash balance. The board built up a high reputation amongst other grain handling authorities and the late Keith Turnbull, as chairman, contributed greatly to that reputation. We convey to his four daughters and his son our sincere sympathy at his passing.

The fourth former member is Mr. John Michael Mullens who was a member of this Parliament and later a member of the Federal Parliament. He was also the member for the electoral district of Footscray and served that electorate for eight years. During that period, he was a member of the Public Works Committee and was chairman of that committee in 1945. From 1949 to 1956, he was a member of the House of Representatives for the electoral division of Gellibrand. He was also a commissioner of the State Savings Bank of Victoria from 1946 to 1949. Along with the other three former members, the late Mr. Mullens served this State extremely well. I never met him personally, but I know him by reputation. He was respected in his electorate and was dedicated to his job. On behalf of the Government, I convey sympathy to his widow and two children.

In moving the motions concerning these four former members of this House, I do so with great feeling. The State can ill-afford the passing of these highly-qualified and highly-dedicated men.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I support the motion which has been moved by the Premier, and express to the families of Bill Divers, Bob Gray, Keith Turnbull and Jack Mullens the condolences of members of my party. Each of those men distinguished himself in one way or another in this Parliament and outside of this Parliament.

The late Bill Divers came into Parliament from the Municipal Employees Union one year and one month before I entered this House. He served the electoral district of Footscray well. He was a well-known figure in trade union circles in this State, having been State Secretary and Federal Secretary of the Municipal Employees Union. The late Bill Divers contributed greatly to the committee system in this Parliament. He was a member of the Public Accounts Committee and of the House Committee. He was always vociferous in the party meetings. On an occasion such as this, I do not wish to relate all the secrets of what occurs at Labor Party meetings, but I am bound to say that the late Bill Divers was always forceful and positive in his contributions to the deliberations of those meetings.

He left this Parliament in 1970 and kept in touch with other members who were elected to this House in about 1955 such as Mr. Floyd, the late Mr. Schintler and the late Mr. Crick. Through this association, the late Bill Divers maintained some knowledge of what was going on in Parliament. Members of my party regret his passing and convey to his widow, Lorna, and his son, Bill, our sincere condolences.

The late Bob Gray was a member of this House before I first became a member. I knew him, but I rely mainly on his record to know that he served this Parliament well as a Temporary Chairman of Committees, as Minister without Portfolio in 1955, and as a member of the Public Works Committee from 1945 to 1947. As the Premier said, the late Bob Gray represented the electoral district of Box Hill, which the Labor Party has not held since. That in itself suggests the capabilities of our former colleague and the way in which he represented the Box Hill electorate. To his immediate family, I convey the sincere condolences of members of the Labor Party.

The late Keith Turnbull was a remarkable Minister in this Parliament. He and his friend, the late Mick Mibus, were always seen together and were great friends. These two Ministers distinguished themselves in their service to the Ministry. I found the late Keith Turnbull to be most approachable. As a Minister, he was confronted with many problems and he dealt capably with them.

With many other honorable members, I saw the late Keith Turnbull many times whilst he was associated with the Royal Agricultural Society and was that society's representative on the Trotting Control Board. Whenever I met him in that area, he always gave me a kind word of welcome. When one is in Opposition, it is nice to have kind things said about one from time to time. To his four daughters and son, on behalf of the Labor Party, I express sincere sympathy at his passing. It was certainly a great loss to them and also to the Trotting Control Board, with which he was closely associated in more recent times.

As the Premier said, the late Jack Mullens went to a higher echelon in the national Parliament. He also represented the electoral district of Footscray. I did not have a lot to do with this gentleman because he left the Labor Party in 1955, when the split occurred, and had no further connection with it. Undoubtedly, he was a capable politician and a capable member of Parliament who served his constituents well in both the State and Federal spheres. I offer to his family our deepest sympathy at his passing.

As the Premier said, it is quite incredible that, on this first day of the sessional period, this House should be paying tributes to four former members of Parliament. We are all getting a little older and, without mentioning names, there are only four or five members present in the House who were here before I was first elected. Members of the Labor Party sincerely regret the passing of these four gentlemen and we express our regret to each of their families.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): On behalf of my party I support the motion so ably moved by the Premier and supported by the Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to William Thomas Divers, Esquire, the Honorable Robert John Gray, the Honorable Keith Turnbull and John Michael Mullens, C.B.E., Esquire, who have died since the last sitting of Parliament. I, too, express my sympathy and that of my party to their immediate families.

Bill Divers was well known to me during the period 1967 to 1970 when he was still a member of Parliament. Honorable members who knew him then saw a lot of him subsequently because he often came to the House and it was a delight to see him. He was a quiet member. He did not often speak but he knew his electorate well, as the Premier has said. He was a deep thinker but what I remember most about him was that party lines meant nothing to him when mixing socially with members. He had many friends on all sides of the House and I enjoyed his company, as no doubt did other honorable members who knew him.

I did not have the privilege of knowing the Honorable Robert John Gray but I know a lot about him. He represented the area of Box Hill and I will always remember that he replaced the Honorable George Reid for a three-year period and that alone must say something for the attributes of the man because he won a seat in an area where it was not easy for his party to win. He won it and held it from 1952 to 1955. He was a Minister without Portfolio in the Cain Government, which is an office which does not exist today. We express our regrets at his passing.

The former member I knew best of all was the Honorable Keith Turnbull. I knew him after he left this Parliament, as a member of the Royal Agricultural Society, the Trotting Control Board and the Grain Elevators Board. It is refreshing when a man leaves Parliament and continues to serve the State and the nation as Keith Turnbull did. He served in an impartial way, as the Leader of the Opposition has said. He was always approachable. If he considered that some action should be taken with the Grain Elevators Board or the Trotting Control Board he would have no hesitation in discussing the matter with the Leader of the Opposition and myself, as he would with the Premier. I liked his company and I liked him as a man. The State is much the poorer for his passing.

John Michael Mullens had the distinction not held by many people of representing an electorate both in State Parliament and Federal Parliament. When one looks at the dates on which he was elected and when he left Parliament it will be realized that he was involved in the problems of the Labor Party in the mid-1950s. That was a political era that people in politics today find difficult to understand, but honorable members have much sympathy for those members who had choices to make. They made their decisions by way of conscience at the time and I have always paid tribute to those who perhaps sacrificed their political careers because they did what they thought was right. I express my sympathy to the families of our four departed colleagues.

Mr. EBERY (Midlands): I support the motion moved by the Premier, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and supported by the Leader of the National Party. I acknowledge the outstanding service that the Honorable Keith Turnbull has rendered to Victoria for many years. His death closes a chapter of service to many people who were closely associated with him. Keith Turnbull's name will be synonymous with rural industries. His background has been one of rural interests. Over the many years he was in Parliament and later as a member of the Cabinet he proved beyond doubt that the experience he had in rural industries was used to good advantage. I am not sure whether honorable members are

aware that Keith Turnbull, in association with his two brothers, conducted a Corriedale stud which was acknowledged as one of the State's best. Later when he became Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board he gave tremendous service to the grain industry of Victoria. I had the opportunity of observing his devotion to many of his constituents. His ability and strong personality provided a shining example of a total commitment to serving people. He was a conscientious, courteous and respected member of the community. On behalf of the people in my electorate I should like the privilege of forwarding their condolences to his family.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): As the member for Footscray I think it proper to make reference to my predecessor in that illustrious seat. Bill Divers was known to most honorable members. He gave twelve years of valuable service to the electorate of Footscray and to the Parliament of Victoria from 1958 to 1970. I had the privilege of succeeding Mr. Divers in representing that seat. However, it is not only Bill's twelve years to which tribute should be paid today; Bill's whole lifetime was one of service marked by compassion and commitment. His work in the trade union movement from his very early days, his tremendous war record, both in the first world war and the second world war, and his work as a local member of Parliament bore the hallmarks of commitment to and compassion for ordinary human beings, the ordinary citizens who reside in Footscray and throughout the State. Bill had a concern for the working man and the working families of Victoria. As a trade unionist or a member of Parliament he always showed a willingness to deal with the individual problems of parents and their children.

Our late colleague also rendered good service to local government. He was a member of the council of the City of Essendon and served a term as mayor of that city before being elected to Parliament in 1958. In addition to his compassion, Bill was noted for his strongly-held views and his commitment to the principles and practices of the Labor Party, both in the administration of the party and in Parliament. He never wavered throughout that period of his life. The 1940s, 1950s and 1960s were a turbulent period in Labor Party politics, as mentioned by the Leader of the National Party. Bill Divers was one of those men who came forward during those times of difficulty in the Labor movement and played a major role in the resurrection of the Labor Party to the proud position it holds today in the community, locally, at State level and nationally as well. To his widow, Lorna, who is well known to many honorable members, and to his family, I express my sincere regret at his passing. I certainly join with other honorable members in supporting this motion of commiseration on his death and thanks for his lifetime of service.

Another former member of Footscray who is mentioned in this motion is the late John Michael Mullens. I never had the privilege or opportunity of meeting Mr. Mullens. He also participated in that turbulent time of Labor Party politics and, as has been mentioned, left the party in 1955 when the division became pronounced and the Democratic Labor Party was formed. Prior to that, as has also been stated, he gave service in both the Victorian and the Federal Parliaments, representing the Footscray area. I know from discussions with people in that community that he was a conscientious and hard working local member.

Mr. Mullens did not play an active role in local affairs after leaving the Labor Party in 1955, and I can only say to his family, who still live in the Footscray district, that I commiserate with them in their sorrow and join with members of my party in expressing thanks for Mr. Mullens's earlier services as the member for Footscray from 1937 until 1945.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I associate myself with the remarks of the other party Leaders on this sad occasion. It is indeed distressing that four revered former members of this House have passed on since Parliament rose earlier this year.

First of all, our sympathy goes to the relatives of the late Bill Divers. As has already been stressed, Bill Divers was a forceful, hard-hitting member of Parliament and apparently also in the party room, as was indicated by the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. He was, in short, a genuine bulldog. He was one of the relatively few members of the Victorian Parliament who served in both the First and the Second Australian Imperial Forces. He was well liked by members of all sides of the House, and we mourn his passing.

The second member mentioned in the motion, the late Robert Gray, the former member for Box Hill, was a member of the Victorian Parliament when I was elected to it. It has already been pointed out that perhaps one of the highest tributes that could be paid to him was that he was a man of sufficient calibre to beat Sir George Reid, and I know Sir George had a high opinion of Robert Gray, even though they were political opponents in a number of elections in the Box Hill area in the 1950s. Our sympathy is also extended to his relatives.

The late John Mullens was not a member that I knew, but it is interesting that he lived until the year 1978 after having served in the Victorian Parliament from as early as 1937. He went through a turbulent period in politics, but was still respected by friend and foe alike.

Finally, I refer to the passing of the Honorable Keith Turnbull, who was a member of this House and represented the electoral district of Korong from 1950 to 1955, and the electorate of Kara Kara from 1955 until his defeat in 1964. Keith Turnbull was a genuine son of the soil—a fine practical farmer. He distinguished himself as an officer in the Second Australian Imperial Force and was a good mixer, well liked in his electorate and in Parliament.

I was interested to hear the Leader of the Opposition associate Keith Turnbull with the Honorable W. J. Mibus, because I intended to say exactly the same thing. They were known affectionately as the "terrible twins". If a member arrived in this establishment feeling rather down in the dumps, a little mournful, and sickening for the flu, after a few words with Keith Turnbull and Mick Mibus his spirits would revive, and he would feel as though he had only a light cold coming on! Keith Turnbull and Mick Mibus brought good fellowship and pleasure with them wherever they went.

The late Keith Turnbull had the outstanding characteristic of being able to mix readily with his fellow Australians of all types and political backgrounds, whether in the electorate or within the precincts of the Parliament. He was also fond of good music, and if no music was being played, he would provide it. If no piano was available to assist him, that would not discourage him. He was one of the most popular figures that I have seen in this Parliament during my time here.

Those of us who were in Parliament at that time look back on his career over the period he served as Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, Minister of Soldier Settlement and Minister for Conservation during the final three years of his period as a Minister, from 1961 to 1964. Actually he rendered some 27 years of public service to Victoria as a private member and as a Minister of the Crown and later as Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board. Certainly I believe he was respected by members on all sides of the House, and although he was defeated in a tight and hard fought election, he held no bitterness towards his

political foes. The late Keith Turnbull will be remembered as a man of good cheer, a man who had a most friendly manner and a wonderful sense of humour. We extend our sympathy to his daughter, Mrs. Hider, the wife of the Honorable Charles Hider, and to his son and other daughters.

Mr. MACKINNON (Box Hill): I, too, associate myself with the kind remarks made by earlier speakers in commiseration at the passing of former members of this House, and refer particularly to the late Honorable Robert Gray, the first member for the electorate of Box Hill. When he was originally elected in a by-election for the seat of Nunawading, as it was then known, he followed on from an independent, Mrs. Weber. Then came a turbulent time in politics. Mr. Gray was a member of the House for a time, then lost his seat and later was again returned to Parliament, but through all this time he had a close association with Box Hill.

In the years before he became a member of the Victorian Parliament he was the health inspector for the Box Hill City Council, and it is clear from a reading of his early speeches and contributions to debates in the House that he was most concerned with and extremely active in the field of public health. Mr. Gray later became Minister without Portfolio, and was also active in other fields within Box Hill. He was president and one of the founding members of the Box Hill sub-branch of the Returned Services League, and, outside the Box Hill area, was secretary of the Municipal Officers Association.

The late Mr. Gray made a significant contribution to the community and rendered excellent service to the citizens of Box Hill. I am sure he will be remembered by many people in Box Hill, and that they will join me in expressing condolences to his widow, Mary, and to his extensive family, which includes eleven grandchildren.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): I join with other members in paying tribute to these former members of the House who passed away since the last meeting of the House, and particularly to the two gentlemen I knew personally. One of these was the late Bill Divers. He was an extremely forthright person in discussing issues privately and held quite strong views, although he did not often speak in the House. I agree with those who said he had friends on both sides of the House. He was a very good mixer, and in Parliament it is a tribute to any person who can overcome party loyalties and see his fellow man as another man in his place, and Bill Divers always had that ability.

As Minister of Lands, Minister of Soldier Settlement and Minister for Conservation, I pay a warm personal tribute to the late Keith Turnbull, but not just because he held those portfolios and was a distinguished Minister. I am pleased that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier referred to the "terrible twins", Mick Mibus and Keith Turnbull, because in those days every new member who came into the House quickly found friends in those two men. They were both kindly of attitude, men of humility, and had a remarkable sense of humour—Keith the more whimsical of the two. He was a man who frequently hid his innermost thoughts, feelings and compassion with a touch of humour.

He was one of the kindest men I have ever known and his work for this State, particularly in country areas, was remarkable. I believe it was the honorable member for Midlands who said that the name of Keith Hector Turnbull is synonymous with rural pursuits. That is true. Irrespective of what part of this State one visits one finds that people still recall Keith Turnbull as Minister in years gone by.

A special tribute must be paid to the Honorable Keith Turnbull on behalf of members and staff of the Lands Department and the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission. I doubt whether any Minister of Lands has served as long in this State —some nine years—and is still today

regarded as one of the finest Ministers the Lands Department has ever had. He constantly kept in touch with senior officers and with the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission. Year after year he attended the annual function of officers to which all surviving Ministers are invited. He was always the centre of a group of people who, although relatively junior officers during his term as Minister, regarded him as a friend and leader in his field.

Victoria is the sadder for the passing of this man. Those of us who knew Keith Turnbull, or any of the other departed members, are the sadder for their passing. In my case, and this applies to many members of years gone by, the passing of Keith Turnbull is a matter of real sadness because he meant so much to many people.

Mr. SKEGGS (Ivanhoe): I wish to support the motion of condolence to the families of the late and respected former members of this House. I first met the Honorable Keith Turnbull in 1950 when I was only eighteen years old. I was then a young reporter and commentator covering trotting meetings in central and northern Victoria. Keith Turnbull was then only newly elected as the honorable member for Korong. He was the first Parliamentarian I had ever met and he shaped a strong impression on me as to what a Parliamentarian should be. He was a friendly person who immediately put one at ease. He was an extremely popular public figure throughout the northern and central parts of Victoria and what has been said about the respect he enjoyed from his constituents, irrespective of their political persuasion, is true.

He gave me some wise counsel and encouragement in my early years and also influenced me to some degree in my later calling in the field of politics. To know him was to know a true friend.

He was keenly interested in the trotting sport. In those days I attended trotting meetings in towns like Boort, Charlton, Wedderburn and Maryborough, and the Honorable Keith Turnbull was often in attendance. In fact, at one stage he raced a pacer named Brandy Scott. He leased it jointly with two then young aspiring politicians who are today members of the Commonwealth Parliament—the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the honorable member for Isaacs. I think that was Keith Turnbull's one and only venture into the ranks of racehorse ownership. It was not marked with much success, but I recall that he enjoyed it very much and often talked of his little venture as an owner with his typical good humour.

Keith Turnbull was larger than life, full of a great sense of fun, and was wonderful company. It has been said that he loved music and indeed, he had a good singing voice. Quite often at a gathering, whether social, sporting or even political company, he would lead the singing and even render a solo. He loved to make people happy.

He was a wonderful family man and was extremely close to his four daughters and his son. One of his daughters, Barbara McDougall, worked very closely with him in recent years in the trotting sport. His other daughters are Heather, the wife of the Honorable Charles Hider, M.L.C., as well as Janet and Marion. He is also survived by a son, Donald, and five grandchildren. His wife, Olive, died several years ago.

His work in this Parliament has been well documented by previous speakers. There is no doubt that he was an outstanding Minister and one of the most popular Ministers of the Bolte Government. Like other honorable members, I recall the closeness of his friendship with the late Honorable Mick Mibus, who was also interested in the trotting sport and at one stage was a member of the Wimmera Trotting Club. They were real pals, both in their Parliamentary interests and in private.

In later years the Honorable Keith Turnbull was appointed to the Trotting Control Board and his work on

that board over twelve years was admired by the entire industry. He represented the Royal Agricultural Society on the Trotting Control Board and in turn represented the Trotting Control Board on both the Victoria Trotting Club committee and the Totalizator Agency Board. I never heard of one instance where his decisions drew criticism. He was held in the highest regard by each of these organizations and in representing the Royal Agricultural Society on the Trotting Control Board he fearlessly made decisions in the best interests of trotting, even where occasionally they might not have necessarily agreed with the policies of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Keith Turnbull served on the Trotting Control Board until earlier this year when there was a change in the constitution of the board.

His work for the Grain Elevators Board is well renowned. When he was first appointed as Chairman of the Grain Elevators Board there were the usual few doubts expressed about the appointment because of his political background, but he quickly won the confidence of the grain industry and established himself as an outstanding leader of the board. His work in that field has been permanently enshrined through the establishment of the Keith Turnbull Institute at Frankston.

To have known the honorable Keith Turnbull was a great privilege. He was a great man in every sense of the word and a good friend.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): I join other honorable members in their expressions of condolence and sympathy to the respective families. When I came to this place, William Thomas Divers, commonly known to us all as "Bill", impressed me as he sat on the Opposition bench as being immaculately dressed—absolutely spot-on. It looked as though he took much pride in every garment on his back. He served as a member of the Public Accounts Committee during the period in which I was its chairman and he made a worth-while contribution to that committee.

He had a good wit and was good natured and a friendly fellow. I got to know him and to appreciate his company. He was a member of the Essendon City Council for fourteen years, and mayor of that city for the 1936–37 period. The City of Essendon benefited much from his contributions as a member of local government.

The Honorable Robert John Gray and John Michael Mullens I shall bracket together as I did not have the privilege and pleasure of knowing either of them. As I have stated in this place on previous occasions, when any honorable member has the privilege of serving this State for a considerable period, in this case for seven years and eight years respectively, that is a clear indication that the person concerned has some character, principle and the desire to give good service.

Keith Hector Turnbull was a member of this Parliament when I came in, and members on both sides of the House appreciated his friendliness and his fatherly advice to new members when they went to speak to him on the front bench. He had the respect of all members of the House. During a term of five years as a backbench member, a member of Parliament learns what it is to go through the ranks of Parliament.

The motion was agreed to in silence, honorable members signifying their unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I desire to move—

That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late William Thomas Divers, Esquire, the late Honorable Robert John Gray, the late Honorable Keith Hector Turnbull and the late John Michael Mullens, Esquire, the House do now adjourn until 8 p.m. this day.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.52 *p.m.*

The SPEAKER **(Sir Kenneth Wheeler)** took the Chair at 8.4 p.m.

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): Mr. Speaker——

THE MINISTRY.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I should like to inform you, Mr. Speaker, and the House that the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government in this House will be the Minister for Minerals and Energy in addition to his representation on State development, decentralization and tourism. The Minister representing planning will be the Minister of Housing.

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): Mr. Speaker——

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): I call on questions without notice.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I desire to ask a question——

The SPEAKER: What does the honorable member for Caulfield desire to do?

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): I wish to raise a matter of Parliamentary privilege of which I gave you notice, Mr. Speaker, shortly after lunch today. As you will be aware, between the last session of Parliament and the present session of Parliament, members of the Liberal Party took the step of publicly expelling the honorable member for Westernport——

The SPEAKER: Order! Is the honorable member making a personal explanation or just what precisely is he doing? It is question time, but if the honorable member wishes to make a personal explanation he should have——

Mr. FRANCIS: I am raising a matter of Parliamentary privilege.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honorable member knows the procedure, in line with what was reported and advised to this House on the method of handling matters of privilege. I inform the House that the honorable member handed to me, during the afternoon, a letter which was in line with the procedure that the House has adopted.

Mr. EDMUNDS: Who signed it?

The SPEAKER: The honorable member for Caulfield. I advised the honorable member that I would consider the contents of the letter, again in line with the custom in this House, and that I would advise him when I had made a decision as to whether the matter did take precedence over other business. I have not yet arrived at that decision. I hope to do so within the next hour and I will then reply to the honorable member. At this time there is no matter of privilege that can be raised.

Mr. FRANCIS: I am not seeking in any way to canvass what you have ruled, Mr. Speaker, but as I understand the position I am required under the law of this State to raise this matter at the earliest opportunity in order to gain precedence. May I take it, Mr. Speaker, that I have complied with that requirement and that you will deal with this matter either this evening or tomorrow?

The SPEAKER: I thought I had made the position clear. I do not intend to go over what I have already said. I told the honorable member in no uncertain terms that I hope to send a letter to him in one hour and I will do just that.

HOUSING COMMISSIONER.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I ask the Premier whether the Minister of Housing on 3rd May consulted him about the Minister's intention to dispense with the services of the then Housing Commissioner, Mr. Trevor Vaughan, and if he consulted the Premier in relation to——

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! It appears that the recess has not done honorable members much good. During question

time I ask that honorable members be silent. It is neither fair to Ministers who have to answer the questions nor to the honorable members who are asking the questions. Surely honorable members appreciate that question time is for their benefit.

Mr. WILKES: Did the Minister of Housing on 3rd May consult the Premier in relation to dispensing with the services of the then Housing Commissioner, Mr. Trevor Vaughan, and if he did consult the Premier, what was the result of that meeting in relation to the future of Mr. Vaughan with the Housing Commission?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I recall the Minister discussing this matter with me briefly, but I do not recall the exact date. I dare say I can obtain it and if the honorable member puts the question on notice I will provide him with an accurate answer.

REPORT FROM CHIEF SECRETARY.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): When does the Premier expect to be in a position to table a report resulting from the trip overseas of the former Chief Secretary, and a number of traffic experts?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I have not seen any such report and therefore I am unable to answer that question at present.

METROLE BUILDING.

Mr. CRELLIN (Sandringham): Can the Minister of Transport advise the House what progress has been made in the alteration of the Metrole building, which is under construction in the Flinders Street railway yard? What will the alterations cost and will the alterations cause any delay in the opening of the Melbourne underground rail loop?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): I have discussed this matter with the board of the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority and the Victorian Railways and I am advised that, clearly, there will be a delay in the completion of the Metrole building. The removal of the steel construction to lower the profile of the building has been contracted for and done. Further work on the site has been done by the railways with direct labour, particularly in respect of some of the foundation work.

The redesigning of the building is under way and it is expected that that will be completed by the end of the calendar year. However, in the meantime work is proceeding on those elements of the building which can be further adjusted in anticipation of that design—that is, the foundation piling, the foundations themselves and the removal and replacement of some of the services which may be in the way of the extended buildings. The railways have indicated that the cost of the work would be slightly in excess of $2 million—I hesitate to say between $2 million and $3 million.

The contract for the completion of a redesigned building has not yet been let. There will, as a consequence of the redesign of the building, if dust-free occupation of one floor is desired, be a delay in the opening and use of the underground, but the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority indicates on its best estimates of rescheduling the work which is necessary to be done that it should be possible and may be possible to open both the lines in the underground in October of 1980 instead of the anticipated earlier date, so there will be a delay.

The cost is estimated, without the designs being finally completed and without tenders being called, at between $2 million and $3 million—nearer to $2 million—and the redesigning and the work that is currently being done is being done in anticipation that dust-free occupation of an area suitable for the installation of computer equipment, which is the nub of the whole thing, will be obtained at the earliest possible date.

HOUSING COMMISSIONER.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): I ask the Minister of Housing whether the services of the former Victorian Housing Commissioner, Mr. Trevor Vaughan, were unsatisfactory to him, and, if so, in what way were they unsatisfactory.

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): The honorable member for Broadmeadows should know that a dispute between Mr. Vaughan, myself, the Housing Commission and the State of Victoria is at present before the Supreme Court, and I think I would be out of place in answering this question.

DAIRY LICENCES.

Mr. HANN (Rodney): I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether it is a fact that he told a representative of the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria last week that he intends to lift the present restrictions on the issue of dairy licences in Victoria. If that is so, why does the Minister intend to do this in view of the fact that it is contrary to the policies of the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria and the interests of dairy farmers?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): Last week I met a delegation from the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, and I am fully-familiar of its policies and aspirations, which are not necessarily those of the Government.

I advised the members of the delegation that two years ago I had been instrumental in obtaining the agreement of Agricultural Council Ministers to restricting the issue of new dairy licences.

That agreement was to end on 30th June this year, completing two financial years during which practically no dairy licences were issued because of the surplus of the product. Nevertheless, because the agreement ended on 30th June and other States had commenced issuing licences in areas that were far less efficient and economic than Victoria, I indicated to the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria delegation—and this matter has been made public—that the Government would view each application on its merits. I said that applications for dairy licences—of which there have been about 50, mainly from people already involved in the industry, either share farmers or the sons or daughters of farmers—would be viewed on their merits, and in appropriate cases licences would be issued.

LAND PURCHASES.

Mr. GUDE (Geelong East): Has the Minister of Lands read the report of the claim by the Leader of the Opposition in tonight's *Herald* that the Lands Department has been buying land at prices below Valuer-General's valuations? If so, will he inform the House whether this claim has any validity?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition did not ask this question himself as he indicated in the Melbourne *Herald* that he intended to do so. Before I answer it I point out that probably 99·9 per cent of purchases made by the Lands Department are by free negotiation and agreement between the parties concerned, and the Valuer-General's valuation is nothing more than a guide. I wish to make it clear that in rural areas of this State the figure given by the Valuer-General is invariably in the upper level. The Leader of the Opposition does not bother to check.

For the information of honorable members I shall supply details of the sales in question. Koala Habitat, near Rhyll swamp, 21·7 hectares, verbally offered to the Lands Department by the owner at $80,000, was purchased at that price. The Valuer-General's figure was $80,600. The land at MacLeod's Morass consisted of 42 hectares for which the asking price was $55,000. The Valuer-General's figure was $54,250. We negotiated not with

the farmer but with his estate agent, and bought that land for $52,000. At Blonde Bay 84·84 hectares were offered at $142,150. The officers of the Fisheries and Wildlife Division thought they were getting a bargain. We negotiated the purchase, not with the poor farmer, but with his professional estate agent, who agreed to sell it at the Valuer-General's figure of $56,000. At Clune's Swamp, for 8·5 acres the Valuer-General's figure was $7,500 and the asking price was $8,000. The price negotiated was $7,500. I make no apology if on a freely negotiated price I pay less than the Valuer-General's figure. I insist that this be done in the interests of the taxpayer.

HOUSING COMMISSIONER.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I refer to the meeting by the Minister of Housing with former Commissioner Vaughan on 3rd May. At that meeting did the Minister of Housing tell Commissioner Vaughan that at that time he had a choice between leaving the Housing Commission employment and carrying on in another position with the same salary for a two-year period? Further, did the Minister of Housing withdraw that offer at a subsequent meeting on 31st May and, if so, what was the reason for the sudden change of mind affecting Commissioner Vaughan?

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): I have indicated to the House that the question of Mr. Vaughan's resignation from the Housing Commission is presently a matter which is being disputed before the Supreme Court. I am not prepared to answer any further questions on this topic.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I raise a point of order. Mr. Speaker, can you confirm to the House that if a matter is before the Supreme Court that precludes a Minister from answering a question of this sort? I concede that a Minister has the right to answer a question in the way he chooses but he does not have the right to hide behind a suggestion that the matter is before the Supreme Court. That is quite irrelevant.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The Minister of Housing or any other Minister may answer a question precisely as he sees fit. That is the finish of this matter as far as I am concerned.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition directed a question to me and the answer is that I have no jurisdiction over that matter because the Minister, or any other Ministers, can answer a question how they think fit.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): Precisely, Mr. Speaker, but I raise a further point of order. It might be worth while to raise the point of order, if for no other reason than that if a Minister decides, when answering a question or replying to a debate in this place, to hide behind the rule of *sub judice*, the Parliament should determine what the rule of *sub judice* is in relation to that question.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): Further to the point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition, it ought to be clearly defined for the benefit of Parliament, and for the benefit of the good name of Parliament, that if a Minister elects not to answer a question he is exercising his prerogative and not acting according to the rulings of this Parliament. That is the point the Opposition wishes to have clearly defined. The Opposition does not deny the right of the Minister to refuse to answer, but it does deny him the right to hide behind the Standing Orders of Parliament or the proceedings of Parliament; there is no *sub judice* ruling in this case. If the Minister refuses to answer the question he is remaining silent for reasons best known to himself.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): I open my remarks by saying that 30 minutes is allotted for question time in this place, and it has always been my ambition and desire to give honorable members as much of that 30 minutes as is humanly possible. If they waste it, that is their concern.

The question of *sub judice* is clearly spelt out in the House of Commons Journal of 26th July, 1963, and it has been closely followed by this House. I will make this journal available to honorable members, but I do not intend to waste the time of the House in hearing this point when honorable members are waiting to ask questions. I think that is reasonable and fair.

BANS ON HENRY JONES (IXL) LTD. FACTORY.

Mr. JASPER (Murray Valley): Is the Minister of Labour and Industry aware of work bans that have been imposed by the metal trades union on the Port Melbourne factory of Henry Jones (IXL) Ltd. These bans, in support of redundancy payments, are preventing the processing of citrus fruits. Is the Minister further aware that the primary producers who supply fruit to this factory have fruit rotting at their farms because they cannot get it processed? If the Minister is aware of the bans applied by the metal trades union and the disastrous effects on the citrus growers, what action is he taking in the matter? Will he investigate it immediately to have the bans lifted so that the primary producers can supply their citrus fruit to the factory?

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): I was not aware of these particular bans. I point out to the honorable member that the metal trades award is a Federal award and does not come under my jurisdiction. However, if the primary producers affected by it would like to get in touch with me, I will be pleased to see what I can do.

HOME-HELP SERVICE.

Mr. KENNETT (Burwood): Is the Assistant Minister of Health able to inform the House whether there has been any cut-back in the Victorian Government contribution to the home-help service? If not, is any cut-back contemplated? Thirdly, if a cut-back is contemplated, how will it affect the physically and mentally handicapped in this State?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): Since the Commonwealth first participated in the home-help scheme in Victoria in 1971–72, the contribution to the scheme from municipalities up to this year has been 20 per cent and the contribution from the Commonwealth and State Governments has been 80 per cent, of which the Commonwealth contributed 37 per cent and the State 43 per cent. For the 1978–79 year, as the honorable member will realize, the Commonwealth has reduced its contribution to the scheme by approximately 13 per cent of the total cost. Despite this Commonwealth cut-back, the State contribution will in fact be increased by 82 cents for every $100 net expended by municipalities on the home-help service. Therefore, there will be not only no cut-back in the State contribution, but this year there will be an increase of 82 cents for every $100 net expended on the scheme by municipalities.

Concerning the honorable member's reference to the mentally and physically handicapped, I remind the House that although there has been some comment in the community recently suggesting that there will be a cut-back in this area, the home-help service to the parents of mentally handicapped children since 1972–73, and in the case of the physically handicapped since 1974–75, has been fully funded by the Victorian Government and there has been no contribution of Commonwealth funds. The total cost of this scheme to the Victorian Government, without a Commonwealth contribution and with no cut-back, has been estimated as $962,000 for this year. This scheme will continue uninterrupted.

Furthermore, I point out that the Commonwealth and State Governments have contributed up to $100 a municipality for the administration costs associated with the scheme.

Also, it is significant that for the current year, despite the fact that there has been a 15·5 per cent reduction in the contribution for administration expenses by the Commonwealth, there has been a 30·6 per cent increase in the State contribution.

FLUORIDATION OF HORSHAM WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg): Is the Assistant Minister of Health aware of a recent poll conducted within the City of Horsham which showed that 84 per cent of the population opposed any kind of fluoridation of the city's water supply system? In view of the strong opposition to fluoridation shown by the citizens of the City of Horsham, can the Minister inform the House what action the Department of Health intends to take?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): I have not seen the results of that poll and I am unaware of any details. If the honorable member would be good enough to provide me with the full details of whether the poll was conducted amongst ratepayers or amongst all the citizens of Horsham, what the issues were, how the questions were put, how the campaign was undertaken, who were the scrutineers and all other aspects of the poll, I shall ensure that the Department of Health makes a full examination of the way in which the survey was carried out and the results.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT.

Mr. LIEBERMAN (Benambra): Following the Premier's initiative in writing to the Prime Minister proposing a national conference to discuss structural change in youth employment, will the Premier indicate whether, if the Prime Minister decides that it is not possible to hold the conference, he will pursue his efforts by holding a conference in Victoria involving industry, commerce, the trade unions and the Government to achieve a bipartisan approach to this problem?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): The last part of the question is hypothetical. The honorable member should rephrase his question.

Mr. LIEBERMAN: A summation of the question then is: Will the Premier pursue his efforts to solve the problem of youth employment in Victoria?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is, "Yes".

HOUSING COMMISSION.

Mr. SIMPSON (Niddrie): I ask the Minister of Housing whether the Housing Commission has purchased or is in the process of negotiating the purchase of homes in the Geelong area from a company called Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty. Ltd.? If so, will the Minister make available to members of this House in the Parliamentary Library the files on this matter?

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): To my knowledge, the commission is not purchasing or negotiating to purchase houses in the Geelong area from a company called Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty. Ltd.; therefore, no files can be made available.

MEAT MARKETING.

Mr. PLOWMAN (Evelyn): Is the Minister of Agriculture aware of a marketing scheme proposed by the Leader of the Opposition for the domestic beef market which follows the lines of the Japanese internal beef marketing scheme? Is it a fact that such a scheme lacks understanding of the marketing of primary products in Victoria and that such a scheme would be an absolute disaster for Victorian primary producers?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): I was recently made aware of a decision at the Bendigo conference of the Labor Party that the party would establish a State meat marketing authority. It was immediately clear to me that the Labor Party had not studied the cost increases following the establishment of such an authority in New South Wales. In this State, according to the

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, we have cheaper meat than is available in New South Wales and we also have cheaper killing costs. I would be prepared to detail for honorable members those particular costs in answer to a question on notice.

A further part of the statement by the Leader of the Opposition went on to say——

Mr. FORDHAM: We are not debating that at the moment, are we?

Mr. I. W. SMITH: I am answering the question in the way that I choose. The statement by the Leader of the Opposition went on to say that the Japanese Livestock Industry Promotion Council had effected a considerable change to the advantage of the consumer and the distributors of meat. Obviously, the Leader of the Opposition is not aware that this organization imports Australian beef, marks it up by 300 or 400 per cent, and then retails it to the Japanese consumer at a profit which is then distributed as a means of supporting Japanese meat producers. If that is the sort of scheme envisaged for Victoria by the Leader of the Opposition, it is bound for disaster.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): On a point of order. My understanding is that honorable members are entitled to direct a question to a Minister and seek information concerning the Minister's direct Ministerial responsibility. The Minister of Agriculture has currently, and obviously for a long time, been lamentably short on the matter of orderly marketing of meat and therefore the question is outside his knowledge.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I cannot uphold the point of order, but I ask the Minister to answer the question.

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): The consumers of this State should be warned.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Minister has no facts to put before the House on the orderly marketing of meat as administered by his department.

The SPEAKER: Order! The matter the honorable member is raising is not a point of order; it is a point of view. I ask the Minister to answer the question.

Mr. WILTON: The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that there is no orderly marketing scheme operating in Victoria under the control of the Minister or his department. Therefore, he cannot submit any facts to this Parliament on the operation controlled by his department. His only right in answering questions is in relation to matters under the control of his department. With all due respect, the honorable gentleman is not entitled to speculate on the effects some proposal may or may not have on the consumers.

The SPEAKER: Order! I point out to honorable members that the time for questions has expired. I ask the Minister to round off his replies as quickly as possible. The rule in respect to questions and answers in this place, so long as I can remember, has been to be brief in asking and in replying.

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): I shall be as brief as possible. I have drawn two examples of the cost of the Meat Marketing Authority in New South Wales, both to the producer in killing charges and to the consumer in the high price of meat, and this is supported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. I have also drawn a parallel in Japan which further supports the point I am making, which was to the disadvantage of consumers in Japan.

Mr. WILKES: In your opinion.

Mr. I. W. SMITH: No, they are facts which are supported. Therefore, the answer to the honorable member's question is that it would benefit neither the consumers nor the producers.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): On a point of order, the Minister is a mug if he thinks he will get away with that. I repeat my point of order.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The honorable member for Broadmeadows raised a point of order. During his debate he referred to the Minister of Agriculture as a mug. I ask the honorable member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): Mr. Speaker, out of deference to your position in this House and your efforts to bring some sanity into the place, I shall assist you by withdrawing my remark that the Minister is a mug, but it does not change my opinion. The point of order I wish to raise is that the Minister is entitled to answer questions only on matters which are under the direct control of his department. He is not permitted to speculate on what may happen if a certain situation develops interstate. Ministers should be restricted to answering questions on matters under the direct control of their departments. If a Minister attempts to answer in any other way he is expressing an opinion.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! Ministerial responsibility is defined in *May* as follows—

> Questions to Ministers must relate to matters for which those Ministers are officially responsible. They may be asked for statements of their policy or intentions on such matters or for administrative or legislative action. A number of decisions from the Chair have closely defined the interpretation of this rule of Ministerial responsibility.

I point out that meat marketing in Victoria comes under the responsibility of the appropriate Minister. A Minister may refer in passing to other meat marketing authorities but I cannot uphold the point of order under those conditions.

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): In conclusion, I am happy to prove even to the satisfaction of the honorable member for Broadmeadows that in this State contract killing charges are the cheapest in Australia and the meat supplied is the cheapest. This Government has initiated actions, such as the shooting subsidy, which are unique in Australia and which have helped the producer. It is leading the nation in carcass classification, which all Ministers of Agriculture around the Commonwealth agree is a necessary prerequisite to any marketing reform. Clearly the Leader of the Opposition does not know what carcass classification is.

To conclude, this State Government is proud of its leadership in the field of meat marketing reform. Time will prove to the producers and consumers that the system the Government is using is the best in Australia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): I seek leave to make a personal explanation as I have been misrepresented in the *Clendon Newsletter* of August, 1978, which states—

> MESSAGE FROM JAMES GUEST (M.L.C.): Doug Jennings and the Liberal Party—Doug Jennings and carelessness about facts go together.

You fellows were all too weak!

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The honorable member cleared this matter with me. I advised him to be brief in his statement. I am trying to protect the honorable member, but while other honorable members are interjecting I have not much hope of doing so.

Mr. JENNINGS: The article continues—

> Doug Jennings never, in fact, did his duty to Parliament by speeches revealing the alleged facts showing corruption in the Government. Even in the party room, he withheld his "secrets".
>
> He voluntarily joined the Parliamentary party, helped elect its leaders, and agreed to observe its rules. Instead, he poured abuse and accusations of dishonesty on his leaders and colleagues—always done outside the Parliament and party room in the way most damaging to the Government and especially his colleagues in marginal seats.

The SPEAKER: Order! When the honorable member discussed this matter with me, it was clearly agreed between us that the matters he would refer to were matters that had been referred to in this Parliament, and for that reason I allowed the personal explanation.

What happens outside Parliament cannot be debated or put to the House in a personal explanation. I allowed the statement under those conditions and I ask the honorable member to adhere to them. What happens outside is not relevant to Parliament.

Mr. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just leading up to the fact that the article states—

None of his allegations were upheld by the Gowans inquiry. I can think of no positive contribution made by Doug Jennings as a member of the Parliamentary party.

I read next from the *Malvern Mumble* which is the official organ of the Malvern Young Liberals, where it is stated—

The Parliamentary party had made two decisions before Mr. Jennings was disloyal to the party:

1. To hold a lands inquiry.

2. That pending the outcome of the inquiry no member would make further comment.

It was then———

Mr. BURGIN (Polwarth): On a point of order, has what is said outside or printed in a newspaper anything to do with this Parliament?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): What was discussed between the honorable member for Westernport and me was clear; provided the matter was relevant to something that was said or done in this Parliament, the honorable member could raise it, and I ask the honorable member for Westernport to keep to those conditions.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regard this article not only as misrepresentation, but as a breach of privilege and a personal reflection on me. The article continues—

It was then that the Opposition called its no confidence motion in the Government and Mr. Jennings crossed the floor. This is when the Government needed support and loyalty and this was not shown.

Mr. Jennings then had what he wanted, an inquiry, and yet still voted against the party. Further points that I consider to be relevant are:

(*a*) At no time has Mr. Jennings presented his so-called evidence which supposedly implicates Cabinet members in the lands scandal.

I do not wish to take up the time of the House, so I should like to table my personal explanation.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! What the honorable member said has been taken down in *Hansard,* so I cannot see any reason for tabling the remarks he made.

Mr. COLLINS (Noble Park): On a point of order, has the Chair accepted the tabling of the documents referred to by the honorable member for Westernport?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): There is no point of order. I advised the honorable member for Westernport that his statement had been taken down in *Hansard* and that that was sufficient.

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): On a point of order, I have heard the extracts which the honorable member for Westernport read from the *Malvern Mumble* and the *Clendon Newsletter,* and in my submission he was entitled to make a personal explanation on at least two bases, firstly——

The SPEAKER: Order! It is the responsibility of the honorable member for Westernport to make his personal explanation. I do not think he needs any help from the honorable member for Caulfield and I will not hear the honorable member further.

Mr. FRANCIS: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not hear the honorable member further on the point of order that he started to raise. The honorable member for Westernport rose to make a personal explanation. I heard it because we had agreed previously in my office to the terms under which he would make the personal explanation. The honorable member adhered to that agreement. He has resumed his seat, and there can be no further debate on the point of order.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale): I raise a point of order. As the adjudicator of the proceedings in this

place, and I presume an unbiased adjudicator, can you, Mr. Speaker inform the House whether it is fitting and proper for an honorable member to table a document and for a Minister of the Crown then to pick up that document and return it to the honorable member? Can you inform the House under what precedent that action has been taken?

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): Further to the point of order I should like you, Sir, to rule on the fact that precedents in this House have established that when a member states that he will table a document, the document is tabled whether the House wants to accept it or not, and that the document becomes the property of the House merely as a result of the member saying, "I table that document."

Mr. BURGIN: If the House gives permission.

Mr. WILKES: The House does not have to give permission for the tabling of any document and I defy anybody to prove that that is part of the Standing Order. The Standing Order is clear and the precedent is clear, that if an honorable member says, "I table this document", the document becomes the property of the House. That is exactly what has happened on this occasion, and the document tabled by the honorable member for Westernport is now the property of the House.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! Firstly, when the honorable member completed his statement to the House, he said, "I will table this document."

Mr. EDMUNDS: And he did so.

The SPEAKER: The honorable member for Ascot Vale must cease interjecting. That is the third time he has interjected, and I inform the honorable member that I will not tolerate further interjections from him but will take the necessary action.

When the honorable member for Westernport completed his statement, he said, "I will table this document". My reply to him was that his comments had been taken down in *Hansard* and that there was no need for him to table it and that there was no statutory requirement demanding that he do so. All he did was place the document on the table.

Documents are tabled only by statutory authority, by command of the Governor, or as a result of a resolution of the House. That is the rule. There was no need for the honorable member to table the document. He tabled it only of his own volition. If he tabled it and an honorable member jumped across and read it, that was out of place.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): That ruling is quite confusing and is not in keeping with precedents in this House over a period of time. When debate takes place in this House and members seek to table a document, there is no resolution, and the House does not demand nor does any single member of the House demand that the document should be tabled. During the course of the debate, the honorable member says, "I table the document." By precedent, the document becomes a document of the House. That is precisely what has happened in relation to the document tabled by the honorable member for Westernport.

It does not concern the Opposition whether the Government wishes the honorable member for Westernport to table the document; the fact of the matter is that he has already tabled it and the document is now the property of the Parliament. Precedent has established that on not one but a dozen occasions.

Mr. GINIFER (Keilor): On the point of order, I should like to draw to your attention, Sir, the fact that in more recent times when there was controversy in relation to some land being rezoned in the Phillip Island area, the present Minister of Transport, then a private member of this House, when his name was linked to some of the transactions, of his own volition tabled his tax returns. They were not rejected but were

accepted in the spirit in which he wished to table them, and they became the property of the House and were available in the Library for perusal.

Mr. PLOWMAN (Evelyn): As I understand the rules of this House, if there is dissension from your ruling, Mr. Speaker, the dissenters should move a motion to that effect. What is being put is dissension from your ruling and not a fresh point of order. A motion should therefore be moved.

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): On the point of order, as I understand the position, the honorable member for Westernport tabled this report as a matter of convenience, as part of his personal explanation, and this House should receive it as a tabled document. If there be further debate on this document I believe the Leaders of each party should have the opportunity of perusing the document for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not it is a matter of importance.

Mr. CRELLIN (Sandringham): Mr. Speaker, many times during the explanation of the honorable member for Westernport you clearly informed the House that the matter was not a matter for consideration of this House but rather for outside consideration. You clearly established the status of what the honorable member was endeavouring to say. When the document was placed on the table it had no status.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I will rule on the matter and will not hear any further discussion on this point of order. Standing Order No. 249 reads—

> Accounts and papers may be ordered to be laid before the House.

Standing Order No. 251 reads—

> Other papers may be presented pursuant to statute, or by command of His Excellency the Governor.

The honorable member for Westernport laid the papers on the table by command of nobody but merely for the convenience of honorable members. That is precisely what happened.

PETITIONS.

TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD.

Mr. A. T. EVANS (Ballarat North) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that the House take such action as it may to ensure that a Totalizator Agency Board agency is re-established in the Howitt Street, Wendouree shopping centre. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 1,297 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

SEXUAL OFFENCES.

Mr. LIEBERMAN (Benambra) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that the House take no action to repeal or diminish the existing law relating to certain sexual offences. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 62 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

MOTOR CAR FEES FOR PENSIONERS.

Mr. GUDE (Geelong East) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that action be taken to reduce car registration, insurance and licence fees payable by pensioners. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 95 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

RETAIL MEAT TRADE.

Mr. REMINGTON (Melbourne): I present a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that the existing legislation in respect of trading hours for the sale of fresh meat be maintained and that no further extension of trading hours be permitted. The petition is respectfully worded, in order, and bears fourteen signatures.

There were 580 other signatures but they are technically out of order as they do not conform to the requirements governing the presentation of petitions to Parliament.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

NURSING COURSES.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) presented two petitions from the Latrobe Valley Nurses Co-Ordinating Group praying that action be taken to ensure, firstly, that funding for the Health Nursing Course at the Preston Institute of Technology be restored and that the course be allowed to proceed with the minimum delay and, secondly, that funding for the Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing Administration) Course and the Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing Education) Course to be conducted at the School of Nursing, Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, be restored in order for the courses to proceed as planned in 1979. He stated that the petitions were respectfully worded, in order, and bore fourteen signatures respectively.

It was ordered that the petitions be laid on the table.

MOTOR CAR FEES FOR PENSIONERS.

Mr. KIRKWOOD (Preston) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that action be taken to reduce car registration, insurance and licence fees payable by pensioners. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 177 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) presented a report of the Standing Orders Committee upon the procedures to be adopted in raising matters of privilege.

It was ordered that the report be laid on the table and be printed.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

WATER SUPPLY CHARGES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong West) presented the report of the Subordinate Legislation Committee upon by-law No. 153: Water supply—charges for special purposes (Statutory Rule No. 146/1978).

It was ordered that the report be laid on the table.

COMMAND PAPER.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport) presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor, the report of the Supreme Court judges for the year 1977.

It was ordered that the report be laid on the table.

PAPERS.

The following papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid on the table by the Clerk—

Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation—Report for the year 1975–76.

Education Act 1958—Primary Teachers Registration Board Regulation 1977. Resumption of land at Riddells Creek and Shepparton—Certificates of the Minister of Education (two papers).

Educational Institutions (Guarantees) Act 1976—Statement of guarantee executed by the Treasurer in favour of Eltham College.

Exhibition Trustees—Report for the year 1977–78.

Friendly Societies—Report of the Registrar for the years 1975–76 and 1976–77 (two papers).

Geelong Harbor Trust Commissioners—Statement of accounts for the year 1977.

Grain Elevators Board—Report and Statement of accounts for the year ended 31st October, 1976.

Housing Commission Land Purchases—Order in Council authorizing maximum expenditure of the Board of Inquiry into Housing Commission Land Purchases.

La Trobe University—Report of the Council for the year 1977; together with statutes approved by the Governor in Council during 1977.

Law Reform Commissioner—Report for the year 1977–78. Ordered to be printed.

Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958—
Proclamation revoking the declaration that chicory shall become the property of the Chicory Marketing Board.
Proclamation declaring that oranges, mandarins and grapefruit shall become the property of The Citrus Fruit Marketing Board for a further period of two years.
Proclamation declaring that tobacco leaf shall become the property of the Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board for a further period of two years.

Motor Accident Board—Report for the year 1976–77. Ordered to be printed.

National Fitness Council—Report and Statement of accounts for the year 1977–78.

Ombudsman—Report of the Ombudsman upon complaint from J. N. Randall against the Committee of Classifiers (Primary) appointed under the Teaching Service Act 1958.

Parliamentary Officers Act 1975—Statement of appointments and alterations of classification—

Department of the Legislative Assembly.
Department of the Legislative Council.
Department of the Library.
Department of the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates.

Statements of persons temporarily employed—

Department of the Legislative Assembly.
Department of the Legislative Council.
Department of the Library.
Department of the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates.

Police Regulation Act 1958—Determinations Nos. 295 to 300 of the Police Service Board (six papers).

Railways Act 1958—Report of the Victorian Railways Board for the quarter ended 30th June, 1978.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1959—General abstract of the number of live-births, still-births, deaths and marriages in Victoria for the year 1977.

River Improvement Act 1958—Notice of Intention to convert the Gooramadda, Carlyle and Carlyle West Drainage Areas into a River Improvement District which is to be included in the Black Dog Creek Improvement District.

River Murray Commission—Report for the year 1976–77.

Small Business Development Corporation—Report for the year 1977–78.

State Development Act 1970—Report of the Director of Tourism for the year 1976–77.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts—

Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act 1973—No. 239.
Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966—No. 242.
Agricultural Colleges Act 1958—No. 164.
Bail Act 1977—No. 299.
Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act 1970—Nos. 119, 120.
Building Industry Long Service Leave Act 1975—No. 118.
Cemeteries Act 1958—No. 173.
Chiropodists Act 1968—No. 98.
Closer Settlement Act 1938—No 168.
Coal Mines Act 1958—Nos. 291, 294.
Companies Act 1961—No. 138.
Consumer Affairs Act 1972—No. 123.
Country Fire Authority Act 1958—Nos. 195, 196, 237.
Country Roads Act 1958—No. 304.
County Court Act 1958—No. 290.
Credit Reporting Act 1978—No. 249.
Crown Proceedings Act 1958—No. 300.
Dairy Products Act 1958—No. 184.
Dental Technicians Act 1972—No. 100.
Dentists Act 1972—No. 101.
Education Act 1958—No. 251.
Egg Industry Stabilization Act 1973—No. 133.
Environment Protection Act 1970—Nos. 124, 125, 126, 129, 137, 303.
Equal Opportunity Act 1977—No. 245.
Explosives Act 1960—Nos. 141, 214.
Extractive Industries Act 1966—Nos. 258, 292.
Finance Brokers Act 1969—No. 296.
Fisheries Act 1968—Nos. 130, 134, 143, 197, 198, 204, 205.
Forests Act 1958—Nos. 160, 271.
Friendly Societies Act 1958—No. 206.
Fruit and Vegetables Act 1958—No. 252.
Hairdressers Registration Act 1958—No. 250.
Health Act 1958—Nos. 94, 99, 104, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 217, 266, 269.
Historic Buildings Act 1974—No. 136.
Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965—No. 102.
Housing Act 1958—No. 248.
Industrial Training Act 1975—Nos. 106, 114, 115, 116, 161, 163, 186, 222, 236, 254.
Inflammable Liquids Act 1966—No. 215.
Instruments Act 1958—No. 284.
Labour and Industry Act 1958—Nos.117, 132, 151, 152.
Land Act 1958—No. 153.
Land Surveyors Act 1958—No. 188.
Land Tax Act 1958—No. 162.
Legal Profession Practice Act 1958—No. 150.
Liquor Control Act 1968—Nos. 212, 256.
Local Government Act 1958—Nos. 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 301.
Magistrates' Courts Act 1971, Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975, Landlord and Tenant Act 1958, and Acts Interpretation Act 1958—No. 295.
Marine Act 1958—Nos. 139, 200, 201, 202, 203, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235.
Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958—Nos. 158, 165, 166, 167.
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958—Nos. 145, 146, 147, 148, 288.

Melbourne Harbor Trust Act 1958—No. 128.
Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Act 1970—No. 275.
Mental Health Act 1959—No. 276.
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Act 1976—No. 220.
Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1958—No. 240.
Mines Act 1958—Nos. 257, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 280, 281.
Mining Development Act 1958—No. 293.
Ministry for the Arts Act 1972—No. 97.
Motor Boating Act 1961—No. 154.
Motor Car Act 1958—Nos. 142, 157, 183, 265.
Motor Car Traders Act 1973—Nos. 113, 238.
Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort Act 1972—No. 171.
National Gallery of Victoria Act 1966—No. 244.
Nurses Act 1958—No. 140.
Optometrists Registration Act 1958—No. 219.
Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968—No. 289.
Petroleum Act 1958—No. 264.
Pharmacists Act 1974—No. 103.
Physiotherapists Act 1958—No. 273.
Pipelines Act 1967—Nos. 255, 277.
Poisons Act 1962—Nos. 105, 267.
Police Offences Act 1958—No. 208.
Police Regulation Act 1958—Nos. 121, 155, 216, 227, 270.
Printers and Newspapers Act 1958—No. 283.
Private Agents Act 1966—No. 213.
Property Law Act 1958—Nos. 253, 282.
Protection of Animals Act 1966—No. 207.
Public Records Act 1973—No. 211.
Public Service Act 1974—Nos. 144, 172, 228, 274, PSD Nos. 44, 47, 50 to 85.
Racing Act 1958—Nos. 96, 111, 272.
Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959—No. 210.
Religious Successory and Charitable Trusts Act 1958—No. 287.
Road Traffic Act 1958—Nos. 156, 185.
Rural Finance and Settlement Commission Act 1961—No. 187.
Sale of Land Act 1962—No. 298.
Scaffolding Act 1971—No. 112.
Second-hand Dealers Act 1958—Nos. 189, 221, 246, 268, 278, 279.
Seeds Act 1971—No. 241.
Shearers Accommodation Act 1976—No. 131.
Stamps Act 1978—Nos. 159, 170.
Stock Foods Act 1958—No. 95.
Strata Titles Act 1967—No. 286.
Sunday Entertainment Act 1967—No. 209.
Supreme Court Act 1958—Nos. 107, 108, 109, 110, 297, 302.
Survey Co-ordination Act 1958—No. 199.
Taxation Appeals Act 1972—No. 169.
Teaching Service Act 1958—No. 127.
Town and Country Planning Act 1961—No. 305.
Transfer of Land Act 1958—Nos. 218, 285.
Valuation of Land Act 1960—Nos. 135, 223, 224.
Vegetation and Vine Diseases Act 1958—No. 243.
Victorian Film Corporation Act 1976—No. 122.
Water Act 1958—Nos. 225, 226.
Weights and Measures Act 1958—No. 149.
Wildlife Act 1975—No. 247.

Stock Foods Act 1958—Proclamation altering the chemical composition of bran and pollard.

Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority—Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

Teaching Service Act 1958—
- Teaching Service—Primary Schools Division (Classification, Salaries and Allowances) Regulations—Amendment Nos. 455, 460.
- Teaching Service—Professional (Classification, Salaries and Allowances) Regulations—Amendment No. 459.
- Teaching Service—Secondary Schools Division (Classification, Salaries and Allowances) Regulations—Amendment Nos. 456, 458, 461.
- Teaching Service—Technical Schools Division (Classification, Salaries and Allowances) Regulations—Amendment Nos. 457, 462.

Town and Country Planning Act 1961—
- Ballaarat and District Planning Scheme 1966 (Borough of Sebastopol) Amendment No. 10, 1978.
- Ballaarat and District Planning Scheme 1966 (Shire of Buninyong) Amendment Nos. 5, 1977 and 6 (two papers).
- Ballaarat and District Planning Scheme 1966 (Shire of Grenville) Amendment No. 2.
- City of Benalla Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 17, 19 and 22 (three papers).
- City of Camberwell Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 44, 1978.
- City of Colac Planning Scheme 1963, Amendment No. 12, 1977.
- City of Echuca Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 33, 35, 36, 1977 and 38, 1978 (four papers).
- City of Frankston Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 9, 1976.
- City of Horsham Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 36.
- City of Knox Planning Scheme 1965, Amendment Nos. 148, 177, 1977 and 187, 191, 1978 (four papers).
- City of Mildura Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 20 and 24, 1977 (two papers).
- Cranbourne Planning Scheme 1960, Amendment Nos. 23, 1976 and 25, 1977 (two papers).
- Lake Bellfield Planning Scheme 1968, Amendment No. 9.
- Lake Glenmaggie Planning Scheme 1977, Amendment No. 2.
- Maldon Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 1.
- Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 21, 45, 62 part 2, 64 part 2, 64 part 2A, 72 part 1, 76 part 1, 77 part 1, 77 part 2, 81 part 1, 95, 98, 105, 106 and 108 (fifteen papers).

Ocean Road Planning Scheme 1955, Amendment No. 14 (Shire of Otway).
Phillip Island Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 3.
Seymour Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 37.
Shire of Alexandra Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 1 and 3 1977 (two papers).
Shire of Benalla Planning Scheme 1953, Amendment No. 8, 1977.
Shire of Bulla Planning Scheme 1959, Amendment No. 63, 1977.
Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme 1962, Amendment No. 104, 1977.
Shire of Kilmore Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 20, 22, 24, 26, 1977 (four papers).
Shire of Lillydale Planning Scheme 1958, Amendment Nos. 71 and 78, 1977 (two papers).
Shire of Maffra (Heyfield Township) Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 3, 5 and 6, 1977 (three papers).
Shire of Maffra (Maffra Township) Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 16.
Shire of Mornington Planning Scheme 1959, Amendment No. 118, 1978.
Shire of Rochester (Rochester Township) Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 8.
Shire of Sherbrooke Planning Scheme 1965, Amendment No. 91, 1975.
Shire of South Gippsland Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 31 and 34, 1977 (two papers).
Shire of Tambo (Lakes Entrance) Planning Scheme.
Shire of Tambo (Lakes Entrance) Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 8.
Shire of Werribee Planning Scheme 1963, Amendment Nos. 46, 49 and 52, 1977 (three papers).
Town of Bairnsdale Planning Scheme, Amendment Nos. 15 and 17 (two papers).
Town of Stawell Planning Scheme 1963, Amendment No. 14, 1977.
Waratah Bay Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 9, 1977 (Shire of South Gippsland).
Warragul Planning Scheme 1954, Amendment No. 30, 1977.

Victoria Institute of Colleges Act 1965—Summary of statements of accounts of affiliated colleges for the year 1976.

Victorian Council of the Arts—Report for the year 1976–77.

Victorian Public Offices Corporation Act 1974—Report on the exercise of powers in relation to the sale of property, 8th May, 1978, together with an amendment to that report dated 23rd May, 1978.

POUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from May 2) on the motion of Mr. Dunstan (Minister of Public Works) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough): The Opposition supports this Bill which proposes a number of small amendments to the Pounds Act 1958. From 1874 until 1958 the fees and charges under the Pounds Act remained unchanged. Since then there have been two amending Acts, in 1968 and 1974, effecting minor changes to the 1958 Act.

The present Bill is mainly an updating measure and does not affect important matters of principle. The Pounds Act provides for the impounding of wandering and trespassing cattle and the Bill increases penalties in line with current costs, which honorable members will be aware are continuing to rise. It also provides for the recovery of expenses incurred in the transport and loading of cattle.

As I indicated, the Pounds Act is a very old Act, and in 1978 it is difficult for an Act of this nature to be relevant right across the State—in the city, suburbs, rural areas and country towns, including some municipal areas on the urban fringe. Metropolitan municipalities detain animals not under the Pounds Act but under the provisions of the Local Government Act, and this Bill merely updates and sorts out some of the anomalies in the Pounds Act.

In the autumn sessional period of Parliament I was given this small Bill to deal with. For weeks it was listed on the Notice Paper. Somehow it was never dealt with. There I was, fresh and keen to involve myself in the workings of Parliament, but eventually I thought to myself, "If the Government is totally unable to dispose quickly of this small Bill, it is little wonder that it is totally unable to manage the large affairs of this State." I hope the business of the House will be dealt with more expeditiously during this sessional period.

Mr. COLEMAN (Syndal): I raise a point of order. The Bill being debated is the Pounds (Amendment) Bill, which has nothing to do with Government performance.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. McLaren): Order! There is no point of order, but I suggest that the honorable member for Greensborough might address herself to the Bill being debated. The honorable member is permitted to deal with the subject of Government performance in passing, but she should now return to the Bill.

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough): I was in fact talking about the Bill and the delay and inconvenience that is caused to the people of Victoria when Bills listed in the autumn sessional period are not dealt with until the spring sessional period. The Municipal Association of Victoria has made a contribution to this Bill—in fact, the contribution of municipalities dates back to the inception of the principal Act during the last century.

The Government has listed this small Bill first on the Notice Paper, and I wonder whether that indicates that the Government is avoiding the major problems facing the State, because on this side of the House honorable members believe that people are more important than sheep. Nonetheless, the Opposition supports this small, unimportant Bill.

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla): In discussing this small but important Bill, I remind honorable members that since settlement it has been necessary to have some control over the animals that either stray or are led onto the highways of this country. This morning I was driving along our magnificent Hume Freeway and I saw a sheep and a lamb grazing on the plantation that separates the two carriageways. I do not know whether the animals strayed there by accident or by design of the owner, but the freeway has notices at each end saying that animals are not permitted on it. It is to regulate this sort of occurrence that we have a Pounds Act. I assume that the stock inspector from the Country Roads Board would eventually find the two animals and that they would be impounded at a municipal pound.

As the honorable member for Greensborough has already said, the Bill will amend an Act of great distinction and of long duration. It should not be overlooked that in having a pound officer or a stock inspector, municipalities have been safeguarding the rights of the travelling public, and I have been involved in and have seen accidents caused by stock straying on our roads.

The Bill will increase the penalties considerably—in fact, it will increase them by approximately 300 per cent. This has become necessary because the costs involved in the wages and salaries of pound officers and stock inspectors and in transporting animals from where they are found to a pound have increased considerably. Although these costs are not the costs of primary industry, the way in which they have risen is indicative of the way in which the costs faced by primary producers in producing stock have risen in recent years. These increased costs may be one reason why straying stock are less common today than they were in the past.

Clause 4 of the Bill will increase the penalty imposed on the owner of a straying sheep from 3 cents to 10 cents and in the case of cattle the penalty will be increased from $1 to $3. A penalty of $20 will be imposed if the straying animal is an entire horse, a bull or a ram. Those terms are used to describe an unsterilized male animal of the particular species.

The final clause of the Bill deals with the situation where the amount obtained by the sale of the animal is not sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the municipality in transporting and impounding the animal. Previously the fine collected after a court case in this situation has gone into the Consolidated Fund, but the proposed amendment will allow the council of the municipality to retain the fine. The costs can arise from damage caused by the animal or from cartage or drovers' fees. I point out that because of the increase in the cost of transport and drovers' fees,

the animal concerned would have to be quite valuable before its sale would bring in sufficient funds to pay those costs. One can appreciate that this amendment will be readily accepted by municipalities.

As I have said, this small Bill will update the ancient Pounds Act. The Act must be on the statute-book. As one who lives in a rural area, I can appreciate the danger of cattle straying on the roads. With the general increase in the number of stock today, most landholders are well aware of the need to keep their stock off the roads, particularly because of the high compensation that may be payable to travellers who become involved in accidents caused by straying stock.

Mr. REMINGTON (Melbourne): I support the Bill and suggest that the increases are totally justifiable. A measure such as this affects not only country people and those who drive along the Hume Highway, but also many people who live in outer suburban areas where nuisances have been caused by horses and other animals straying on to the road. Therefore, it is necessary that councils and others involved in the apprehension of these animals should be provided with the power to impose proper penalties on those who are responsible for the animals concerned.

I reaffirm the statement by the honorable member for Greensborough that it is regrettable that this relatively minor Bill, although important in its context, was not dealt with during the last sessional period. I can only publicly acknowledge and express my concern and surprise that this Bill should be the first Bill presented in this sessional period when great problems such as unemployment, inflation, division within the Liberal Party and other important matters confront the community.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. McLaren): Order! The honorable member should return to a discussion of the Bill.

Mr. REMINGTON: My remarks are cogent to the Bill. One would have thought this Bill would have been placed further down the list for this sessional period so that the Government could take action to restore the flagging confidence of the people. It is an indictment of the Parliament that, on the opening day of the sessional period, all the House can do is to discuss a relatively minor Bill when grave problems confront the community.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2 (Second Schedule).

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I thank honorable members for their contributions to the debate on the Bill. I assure them that the Government is just as interested in people as it is in sheep and cattle. This is possibly an appropriate Bill for the start of the sessional period. Perhaps it is as well that the Bill was not passed during the last sessional period because, as so often happens when the Municipal Association of Victoria has had an opportunity of examining a Bill, certain amendments will be proposed.

I shall be proposing two amendments. In its present form, the Bill proposes to increase the fee which may be demanded by a pound keeper for every sheep from 3 cents to 10 cents. This increase was requested by the Western District Municipal Association. The Municipal Association of Victoria has subsequently asked that the fee payable for every head of other cattle should also be increased and therefore it is proposed to increase the amount from $1 to $3. Accordingly, I move—

Clause 2, line 13, after '"Ten cents"' insert 'and for the expression "$1" there shall be substituted the expression "$3"'.

Mr. FORDHAM: What is the basis of the increase?

Mr. BALFOUR: The Municipal Association of Victoria has suggested that the fee payable for every head of other cattle should be increased in the same ratio as the fee for a sheep.

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla): The National Party supports the amendment. At first glance, the amendment appears to be confusing, but I understand that it proposes an amendment to the amount payable under the Second Schedule. The amendment relates to the amount that may be demanded by a pound keeper for every head of other cattle, but what about the $20 for the entire horse, the bull and the ram? The poor old ram might be a toothless animal that has for a number of years learned to get out at a specific spot where perhaps erosion has occurred and then wander down the road.

I can understand the reason for the increase proposed in the Second Schedule but I do not accept the Minister's explanation why this Bill is the first matter to be dealt with during this sessional period. One would expect a communication from a municipality or the Municipal Association of Victoria on the Bill, but when such communication was not forthcoming —I understand that the municipalities within my electorate were in favour of the Bill as presented during the last sessional period—this small difficulty has now been found.

During the last three or four days of the previous sessional period, many members on the Government benches sought the opportunity to speak and they were arguing about who would speak and for how long. During the earlier part of that session, Government supporters sat silently, but it was interesting to note the number of honorable members on the Government side of the House who desired to speak in the dying hours of the session.

Mr. BURGIN: Why not?

Mr. TREWIN: I agree that all honorable members should participate in debates, but members of the Government party are often silent when they should be speaking, particularly those who represent country electorates and should be speaking on behalf of their electorates. A lot of the time wasted at the end of the last sessional period could have been utilized in passing this Bill. It is interesting that the Parliament should have a small but important Bill with which to open this sessional period.

The amendment was agreed to, and the clause, as amended, was adopted, as was clause 3.

Clause 4 (Amendment of No. 6341 s. 12).

Mr. McCLURE (Bendigo): A minor point should be explained. Can the Minister explain what is meant by the term "entire horse"? Will the Minister explain why there is differentiation between one brand of horse and another?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): An "entire horse" is what it means. The same comparison exists between a bull and a steer as between an entire horse and a gelding. A bull or an entire horse straying onto the road can cause havoc. Therefore the same penalty should apply if either of these animals strays onto the road. I am sure that the honorable member for Benalla would have a great deal to say if a stallion got in with his Clydesdale mares, and the honorable member for Gippsland East might grizzle if a Charolais got in with his prize Jersey cows.

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla): An entire horse is a male horse that is entirely there; nothing is missing. If there is anything missing it is called a gelding. A male horse that is not entire is a gelding. A bull is a bull; a male cattle that is not a bull is a steer. A ram is a male sheep. When it is not a ram it is a wether. The difference is that horses are referred to as entire.

Not so long ago, and it applies even today, a stallion was advertised as a stallion entire, as the honorable member for Ivanhoe would know

from his knowledge of the trotting world. The term is used to describe a horse that is entirely there. If it was termed a gelding it would not be entirely there.

If the whole anatomy of the horse is not evident, the horse would be nominated as a rig. Male horses are referred to as entires, rigs, or geldings—that pertains to the male species of a horse.

When the honorable member for Bendigo sees the word "entire" and it refers to stock or even human beings he will know that either the stock or the human beings are entirely there.

Mr. McCLURE: I am entirely satisfied.

The clause was agreed to, as were the remaining clauses.

New clause.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I move—

Insert the following new clause to follow clause 2—

"AA. In Section 9 of the Principal Act for the expression 'Three cents ($0.03) for every sheep and $1 for every head of other cattle' there shall be substituted the expression 'Ten cents for every sheep and $3 for every head of other cattle'."

The Municipal Association of Victoria drew the Government's attention to clause 9 of the Bill and suggested that the rates should be amended. Section 9 of the principal Act applies where either sheep or cattle trespass on land that is not tillaged land but is land enclosed with a substantial fence. Therefore, the rate of trespass on the land not being tillaged land enclosed with a substantial fence does not exceed those figures named in the principal Act and those which are proposed to be amended to 10 cents and $3.

The new clause was agreed to.

The Bill was reported to the House with amendments, and passed through its remaining stages.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY BILL.

The debate (adjourned from May 2) on the motion of Mr. Maclellan (Minister of Labour and Industry) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir): In his second-reading speech, the then Minister of Labour and Industry indicated that the Government had paid particular concern to Federal legislation that enabled persons to obtain exemption certificates from joining a trade union on conscientious grounds. That was a major feature of the Bill. It has been seen how this has been used in this State twice to disrupt the transport system. It has disrupted the Melbourne City Council maintenance division. It has also created a situation in Victoria where it is possible for people to present themselves for employment by instrumentalities under the administration of this Government, claiming that they have exemption certificates giving them the right to work regardless of whether they join a trade union and they are given privileges and priorities above the many thousands of unemployed people in this State.

When this Bill was introduced into the Victorian Parliament, it was in conformity and collusion with the Federal Government and the Fraser–Hamer concept of industrial relations.

It is clear that the Victorian Government subscribes to the view of the Fraser Government in blaming the trade union movement and organized labour for the ills of the economy. The Government has sought to convince the community—and the proposed legislation is part of that attempt—that the ills of the economic system under which we live can be laid at the foot of the trade union movement, and that if the trade union movement could be controlled, somehow the economy would be restored. The Minister of Labour and Industry interjects that he approves of that concept, but he is about to do something which the previous

Minister of Labour and Industry said only a lunatic would do, and that is to oppose clause 8.

When the opposition to this provision was drawn to the Minister's attention, the Victorian Trades Hall Council by unanimous resolution described the Minister as having deliberately misled the House after introducing the legislation and giving his explanation of the reasons for having done so.

The House must analyze the Government's concept of industrial relations, and this Bill, which purports to make amendments to the Victorian Labour and Industry Act to provide for improved industrial relations by means of clause 8, can do nothing but cause confrontation and disruption in the community.

Recently honorable members saw an example of how a 21-year-old girl was able in two weeks to get more space in the newspapers of this State than any politician, including the Premier, dealing with questions of the economy. More concern was given to and analysis made of the position she was taking in pursuit of employment with the Tramways Board than of the position of hundreds of thousands of people in Victoria who are seeking employment in various industries under existing legislation and current terms and conditions of employment.

If in the future the Government continues with this approach of introducing legislation designed to say that organized labour is responsible for the failure of the Government to provide jobs and to provide an economy in which people leaving the education system can expect to find employment, people who are unemployed and seeking work in the building and housing industries and various trades and those who have apprenticeships but are unable to pursue them because of lack of job opportunities will expect the Government to take a constructive approach to the economy rather than the hotchpotch attitude reflected in this proposed legislation.

The Opposition will oppose this measure because it sees it for what it is. We have no amendment to propose but will vote against the Bill because we believe it carries out the policy of the Fraser Government in establishing the Industrial Relations Bureau, the police arm of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, which is designed to impose penalties on people to force them to do what the Government would like them to do and to accept terms and conditions of employment which the majority of people in the trade union movement would reject.

In misleading the House, I believe quite deliberately, the Minister sought to justify the proposed legislation. He used as the basis of that justification the reports that were made to the Minister of Labour and Industry in Victoria by the Committee for Review of the Labour and Industry Act 1958. The first report was compiled and made available on 9th April, 1976, so the Government was under no illusions about the recommendations of the committee, which comprised representatives of the Department of Labour and Industry, the employer organizations and the organized trade union movement. The committee spent a great deal of time analyzing the Labour and Industry Act of Victoria and making some recommendations on how best to achieve the streamlining of this Act to provide for better industrial relations and a method of solving industrial disputes.

More importantly, the emphasis was on conciliation and development of the wages board system, which has served Victoria since 1896 and has been the system of solving industrial disputes and matters of that kind over that time. That system has won the admiration of most States in the Commonwealth, and by comparison with the Federal legislation, it has provided an opportunity of resolving industrial matters on a much simpler, less legalistic and more satisfactory basis than the legalistic system that has developed in the Federal arbitration sphere.

The criticism the Opposition makes is of the Government's attempt to use the legislation which was introduced by the Fraser Government to provide for exemption from joining trade unions on application to the Industrial Registrar and the fact that the Government seeks in this measure to provide for a similar exemption to be made on application to the Secretary of the Department of Labour and Industry without any option. Under clause 8 the secretary would be required to issue such a certificate of exemption.

Let us take the position to its logical conclusion. There is a limitation on the area in which these certificates would be operative. Not everybody in the work force would be aware that there are differences between State determinations and Federal awards, and that they cover different areas.

Any citizen of Victoria who responded to the Government's urging to avail himself of the opportunity of getting an exemption certificate on application to the Secretary of the Department of Labour and Industry, who would be obliged under the terms of this Bill to issue it, would find himself with a certificate with which he could go into the work force. Initially that person would have to find a job in which that certificate was applicable. It would be applicable in industries where State determinations were the sole area of coverage, but that would not necessarily be known to the person concerned, so even on the premise that the certificate would achieve the desired objective, the person concerned might well have paid the equivalent of a year's union subscription which is a requirement under the provision and still not achieve the commodity for which he had paid.

Having moved into the industrial situation, the person would find that most people in the work force who subscribe to the proposition that those who join the organized trade union movement to achieve benefits and improved conditions accept the responsibility of making the contribution that is necessary to sustain the organization, and would look very unkindly, to say the least, on those who seek to avail themselves of those privileges and conditions without making a like contribution.

If honorable members want to talk about industrial democracy, I shall raise it in this context. It seems to me that 2,000 tramway workers at the Collingwood Town Hall in considering this proposition have more rights than one person who seeks to disrupt 50 years of trade union activity in the tramways industry and to upset conditions and rosters simply to meet her own circumstances. I think the Government has been taken for a ride.

Mr. BILLING: Not on a tram!

Mr. SIMMONDS: The Minister of Transport certainly knew something when he said he would offer the person concerned a job. Certainly he has some troubles, because he has offered her a job at $20 below the going rate, which the Victorian Public Service Association is not happy about.

I am concerned that there may be an influx of refugees from the Government's industrial policy into other sectors, and wonder how many workers in Victoria will be confronted with other employees accepting jobs at $20, $30 or $40 less than the established rate on application with a certificate, as in this case, issued under the Federal legislation.

If this Bill is passed it will be possible for a person to obtain a similar certificate simply by applying, without any hearing by the Secretary of the Department of Labour and Industry, and people with those certificates will be running around the State demanding employment.

In the case to which I referred, what analysis was made of the person who applied for the job in the tramways? I suggest that if a person holds one of these certificates which are supported by the Liberal Party philosophy, both State and

Federal, that person automatically becomes privileged. It does not matter what happened in the past. It does not matter that the person may have committed a traffic offence which in some circles was regarded as serious; it does not matter that the person may have been associated with the forgery of passports or involved in a charge relating to drugs. All these things are of no significance if that person is prepared to take on the authorized trade union movement and seek to attack and reverse the established position.

The Tramways Board was not able to apply knowledge of the background of the person it accepted for employment simply because a certificate was issued by the Industrial Relations Board. The Tramways Board was put into the position of being subject to fines of $400 a day, exactly the same penalties that are contained in this Bill. This Bill provides for fines of $400 a day for individuals or organizations who do anything to the detriment or imagined detriment of a person who holds such a certificate. That is a philosophy that this Government is happy to inject into the industrial relations scene in Victoria. It is no wonder that, when one considers the history of this Government in managing industrial affairs, one finds that it has invariably created disputes for political purposes.

In the second-reading speech the Minister indicated that the purpose of the Bill was to apply to State awards and determinations the philosophy of the Industrial Relations Bureau legislation that the Fraser Government introduced. The Federal Bill was introduced prior to the Federal elections for political purposes and to create a political climate. It was introduced at the time when the State Electricity Commission dispute was being fought out in Victoria, a dispute which, on the basis that was available for settlement, could have been resolved in the first week by a Government which knew how to handle industrial issues. But the Victorian Government sought an alternative and introduced an essential services Bill to provide further penalties for employees in the State instrumentality by threatening deregistration of their organizations.

That is the philosophy behind the Bill and behind legislation introduced by the Government on industrial matters and it will ensure its defeat at the forthcoming State election. There is no doubt that the Government is in disarray and that it is about to cut itself adrift from the Fraser Government. It has accepted a proposition, which is contained in clause 8 of the Bill, that is opposed not only by the trade union movement but also by employers in this State.

A 21-year-old girl was able to run this State around for about fourteen days and had the Government in her pocket. In the last week she was said to be making a film of her activities, possibly with funds provided by the Victorian Film Development Corporation. That girl was able to manipulate the Government around its declared principles. I wonder what sort of principles it has if it allows that type of thing to continue. I wonder what sort of principles the Government has when it introduces this measure and the Minister of Labour and Industry says, " Only the lunatic left will oppose it." Within a week every respectable organization in the field of industrial relations condemned it as a measure which would cause disruption, provocation and great loss to Victoria. It is a measure of which the Government ought to be ashamed.

I understand that the Government is about to repent. Honorable members ought to understand why it is repenting. It is not because it has reformed, and not because it has given up its attack on the trade union movement. The Government is simply changing its tack because it knows that its policy does not work and it will not work. Clarrie O'Shea showed that the penal provisions of the Act

would not work. Penal provisions will not force employees in the trade union movement to work with what they regard as scab labour. The quicker the Government understands that, the quicker it will accept the fact that industries in this State, which support the living standards of workers, function best when those in the industries who know them determine the industrial relations policies and how they will reach resolution of disputes.

Any honorable member who believes there is no conflict between labour and management under what is described as the free enterprise system should not be in this House. The problem is how to resolve those conflicts. They will not be resolved by saying to individual unions and individual employees, "You will be fined $400 a day if you do not do what we think and work with people with whom you say you are not prepared to work." Employers understand.

A similar dispute has occurred in relation to the tramways on two occasions. There was political motivation behind the actions of Mr. Krutulis who was associated with a right-wing party and who subsequently was shot by his brother in Sydney over a political argument. He was seeking to break down the policy of the tramways union.

Mr. Cox: What is your answer?

Mr. SIMMONDS: It is not the proposition of this Government, that people can be coerced into accepting the policies of the Liberal Party. The people of Victoria understand that industrial relations are a source of conflict and will continue to be. They also understand that the people engaged in an industry are better able to resolve disputes than are Philadelphia lawyers like the former Minister of Labour and Industry who, within a week, had to acknowledge that the Bill would not work. The Government is about to tell the House the same thing. This is not because it has changed its attitude, but because it has become expedient to cut adrift from Fraser's policy of confrontation. The Victorian Government knows the people of Victoria are a wake-up to what it is about and a wake-up to its political motivation in provoking industrial unrest. It understands the cost to the community of legislation of this type if introduced.

Mr. WILLIAMS: It is class war, just before the election, and you know it.

Mr. SIMMONDS: The honorable member for Doncaster has already indicated that he is about to lose his seat and I do not dispute that.

Mr. WILLIAMS: The Labor Party will not get it.

Mr. SIMMONDS: Can the honorable member tell the House who will get it? I do not know what arrangements have been made for a takeover but the honorable member has said publicly that his seat is in grave danger. At least he is honest about it, unlike other members of the Government party.

The Minister angered the trade union movement when he said that this Bill, which was carrying out Liberal Party philosophy, was associated with the representations of the tripartite committee which reviewed the Labour and Industry Act. At page 11 of the report of the committee it was said—

> The Committee is unanimously of the view that the proposals outlined above reflect the general consensus of opinion, of people actively engaged in the conduct of industrial relations in Victoria, about the kind of machinery that ought to be available in Victoria for the proper settlement of terms and conditions of employment and for the maintenance of industrial peace.

The Opposition supports that proposition. The report continues—

> It should not be necessary to emphasize the importance of these objectives to the welfare of the State and of the nation. Victoria has in the past run its system of industrial tribunals on the cheap. The implementation of this report will require the expenditure of more money than has ever been devoted to industrial relations in this State before. But, in the view of the Committee, it must be done.

This is the report the Minister has had since April, 1976, and all he can tell honorable members about the recommendations relates to the question of conscientious objections. What else was in the report? The report provided for an industrial relations Act. It stated—

> It is the view of the Committee that the Labour and Industry Act 1958 should be split into several new Acts, each dealing with one broad subject matter. It is therefore recommended that an "Industrial Relations Act" be enacted, to include provisions for the constitution of industrial tribunals, the making and enforcing of their awards or determinations, and similar matters.

The report called for the setting up of a commission to be comprised of a president qualified to be and having the status of a judge of the Supreme Court; a deputy president, to act when the president was unavailable; and two other members. It went on to say that the function of the commission should be to hear and determine applications for the constitution of new boards or for readjustment of powers of existing boards. The commission was referring to wages boards. It also stated that it should hear and determine any industrial matter referred to it pursuant to the Act by the Minister or a board or its chairman; appeals brought by competent persons against board awards; appeals or references by the registrar on matters concerning registration of organizations under the Act; revocations of registration of agreements and any other matters prescribed by the Act.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. McLaren): I suggest to the honorable member that the report goes beyond the present Bill. I know it is partly relevant but I suggest that reading large extracts from that report might be irrelevant.

Mr. SIMMONDS: I do not intend to read the full report.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The honorable member should relate it to the Bill.

Mr. SIMMONDS: I will certainly relate it to the Bill, because the Minister, in introducing the Bill, said it was brought in on the recommendation of the tripartite committee that enquired into the Act. I am simply trying to demonstrate that the recommendation contained a whole range of submissions to the Minister, and I will read a paragraph of the report to illustrate the point—

> It should be emphasized that the recommendations contained in this report constitute a "package deal". That is to say, what the Committee is proposing is a whole, integrated system. The Committee therefore is strongly of the view that if its recommendations are accepted, they should be accepted *in toto*.

It was signed by Mr. Jeans, Chairman, Mr. Donohoe, member, Mr. Jordan, member, Mr. Lane, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. I. O. Spicer.

The point I make is that the Minister quite deliberately misled this House when he indicated that the provision for concientious objection referred to in the Bill was a major factor of this report, which could be taken in isolation with the approval of the committee. That certainly was not the case and the members of the committee I have spoken to are most concerned that they have been misrepresented in this way.

I wish to put the position that the Trades Hall Council took in respect of this.

Mr. KENNETT: Do you mean Mr. Halfpenny?

Mr. SIMMONDS: If the honorable member for Burwood is concerned about Mr. Halfpenny, he should go and talk to him. On 4th May, 1978, the Victorian Trades Hall Council, after hearing the report from the Secretary of the Trades Hall Council—members from all parties would agree that he is a person well respected in industrial relations—had this motion placed before it—

> Council, having heard the report, calls on the officers to meet with the Premier and the Minister for Labour and Industry to demand that part of the proposed legislation regarding "certificate of exemptions" be withdrawn.

The Minister for Labour and Industry has misled Parliament and the community in suggesting that the Committee of Review of the Labour and Industry Act recommended that workers could refuse to join a union for no reason. The Bill the Minister has introduced into the House is a prostitution of the intentions of the members of the Committee.

The proposed legislation only goes to show the naive approach by the Minister in handling his portfolio, which is no doubt the result of his lack of experience in industrial relations.

The Minister's actions place in jeopardy the consultative machinery which exists between the trade union movement and the Government in this State. Unless the Minister withdraws the offensive clauses in the Bill, he will be directly responsible for a deterioration in the industrial relations of this State.

An amendment was moved to that motion and the word "deliberately" was inserted before the word "misled" so that the resolution contained the words, "the Minister deliberately misled". That was the view of the Victorian Trades Hall Council which had representation on that committee of inquiry, and which had the opportunity of hearing the report of the Secretary of the Trades Hall Council, a person who would not make a report on other than fact.

I have no doubt that that reflects the view of all sections of the trade union movement. Those people who are concerned to describe unions as militant, progressive or moderate, would probably find that the amendment before the House in relation to conscientious objection and compulsory unionism would most likely be rejected by organizations which are relatively free of industrial dispute; they rather tend to have a "closed shop," and an arrangement for collecting dues which is usually not applicable to the unions described as militant. If this Bill were passed, the Government might find it would affect a section of the trade union movement which it would regard as being more pliable than the particular trade unions it would seek to attack.

As I indicated earlier, this Bill originated in the Industrial Relations Bureau. I give the Government an opportunity of reviewing its approach to this question by suggesting to it that the legislation which the South Australian Government had enacted provides a solution to the problem which even the Director of the Industrial Relations Bureau acknowledged was going to cause a great deal of difficulty.

Before I deal with that legislation I shall quote from an address of Mr. D. L. Linehan, Director, Industrial Relations Bureau, to the Industrial Relations Society of New South Wales 1978 convention. This gentleman was appointed by the Prime Minister of Australia, so I suppose he has some standing with the Liberal Party. On page 20, paragraph 64 of his speech he said—

Not all the 1977 legislative changes will be seen by both employer and employee organizations as helpful in the day to day relationships between management and unions.

Additional measures introduced to protect the rights of individuals, including the right not to join a union and measures for dealing with particular industrial practices are included in this category.

I refer specifically to amendments which enable a person with a conscientious objection to membership of an employee organization to obtain a Certificate and which gives that person protection from various actions by employers, organizations and members of organizations.

The bureau will get involved in these issues to the extent that there is a breach of the Act. These particular provisions are the most likely to cause disputation and, in my view, are the most likely to impose on all involved the greatest problems in their resolution.

He was not wrong. What was wrong was a Government that thought, if it did think in this way, that the legislation would achieve some measure of industrial peace, or, in its terms, industrial justice. In fact, it guaranteed a rejection of the principle of penal provisions that were designed to force people to work with others whom they regard as a threat to their employment. The question of conscientious objection and the validity of an individual's objections should be resolved by the people with whom the individual has to work. They are the people who

should make the decision. Telling someone that he must take some action invariably means that he will question one's right to tell him what he must do. The people best able to decide whether a particular individual legitimately and honestly holds a particular viewpoint are the people in the workplace with whom the individual would have to associate. I have had two experiences of this in my twenty years as a shop steward. On both occasions the matter was resolved by discussions on the job. In both those cases the individual objectors concerned and the trade union members were able to continue to work in the same employment on a mutually acceptable basis. That can be done, but it cannot be done through legislation enacted in this place, stipulating that there will be a $400 penalty for people who refuse to accept the Government's direction.

A publication called *Workforce* No. 194, issued in New South Wales on 19th April, 1978, dealing with the so-called " right to work " section of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, stated—

> But just imagine what would happen to a medium-sized private employer who has a closed shop deal with his union or unions. The scenario is not hard to imagine. The person would get a job, join the union and then at some appropriate time either move out of the union, or seek to work when others go on strike over whatever issue it may be. The employer would like to fire the worker and get rid of his problem, but he can't because he is liable to prosecution and does not want to break the law. The union acts irrespective of the law.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! Is the honorable member reading his speech?

Mr. SIMMONDS: I am attempting to read a quotation, but I am afraid the copy is not clear. The point I am attempting to make is that the legal costs could escalate to the extent where they would be beyond the reach of a particular business. The statement continues—

> The whole works comes to a halt. The one most severely hurt is likely to be the employer who may just not be able to afford such a situation. Legal costs could escalate beyond his means.

The article suggests that industrial sabotage could be used by a person utilizing the legislation for his own ends, and that it could well be the employers who suffer in the end. That is a legitimate proposition to put in respect of legislation that has already proved it is capable of creating disruption in a State instrumentality. There is no reason to believe that private employers would be immune from disruptions like those which occurred in the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board. There have already been 150 successful applications under the Industrial Relations Bureau legislation, which indicates that there are many more cases in the pipeline that could create situations similar to that which arose recently with the tramways.

As an example of an even-handed way in which to approach this question, I shall quote a case that was covered by the South Australian legislation dealing with the rights of employees concerning their employment and dismissal. The tramways were recently confronted with a situation where, under the provisions of clause 8, they would be threatened with penalties if they dismissed an employee who was a conscientious objector. The way around this situation is contained in the South Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1972, which, in section 15 (1), provides, *inter alia*—

> To hear and determine any question as to whether the dismissal from his employment of an employee, not being an employee who has under any Act or law a right of appeal or review against his dismissal, was harsh, unjust or unreasonable and the Court may, if it thinks fit, direct the employer of that employee to re-employ that employee in his former position on terms that are not less favourable to the employee than if he had not been dismissed from his employment.

It guarantees the right to work for all employees, free from wrongful dismissal. The matter is subject to a hearing under the provisions of the Act and that hearing judges all the issues. It is not simply a question of a person making a unilateral decision.

That issue was taken up in South Australia in connection with the dismissal of a shop steward from General Motors-Holden. Commissioner Clarkson had the task of hearing the case and he was confronted with a situation where State legislation was overridden by Federal legislation. Ultimately, Commissioner Clarkson made a decision to insert the provisions of the State legislation into the Federal award, which ensured that employees in South Australia were covered by the State legislation. In the particular case to which I refer the shop steward was found to have been wrongfully dismissed and he was re-employed. That is a far better way of dealing with this sort of problem.

Mr. RAMSAY: How would that cover the case of a conscientious objector?

Mr SIMMONDS: The Minister is worrying about people who do not wish to join trade unions. I have spent quite some time covering that situation and I repeat that those individuals will have to convince the people in the industry of the legitimacy of their objections. If it is decided that the individuals are attacking the trade union movement, I can assure the Minister that the trade union movement will defend itself from those attacks and the Government will not change that situation through this proposed legislation.

Other provisions of the Bill deal with long service leave. Those provisions do nothing to lift what is a miserable level of long service leave in Victoria in comparison with the situation in other States. The Government has had the opportunity of dealing with the submissions of the Victorian Trades Hall Council on long service leave for over two years. A deputation from the Trades Hall Council met the Minister in February, 1977, to submit changes required to bring the Victorian Labour and Industry Act into line with developments in other States. The Minister said that he wished to discuss the submissions made by the Trades Hall Council with other State Ministers and that he would advise the Trades Hall Council of his views within a fortnight of that meeting.

The Minister has not advised the Trades Hall Council of his attitude. The council wrote to the Minister on the 20th June, 1977. The matter was dealt with at a meeting of the Industrial Relations Advisory Committee on 28th July, 1977. The Trades Hall Council again wrote to Minister on 8th February 1978. The officers met with the Minister on 2nd March to discuss the matter and still the council has not received a satisfactory response.

The response ultimately comes in the form of this Bill and leaves the Victorian position on long service leave far short of even the Victorian Public Service entitlement which is three months' long service leave after ten years' service and *pro rata* long service leave after four years' service. Victorian employees in the private sector covered by the Labour and Industry Act as proposed to be amended by this Bill will have long service leave conditions which are so much worse than those applicable to the Public Service. The South Australian legislation provides for *pro rata* long service leave after seven years on termination for any reason except wilful misconduct.

Mr. RAMSAY: What about the other States?

Mr. SIMMONDS: In Tasmania, provision is made for *pro rata* long service leave after seven years on termination on account of illness, incapacity or other pressing necessity. In New South Wales, *pro rata* long service leave is available after five years. In respect to Federal awards, *pro rata* long service leave is available after ten years' service on termination for any reason except wilful misconduct. I believe a similar provision will be contained in an amendment to be proposed by the Minister during the Committee stage.

I will not deal at length with the classic example of the application principles of this Bill which disturbed

the Melbourne City Council except to say that on that occasion, for the first time, there was the concept of violence in respect to picket lines and, in breaking the picket lines, the police assaulted one of the workers concerned. It is on record that Frank Kane was the person who caused the dispute. As a member of the union, he insisted on a ballot on the question of first aid equipment and other facilities at the Melbourne City Council. In fact, he was a scrutineer at the ballot. When the ballot went against him, he resigned from the union and then became what this Government would describe as a conscientious objector.

This illustrates the extent to which a measure of this nature can influence people to assume a position that is totally illogical, incapable of being carried out, and in fact does a disservice to those people in the community who, for one reason or another, believe they cannot or should not join a union. It encourages them to believe that, with the support of the Government, they can create a situation where they can impose their will on the majority.

This concept simply will not work and I believe the Government is about to acknowledge that fact. Bearing in mind the examples in the past six months, and the examples that the Federal Government imposed in a sense in introducing legislation prior to the last Federal election, with the support and applause of this Government, quite clearly, at last it is being acknowledged that the concept will not work.

There are rumours of a move in Victoria to equate the position and establish an industrial commission on the basis of the South Australian legislation to provide a vehicle for resolution of industrial disputes in a much better way than currently exists and which this Government has sought to use from time to time, particularly a provision such as that appearing in clause 8 and also with respect to coercion under the Vital Projects Act and the Essential Services Act.

At last, the Government may be learning that it will not work but, for political reasons, it may seek to achieve the same objective of attacking the trade union movement. I trust that, when this Bill is defeated, it will see the end of the philosophy and the Fraser–Hamer concept of confrontation rather than conciliation.

Mr. McINNES (Gippsland South): The National Party opposes the Bill in its present form. It is surprised that the Liberal Party, which is the self-proclaimed bastion of free enterprise, should produce a measure which introduces compulsory unionism. It is a wolf dressed up in sheep's clothing and is merely an incentive to introduce compulsory unionism, to which the National Party is totally opposed.

The National Party believes in the right of the individual and it is not alone in that view. The Committee for Review of the Labour and Industry Act, which was a tripartite committee representing employers, the Government and employees and which, virtually without fee, carried out a tremendously important task in reviewing the obsolete Labour and Industry Act, agreed that, although it was desirable that people engaged in industry, whether employers or employees, should become members of their appropriate industrial organization, in a free society, the decision whether or not to be a member of such an organization was one for determination by the individual. The National Party stands firmly behind that concept.

The committee agreed that there should be provision for a conscientious objection and that there should be a collateral payment of money into a fund which could be used, presumably, for the betterment of all workers.

Like most Labour and Industry Bills, this measure is a hotchpotch of amendments which are largely unrelated. Some of them are important and some have minor importance.

However, the clause concerning compulsory unionism is totally odious and obnoxious.

The spokesman for the Labor Party has drawn attention to the $400 a day penalties proposed to be included in the Act. They have relatively little validity when we come back to the case of Clarrie O'Shea. There must be a better way of improving industrial relations. There has to be a genuine attempt by all parties at conciliation and, if the matter has been arbitrated, agreement between the parties to observe the umpire's decision, particularly when the opportunity has been provided for representations by all parties concerned and all points of view to be put on the matter and aired publicly.

This was the thought behind the committee's wish to set up a structure to enable this to be done. That was the most important conclusion to come out of the study by the committee. The honorable member for Reservoir has pointed out that the whole of the recommendations ought to be accepted *in toto*.

The committee's recommendations should not be split up, fragmented, and taken in bits and pieces, yet this is happening with one of the most important reports that the Government has initiated. One matter is simply included in a series of unrelated amendments when it is in itself of great significance.

The Biggs affair, as one would have expected, has been seized upon by the Labor Party to show that anything short of compulsory unionism will not work. That party wants a total approach to the whole subject—everyone caught in the same net and dragooned into being a member. If one is not a member, one loses the right to work and earn a living for oneself and one's family. The National Party opposes this view. The Biggs affair was unfortunate but there will always be individuals who will be prepared to abuse situations, thereby creating disruptions. Nevertheless the basic principle remains that individuals have a clear right not to be forced to join an organization or union provided that their objections are well founded. At the same time it is accepted that there are great advantages in being associated with a union, an organization of employers, or any group whatsoever.

However, there are other ways in which a situation can be met. It devolves largely on unions and the powerful position and responsibility that they have to use that responsibility wisely. It devolves upon them to set up conditions that will attract voluntary membership. The National Party completely supports voluntary membership and the encouragement of people to belong to organizations and to abide by decisions of their democratically elected executives.

Mr. FOGARTY: What happens if they do not abide by them? Will it be the same as Francis and Jennings?

Mr. McINNES: If they do not do so, there are other ways in which matters can be adjusted. We already have acceptance by the community of a preference for financial union members. No one would oppose this view. It is a strong incentive, particularly in a time of falling employment.

The other possibility is one of a charge or a fee to be levied by the union—quite rightly—to compensate for the efforts that they have put in on behalf of members to obtain privileges.

Mr. FOGARTY: You are talking like Don Chipp.

Mr. McINNES: The suggestion is not original to Chipp. It has been put up in other places and it should be considered. It has merit. Through these means a union would have some redress but it is quite wrong to place an individual in a position in which, if he does not do what he is told, he may well have to starve because the power of the unions and of employers to lock out people is such that in a time of falling employment there is a real chance of such a person being

thrown on the scrap heap and of being dependent on social services. This is a wrong way of going about things.

I am aware of the scab accusation. It is one that hurts and is resented bitterly by those who conscientiously and genuinely believe they have a case. What is needed is a body to whom they can appeal and the setting up of this body is recommended by the committee, a judicial body experienced in industrial legislation, with advocates and judges from both sides of the fence, the employers and the employees, to enable a fair and just decision to be made. Surely this is the correct way to go about the matter. With little reservation, the National Party would accept the concept of an industrial commission. Under the structure of arbitration similar to the wages boards, and in respect to a successor to the wages boards it is appropriate to institute an arbitration and conciliation board —that is the suggested name. This name reflects their role in a proper way. Eventually it is essential to arrive at a decision and provided that it is taken in the light of the best available evidence we should abide by it in the same way in which we abide by decisions of a court of law. Surely in the industrial field we can reach and observe agreement along those lines.

The public, quite candidly, is getting sick of being the meat in the sandwich and being part of the political football, kicked from pillar to post. This is happening and there is no doubt that there is a growing body of feeling opposed to the unions for this very reason. If the boot were on the other foot and the employers were locking out people, a similar reaction would arise. The public is not being partisan in this respect. The public is the bystander wondering what it has done to deserve this. Not a day passes without the newspapers being full of inconveniences to the public caused by strike action in one way or another. It is reflected in such ways as how the public gets to work and in the high cost of living. One really wonders whether, in the result, the interests of union members are being properly safeguarded.

The emphasis should be on conciliation and the National Party believes the clause concerning exemption in its present form should be deleted because it is a subterfuge for compulsory unionism. As long as the clause remains, the National Party totally opposes the Bill.

I fully recognize the hard-earned benefits gained by unions and I want to be as impartial as possible, but I reiterate that many people are fed up with the situation and a backlash will undoubtedly develop unless organizations take heed of these things and try to get Australia out of the situation of continuous disruption which, frankly, it cannot afford.

The National Party agrees with most of the other matters in the Bill, particularly the wiping out of the Labour and Industry Advisory Board, which has never been in operation. This is the sort of clutter with which the Department of Labour and Industry is confronted and the sooner it is cleared up the better.

The Government quite rightly appointed a committee to review the Labour and Industry Act 1958, and the people on the committee had the respect of all sides of the political, industrial and commercial spectrums. The committee worked hard and concluded that it should not be necessary to emphasise the importance of these objectives. The prime objectives were the need to reach a consensus and a proper settlement of the terms and conditions of employment and the maintenance of industrial peace. The committee warned that the implementation of this report would require considerable expense but in its view, it must be done.

Honorable members may not know the structure of the committee; I am not sure whether my colleagues mentioned it, but the committee included two officers of the Department of Labour and Industry, Maurice Stanley Jeans and William Roch Donohoe;

Ian Oswald Spicer, the nominee of the Victorian Employers Federation; Gerald Colton Lane, the nominee of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures, and Peter Ian Nolan and Harry Earnest Mitchell, nominees of the Victorian Trades Hall Council. The committee consisted of people from all side of this complex situation, yet they were able in most instances to arrive at agreement on what I believe to be the salient points. However, the Government appears to have ignored the report.

In his second-reading speech the former Minister of Labour and Industry commented on occupational safety and health and referred to the code of general principles. He went on to say rather proudly that the Government had gone beyond what was required by law in occupational safety and health but on studying this document I find no mention of the suppression of noise in the environment of workers. The section relating to occupational safety and health is a pretty thin document, yet the Government rests its record on the code of safety and says it is doing its part. I say this simply because it is one of the things the unions ought rightfully to be tackling and on which they should be placing much more emphasis.

The other clauses of the Bill are generally acceptable, but its main thrust remains this very significant one of whether a party endorses compulsory unionism together with its more undesirable aspects. I state quite clearly that the National Party is not prepared to go along with that, even if the Liberal Party is.

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): The circumstances of the debate on this Bill are somewhat unusual in that it was read a first time on 20th April but was not debated in the autumn session. The House could reasonably ask why that was so.

I suggest it was because of the nature of the legislation in that it brought together a wide range of issues which aroused strong interest in many sections of the community, and also because of the origin of the legislation and the fact that it was drawn up largely in response to suggestions that arose from the Committee for Review of the Labour and Industry Act that was referred to by honorable members earlier this evening.

I should like to take a close look at the recommendations made by the committee of review, but before doing so I shall comment on the speech of the honorable member for Reservoir. While listening to the honorable member tonight I was overcome with a feeling of sadness. His allegation that the Bill was introduced in collusion with the Federal Government in order to disadvantage the trade union movement was not true, but it was not that which made me sad. It was not even because he said that the former Minister of Labour and Industry misled the House, which is also an untruth; the former Minister made his position perfectly clear to the House. It was not the allegation that the Government is out to attack the trade unions, another allegation that is just not founded in truth.

What made me sad was the honorable member's allegation that the employer-employee relationship is essentially one of conflict under our system. There one sees the limited ideological view that has set out to keep industrial relations in a position of conflict. Unfortunately for the case the honorable member attempted to make, he took his example from the tramways, which is one of the greatest socialistic enterprises in Victoria—entirely Government owned, Government controlled, and a monopoly in its own right, in which there is no free enterprise or competition and which is regularly making losses, as the Leader of the National Party states by interjection.

It is in the tramways union where the honorable member for Reservoir tells the House there is essentially a

situation of conflict between the employer—that is, the people of Victoria—and the employees—the members of the tramways union. If this is the attitude of the honorable member for Reservoir, it is a sorry situation for the once great Australian Labor Party and does not make the job of this Government or any Government any easier in trying to resolve some of the difficulties that are bound to occur in the industrial work force from time to time. However, they are issues that can be solved by sensible discussion and an acknowledgment that on both sides of the industrial system are people who are interested in working out what is best for the community and best for all the people concerned.

I would encourage the honorable member for Reservoir to rethink his position most carefully and ask himself why he is looking down this narrow tunnel and wearing blinkers, suggesting that it is essentially an employer-employee conflict, because until the honorable member takes off the blinkers he will not be of much help.

The committee of review has been named in the House twice tonight. It had broad representation. The committee put together a report that was presented to the Government unanimously. The conclusions of the committee have already been quoted during the debate. The committee said that implementation of the report will require the expenditure of more money than has ever previously been devoted to industrial relations in this State. It also said that the recommendations needed to be accepted *in toto*.

The Government recognizes this and proposes to continue to work for the adoption of those recommendations. There is no requirement in the report that says the recommendations must be adopted at once. If the Government waited until funds were available to adopt all the recommendations, no progress would be made on it.

The Bill tackles a number of the recommendations that can be achieved within the current financial constraints under which the Government is operating. Several of them proved to be quite controversial, and it became clear to the Government during the autumn session that it would be unwise to push the legislation through during that sessional period. The extra time has been most valuable, and I should like to use this opportunity tonight to foreshadow several amendments that the Government proposes to make to the Bill when it reaches the Committee stage.

Clause 8 is the most controversial clause of the Bill. It was an attempt by the Government to codify the recommendation on page 10 of the first report of the committee of review concerning membership of organizations.

For the benefit of the House and so that all parties can give it consideration I will read that recommendation. It states—

> The Committee agreed that it is desirable that people engaged in industry, whether as employers or employees, become members of appropriate industrial organizations, but that in a free society the decision whether or not to be a member of such an organization is one for determination by the individual.

I wonder whether the honorable member for Reservoir supports that? It is a matter for determination by the individual and that recommendation, I remind the Opposition, had the support of the representatives of the Trade Hall Council on the committee. The recommendation continues—

> In considering this matter, the Committee found itself in a dilemma. On the one hand, it seemed inappropriate to make provision for exemption from something that the law does not recognize. On the other hand, it was noted that, as a matter of fact, there are some areas of employment in which it is difficult for a person to obtain employment without becoming a member of an appropriate trade union.
>
> Provided that it can be stated in its proper context, therefore, the Committee believes that provision should be made for

the granting by the Commission of "certificates of exemption" to persons who satisfy the Commission they have a conscientious objection to becoming a member of a trade union, on payment of a fee equal to the organization's membership fee.

(NOTE: The employer representatives had reservations about whether certificates of exemption would be the most appropriate machinery).

It should then be an offence for an employer to discriminate against a certificate holder on the grounds of his not being a member of a trade union or for another person to induce another person so to do.

It should also be an offence for an employer to discriminate against an employee on the grounds of his being a member of a trade union.

I invite honorable members to consider that recommendation of the committee of review and to recognize the difficulty that it caused the Government in attempting to interpret that in the legislation.

Clause 8 as drafted inadequately reflects the consensus view of the tripartite committee. The recommendation that I have just read on conscientious objection to membership of industrial organizations was one of several recommendations in the report that will require further examination and discussion with the parties concerned. Therefore for the time being the Government proposes to withdraw clause 8 from the Bill, and I propose that this examination will be one of the priorities of my administration.

The role of the Government in industrial relations is that of a third party operating to assist employers and employees to resolve their differences. The last thing the Government should be doing or seem to be doing is imposing its viewpoint on matters which are best settled by agreement between the parties concerned, provided that the public interest and the welfare of the individual are adequately protected.

The Government is committed to freedom of choice and freedom of association across a wide range of industrial and community groups. Coercion of individuals by any group, whether trade union or other, is anathema to the philosophy that I represent, and the Government will be using all the powers at its command to ensure that individual freedom is maintained.

During the Committee stage it is proposed to amend clause 9, which concerns an amendment of fees for shops and factories. In view of the difficulties faced by business at present, and small business in particular, I have sought the Treasurer's agreement to the deferment of this increase for the time being. Fees were last adjusted in January of this year on all except the smallest of shops, but at present small businesses are carrying at least, if not more than, their fair share of economic difficulties, and the Government has decided that this increase of fees will be delayed for the time being.

Clause 10 concerns provision for long service leave. These proposals were aimed at making the conditions of long service leave as fair to all concerned as possible. In Victoria at present the Labour and Industry Act prescribes that long service leave payments will be made at the rate applicable at the time the leave accrues. This has worked unfairly to some employees who, at the request of the employer, have been prepared to defer the taking of their long service leave to some later date to suit the convenience of the employer. When they have taken their leave they have found that they were entitled only to the rate of pay that applied three, four, five or even more years ago. This was clearly unfair.

An amendment to clause 10 proposes that the rate of pay will be that applying at the time of the taking of leave, unless there is a written agreement to the contrary. In other words, when the leave falls due, the obligation is on the employer either to grant leave immediately or, if he wishes the leave to be deferred and the employee is agreeable, to pay the ruling rate of pay at the later date. If, however, the employee wishes to defer the leave for personal reasons, and the employer is

able to obtain from the employee agreement in writing that the deferment has been at the employee's request, the rate of pay can be determined by the two people concerned. To the Government that appears to be the fairest way of dealing with the matter. If the employer wants to defer, it is at his cost and if the employee wants to defer, it is at his cost. There is the underlying provision, of course, that under no circumstances would the rate of pay at the time of taking leave be less than that at the time it accrued.

I foreshadow an amendment to clause 10 (*e*). The Government proposes that the proviso should fall into line with that existing in current Federal awards. This, of course, affects the right to *pro rata* benefits for the period between ten and fifteen years' service. In the event of dismissal for wilful misconduct it is proposed that accrued long service leave will not be available to the employee. However, if an employee leaves work for any other reason, the benefit will be available to him. That is the Government's view of what is fair.

Further amendments are proposed and I should like to take this opportunity of foreshadowing them. It is proposed to introduce certain provisions into the Act relating to shop trading hours and a number of related matters. I mention that now only in the most general terms and suggest that because it is such a diverse Act and these are so far removed from the considerations of clauses 8 and 10 which have already been discussed, that debate on these issues would be more successfully conducted in Committee.

The Government proposes to move an amendment to enable the trash and treasure type of market to operate on the Queen Victoria Market site at week-ends. This is being introduced at the request of the Melbourne City Council, which controls the market site. There is no such restriction on other market sites and it is unreasonable that the Government should place restrictions on this site.

Other amendments will be made to allow licensed second-hand dealers to trade at markets. It has come to the notice of the Government that second-hand dealers have been operating at trash and treasure markets, as have other people, but because they are licensed second-hand dealers they are operating in contravention of the Act.

In section 18 (4) there will be a further amendment to clarify certificates of exemption as they apply to shop trading hours in holiday resorts.

The Fifth Schedule exemptions will have two shops added to them, saddlery shops and stamp and coin shops, the nature of which has changed considerably over the years.

In the Seventh Schedule further exemptions will be introduced regarding the opening of chemist shops and plant and flower nurseries on Anzac Day. These amendments are being introduced after consultation with the Returned Service Men's League. It is a sundry collection and it typifies the underlying problem with this Act. I look forward to being able to adopt the recommendation of the review committee, that this Act be divided into several Acts to leave the industrial relations issues in an Act of their own, and shop trading hours and other matters in an Act of their own.

I look forward also to introducing a clear definition on the membership of industrial organizations, as I foreshadowed earlier. I reiterate that the role of legislation in industrial relations is to assist employers and employees to resolve matters constructively in the best interests of all concerned and, at the same time, to ensure that the public and individuals are adequately safeguarded. This is a course that the Government is determined to follow and I invite the co-operation of the Opposition in making it a reality.

On the motion of Mr. KENNETT (Burwood), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until next day.

ADJOURNMENT.

BONBEACH RAILWAY STATION—ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE—FRESH CREAM SALES — PUBLICATION "HIGH TIMES"—INVESTMENT ADVICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS—MIGRANT EDUCATION — PROBATION OFFICERS — SPECIAL EDUCATION AT MIRBOO NORTH—CHILDREN IN TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum): I raise with the Minister of Transport a matter concerning his failure to make adequate provision for staffing at Bonbeach railway station and therefore provide adequate service to local residents. I raised this matter with the Minister following representations made to me by a number of constituents. On a number of occasions seven or eight elderly people when waiting for a train from Bonbeach to Frankston found that they were unable to purchase their tickets. When they arrived at Frankston they proceeded to purchase their tickets and missed their connecting bus service to the Mornington Peninsula.

When I took up this matter with the Minister he pointed out that he understood this difficulty, but he came to a strange conclusion that was against the whole idea of providing an adequate service to commuters. He pointed out that these people had the option of purchasing a ticket on the Melbourne side at Bonbeach and there would be an advantage to them if they arrived early at the station, walked around to the other side, purchased their tickets and then walked all the way back to the other platform. The Minister does not realize that in many cases these are elderly people, some of whom are crippled. It is a great disadvantage to them and an onerous task to walk to one side of a railway station to purchase their tickets and then walk around to the other side of the station to catch their train. Better service ought to be provided to people who patronize public transport. If the Government wants to attract people back to public transport, sufficient staff should be provided so that adequate service may be given to commuters.

Mr. FOGARTY (Sunshine): I raise a matter with the Minister for Conservation. During a tour of the Bendigo Province it was brought to my notice that the Minister had received correspondence from the Honorable F. S. Grimwade, a member in another place, dealing with allegations made by an honorable member against a trusted employee of the State Government, an inspector of the Fisheries and Wildlife Division. I believe the allegations contained the words "Gestapo methods". I believe in the integrity of the Minister for Conservation and I believe he should uphold the integrity of employees under his jurisdiction. However, I oppose members from another place usurping the role of the Fisheries and Wildlife Division in protecting farmers and share-farmers who were caught poisoning birds. The employees of the Victorian Government should have the right to know at first hand the allegations made against them. I have deliberately omitted the names of the persons involved. The Minister knows the name of the inspector involved and the allegations made by the Honorable F. S. Grimwade.

I should like to see the file. The person against whom allegations have been made at a municipal level should be shown the letter and the documents so that he may use the resources of the law.

Mr. HANN (Rodney): As the Minister of Agriculture is absent, I ask the Deputy Premier to refer the matter I raise to that honorable gentleman. I refer to a subject

brought to my attention by Ibis Milk Products Ltd. concerning manufacturers undercutting the price of cream in Victoria. Apparently this is taking place because of reports that the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority intends to take over the whole operation of cream sales. Because of this some manufacturers who have not been involved in fresh cream sales in the past are trying to obtain a share of the market. Another factor is that because of the quotas imposed on butter production this year it is more profitable for the companies to undercut cream prices because they receive a better return on the cream than the loss of $490 a tonne they would face in producing butter.

The consequence of the situation is that the price to the dairy farmers is reduced. Ibis Milk Products Ltd., which has held a fairly large share of the market, is concerned about the ramifications of this, not only for the dairy farmers who deal with that company but also for dairy farmers throughout the State. The company would like the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority to set a wholesale price for cream, and I ask the Deputy Premier to refer this matter to the Minister of Agriculture for urgent attention. I understand that discussions may have been held today between the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority and cream processors.

One aspect of the matter that is particularly worrying is that one of the processors which have been undercutting the price on the Melbourne market is a private company named Unigate (Australia) Pty. Ltd. The manager of that company is a member of the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority. It is worrying that this company is undercutting the price of cream in Victoria and effectively reducing the return to the dairy farmer, despite the fact that one of the major aims of the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority is to ensure that dairy farmers receive the maximum return possible.

Unigate (Australia) Pty. Ltd. is not the only company involved in this. A number of other companies are also carrying out similar procedures in an attempt to steal part of the cream market from Ibis Milk Products Ltd. and a number of other manufacturers.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale): I raise with the Premier, as a matter of urgency, a publication called *High Times*. The Premier has announced that the Government intends to hunt down and pursue pornographers in the community and to enact legislation to restrict the distribution of pornography. The Premier ought to be aware that there are other publications which are just as insidious and just as detrimental to impressionable youth as pornographic publications.

I desire to tender a publication called *High Times*, which deals with the use of drugs. Page 11 depicts in an extremely colourful way how anyone who wishes may get "high", as the publication puts it, on sniffing drugs. Page 13 describes in great detail how to use cannabis.

This publication has been imported and is now freely available, but it has never been submitted to the State Advisory Board on Publications for classification. I ask the Premier to take action on this matter, not to restrict the circulation of the publication, because that is a form of censorship, and I do not believe in censorship, but to have the publication examined by the board and classified as suitable for sale to adults. As honorable members are aware, the board can designate a publication so that its display, circulation and sale are restricted to people over the age of eighteen years. This publication has a greater insidious influence on young people than pornographic magazines. I table a copy of the magazine for the information of honorable members. I ask the Premier to refer it to the State Advisory Board on Publications to give it a designation as soon as possible.

Mr. KENNETT (Burwood): I direct my remarks to the Minister for Consumer Affairs. They concern complaints that I have received from within my electorate on a subject which I believe affects society generally and particularly our senior citizens who group together to plan for their retirement and for their mutual benefit. I refer to a scheme that has been followed by the Early Plan for Retirement Group whereby supposed financial advisers are invited to address people on how to provide for their retirement. These speakers address the groups apparently under the auspices and with the approval of the organization inviting them. However, many of our senior citizens have been making unwise investments following the advice given to them at such meetings.

The hardship that is being rendered in these cases has been brought to my attention and apparently the problem is becoming more apparent. Most of these people have a limited financial base on which to provide for their future. Whilst I have some specific cases which I will forward to the Minister, my main concern in raising the matter at this time is that often the Ministry of Consumer Affairs becomes involved in an issue after the crime has been committed. I ask the Minister to investigate the information that I will provide to him concerning the gullibility of many of our senior citizens when approached by these supposed financial experts who act under the umbrella of a reputable organization.

I ask the Minister to consider issuing a warning to the groups to take a great deal of care in selecting the advisers to address the meetings and more importantly to caution those who are going to invest their money on the advice of these supposed advisers.

The initiative should be taken before the crime has developed so that the people may be protected.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I raise a matter for urgent Government consideration relating to the plight of many migrants in this country concerning educational facilities and schools. Following the recent increase in the number of migrants to this country, particularly from areas such as Vietnam, Timor and South America, there has been an increasing recognition that the educational needs of the young people and adults from these countries are not being sufficiently met, firstly, by the National Government which must take the prime responsibility as the determiner of the number of migrants who come to Australia and from which countries, and, secondly, the State Government which has a constitutional responsibility for education.

As a resident of Maribyrnong, I am familiar with the difficulties faced by the Maribyrnong Primary School and the Maribyrnong High School over a considerable time in adequately meeting the educational needs of the migrant children and in maintaining an ongoing programme, bearing in mind the new dimension of entrants to the schools. Some attempts have been made by the department to provide the facilities and the personnel required, but the department would be the first to admit that it is still falling far short of ensuring that these newcomers have a proper educational opportunity.

The difficulty does not arise only at the schools surrounding migrant hostels at Maribyrnong, Westall, Springvale, and in other parts of Victoria. It is also being experienced by schools in the inner suburban areas as well as the western and northern suburbs where these groups tend to move. These schools also have this ongoing problem. Recently, honorable members saw in the newspapers a plea from the principals of a number of schools in the Richmond area outlining the difficulties that they face and their concern for the welfare and education of the students in their

care. In fact, proposals had been put forward by the teachers, parents and the principals, and also by the Child Migrant Branch of the Education Department, but the funds and staff were not available to meet those programmes.

There needs to be a recognition by the Minister that these requirements are not being adequately met. The Government should give an assurance that this situation will go on no longer and that, in 1979, if not before, there will be a new commitment and a new determination to ensure that these groups in our community are no longer being disadvantaged.

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora): I raise with the Minister for Social Welfare the delay that appears to occur between the time when a young person, either in the Children's Court or the Magistrates' Court, is put on probation and a visit by the probation officer. A particular case that has come to my notice—I do not suggest that it is the norm—involves a delay of some four and a half months between when a child of fifteen years was placed on probation by the Children's Court at Heidelberg and when he was first visited by a probation officer.

The offence for which he was placed on probation was relatively minor and involved breaking into the office of an unmanned railway station and obtaining a ticket to travel between two stations. The child was placed on probation. However, before the probation officer visited him, apparently he committed a more serious offence and is now undergoing detention at a youth training centre. It is highly undesirable that the sort of counselling contemplated and desired by the Children's Court should have been so delayed in this case. I have the permission of the parents to give the Minister the name of the child concerned, but I do not propose to do that at this stage, bearing in mind the policy of the Children's Court.

If there is a shortage of probation officers, either full time or part time, to take on these cases, honorable members ought to know about it. This child was convicted in April and still had not been visited by August. I suggest that it is an unreasonable delay in a situation which has been recognized by the court as requiring the intervention and assistance of a probation officer.

Mr. McINNES (Gippsland South): I raise with the Minister of Special Education a situation relating to the Mirboo North area where there appears to be a high incidence of social and economic disadvantage. This is a reflection of the hard times experienced by farmers, particularly in an area so dependent upon farming operations and unfortunately we are now seeing the spin-off. The primary school of 188 pupils has an extremely high ratio of children who need assistance. This has been recognized by the clinical guidance and counselling services based at Moorabbin. It has been an area of particular concern because of the large number of children referred who have social, emotional, and educational problems. The need for more remedial services has been stressed by parents, the school council, and the inspector, all of whom have supported the case for the retention of the present remedial officer, Mr. Ross Owen, whose work has attracted great encouragement and success. It is hoped that not only will he be retained in that position but also that a remedial centre will develop.

A special education unit at Leongatha has done good work in this area but it is short staffed because of the demands made on it from Korumburra. Mirboo North is geographically isolated from assistance but has far greater percentage of learning disabilities than normal, though not for want of basic intelligence. Once these remedial services have been made available to children they have made dramatic progress but as honorable members know it is essential for remedial work to be carried out in the early stages of a child's school career.

I make a particular plea for assistance from the Minister to ensure that the service will continue and that a priority will be given, and also, if the situation warrants it upon examination, to extend the service of the present remedial officer into a full-time unit based in Mirboo North until at least these handicaps have been alleviated. These problems in my view are the outcome of a number of factors such as single parent families, and the lack of employment amongst families, which is complicated by the number of new Australians, and above all compounded by the very severe years of deprivation that we have experienced in the past three or four years.

Mr. McARTHUR (Ringwood): I bring a matter to the attention of the Assistant Minister of Health. During the week-end I was approached by a mother in the electorate of Ringwood who referred to the recent publicity about a situation that occurred in Sydney in which a child who appeared in a television advertisement had ice placed on its feet to make it cry. The constituent brought to my attention an advertisement that appears on Melbourne television for the Hospital Benefits Association in which it appears to depict a husband going berserk under the influence of alcohol, through alcohol abuse, and a mother holding a child of perhaps three years of age who, in the constituent's opinion, was showing genuine terror. I was asked whether this could be another case of a contrived situation in which a child is deliberately made distressed or terrified for the purposes of this advertisement. I do not know the production people behind it. I understand the Hospital Benefits Association promoted the advertisement and the suggestion is that it could be similar to the situation in Sydney. I ask the Assistant Minister of Health whether this comes within his jurisdiction and, if so, will he investigate the situation.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The honorable member for Carrum referred to the availability of train tickets at the Bonbeach railway station. I am sure that the honorable member will join with me in seeking to promote the opportunity for train travellers to obtain tickets from automatic vending machines and so provide a better service. The honorable member said that staff were available but that they were on the wrong side of the train line. If I understand him correctly, he described the difficulty of crippled people in a situation where they were expected, unless they wished to miss their bus in Frankston, to buy a ticket from the wrong side of the railway line and that they would have to walk across or under the line to get to the right side of the station.

These circumstances present a perfect illustration of the need for automatic ticket machines to be installed on the appropriate side of the station. I will be delighted to look at the situation. It might upset the sensitivities of the honorable members for Knox and Carrum to think machines might serve the needs of people, but here we are faced with the problem of duplicating the staff to sell tickets and an example of where technology can be of assistance to the travelling public. That is the sort of practice we ought to be encouraging.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): I welcome the keen interest of the honorable member for Sunshine in the staff of the Ministry of Conservation. I well recall an instance in this House not so long ago when the former member for Kara Kara made one of the most vehement attacks on an officer of the Fisheries and Wildlife Division that has been my misfortune to hear. On that occasion I wonder where the honorable member for Sunshine was.

The suggestion here is that an honorable member from another place himself made some vicious allegations against a member of my staff. That is not correct. The honorable member did what so many honorable members in both Houses do; that is to write and contact the

Minister on behalf of the constituent who makes the allegation. The statement was made by the constituent and the particular constituent happened to avail himself of a public opportunity when I opened the graziers' conference a month ago to make a very strong attack without naming any officer publicly. It came up afterwards in the presence of another man well known in Melbourne in a farming organization and again it was made in front of a witness. He had previously telephoned the director himself in the presence of an officer of the Graziers Association of Victoria.

It is therefore quite wrong to make the allegation that an honorable member from another place made those allegations. He only conveyed in strong terms the very vehement statements that were being made by a constituent. The honorable member was doing his duty, which must be done whether he agrees or disagrees. A constituent has the right to be heard and to have the matter investigated.

This year's season has been one of the most difficult for primary producers in dealing with sulphur crested cockatoos and long billed Corellas. This applies not only to the western district of Victoria but also through New South Wales to Queensland. Many farmers were caught because the sulphur crested cockatoos are now protected species, whereas under the old Game Act 1958 they were not. I have to take some responsibility in this because the procedures under which the officers were working in giving people some relief from this problem were useless.

I checked and found that the average application time for a farmer to get something done about it was approximately sixteen days and in one case, in an area where the officer was not to blame because the delay was caused at the head office, it took 32 days. I had to get stuck into it and tell them it is not good enough.

We have now instituted a new system which has been operating from last week, where it can be handled by telephone. The real problem is that there is a tremendous surge in the numbers of cockatoos and the time in which any relief can be given is between two and three weeks. If longer is taken to issue a permit, one may as well do nothing about it at all. From my investigation I believe that a number of the allegations made against the officer were unfounded.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I will be pleased to take up the matter raised by the honorable member for Rodney with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture.

I am aware of the difficulties that are created, especially in education, by the large-scale migration of people from other countries to Victoria, to which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred. We welcome the outstanding contributions these people have made to our cultural development, to the development of industry and to our way of life in general, but where a teacher has a significant number of migrant children in a class, it adds to the educational problems.

As I have mentioned before in the House, there are more than 1,100 teachers operating specifically in this field, whereas previously there were none, and that amounts to an effective full-time teacher force of some 960. However, I acknowledge the point the honorable member made that some difficulties exist at present.

A large number of migrants are being brought to Australia by the Commonwealth from South-East Asia. I am told that about 3,000 will arrive in Victoria over the next twelve months, and 40 per cent of these are likely to be children of school age. Many of these migrants speak South-East Asian dialects, and it is not easy to obtain teachers who are familiar with these dialects.

Last week I authorized a conference between senior officers of the Victorian and Commonwealth departments of education and, as far as I know, immigration. The first aim of this conference will be to try to obtain earlier information on the likely arrival time of migrants, from where they are likely to be coming and about any particular educational problems that may be associated with their arrival.

The second aim would be to try to establish a longer period of residence in the hostels so that people could become more familiar with the English language before moving out to the schools. The third would be to establish a better communication system to ascertain where these migrants move once they leave the hostel. There is a tendency for them to congregate in certain areas. Sometimes that can be beneficial in providing teachers and accommodation, but in other cases it may aggravate accommodation problems.

The sole object of the conference would be to achieve a better communicative network between Federal and State departments and to ensure that maximum warning is given to educational authorities on the arrival of the migrants so that adequate planning can take place.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The honorable member for Ascot Vale referred to a publication called *High Times* which he claimed, no doubt rightly, promoted the use and abuse of drugs. What the Government is investigating and will take action about is the sort of publication that does not seem, according to the State Advisory Board on Publications, to have any merit at all. Members of the board feel handicapped, and said so in a recent report, by their inability to deal with publications which they would simply say had nothing intrinsically meritorious about them and ought to be stopped altogether.

The Government is considering that proposition, but I can tell the honorable member that we are concerned about publications which either promote drug-taking or give instructions on drug-making, as some of them do, and literally help to corrupt people, especially young people, and that is the real vice of the whole thing. It is as bad as or worse than what is generally called hard core pornography and violence. "Pornography" was a press word and was not the word I used. However, it encompasses the whole gamut of publications which promote or encourage the use of drugs.

I will ask the Chief Secretary to take up the matter of this publication to see what can be done.

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): The honorable member for Burwood raised the matter of investment advice being given to groups of senior citizens by volunteers from different organizations. This is an extremely important area of endeavour, because when many people retire, for the first time in their lives they find themselves with a large sum of money and the responsibility of investing it satisfactorily. It is a good move for the community to have people taking steps to help these senior citizens to invest their money wisely. I suppose there is always the danger that any investment advice will prove harmful.

I should be interested to receive from the honorable member for Burwood the details of the case he has in mind. I do not know whether the Consumer Affairs Bureau can do anything about it as a matter of principle, but I should be happy to examine the problem and if necessary to call on the Attorney-General.

Mr. DIXON (Minister for Social Welfare): The honorable member for Bundoora raised the matter of a fifteen-year-old youth being given probation through the Children's Court and not being visited by a probation officer for some four and a half months. That delay is much too long, and if the honorable member will give me the name of the person concerned I will certainly have the whole matter investigated and will give him a report on it.

Generally, there is a shortage of professional probation officers. There is also a problem with the use of honorary probation officers, which is a matter I will be discussing this week with the honorary probation officers themselves. That has been of concern to me. It has arisen partly through the transfer of probation and parole matters to the regional offices. However, notwithstanding these transfers, there are some shortages of professional staff because of the increased work load which is occurring in regional offices.

Mr. EDMUNDS: What is the Government's policy on staff ceilings?

Mr. DIXON: The honorable member is aware of the ceilings which have been set at both Federal and State levels in accordance with the prevailing economic conditions.

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The honorable member for Ringwood raised the matter of an advertisement for the Hospital Benefits Association that is being shown on television and suggested some cruelty may have been inflicted on a child participating in the film. I will see the honorable member as early as possible and try to ascertain the details of this commercial and have appropriate investigations made into the matter.

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The matter of remedial education, clinical guidance and counselling services and special education units and their location referred to by the honorable member for Gippsland South is one that is essentially bound up with distribution, based on inspectorates. The determination of an appropriate location is a matter for the officers who are involved in special education to examine and make a recommendation on.

I will ensure that the officers are given the information that the honorable member presented to the House.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.54 *p.m.*

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

The following answers to questions on notice were circulated—

NURSING HOME AND GERIATRIC HOSPITAL CHARGES.

(Question No. 4)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of payments by residents and patients in State-subsidized or controlled nursing homes in geriatric hospitals—

1. What amount is at present charged against the pension of residents and all patients, specifying the increases which have occurred in each of the past three years and the sum left to the person for personal expenditure, in each case?

2. Whether proposals are before the Minister to vary the present contribution; if so—(*a*) what proposals; and (*b*) whether a decision has been made and, if so, what decision?

3. What income was derived in each State-subsidized institution from the collection of such pension moneys?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. The present amount charged is $45.50 per week.

Date	Charge against pension	Personal use
	$	$
May 1975	29.00	12.00
November 1975 ..	30.75	13.00
May 1976	32.25	14.00
November 1976 ..	33.50	15.00
May 1977	33.50	18.60
October 1977	42.00	10.10
November 1977 ..	44.10	10.20
May 1978	45.50	10.95

These figures include the supplementary allowance.

2. No proposals are currently before the Minister of Health.

3. Actual receipts for the year 1976–77—

	$
Alexander, Castlemaine	447,800
Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged ..	577,600
Gippsland Geriatric Centre	269,900
Grace McKellar House	375,200
Greenvale Geriatric Centre	425,800
Kingston Centre	737,400
Mount Eliza Geriatric Centre	158,800
Lyndoch, Warrnambool	202,400
Mount Royal	903,000
Ovens and Murray	164,000
Queen Elizabeth Geriatric Centre	978,400

GENETIC ENGINEERING.

(Question No. 14)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of genetic engineering—

1. What institutes and laboratories within Victoria are carrying out research, specifying which research subjects are being investigated?

2. What safeguards are employed in each of these institutes or laboratories to prevent contamination by genetically altered material?

3. What mechanism the Department of Health has to ensure that it has complete knowledge of all projects in this field?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Institutes and laboratories within Victoria carrying out research in the field of genetic engineering are not subject to any registration or prior approval by the Department of Health.

The Australian Academy of Science in Canberra has established a voluntary referral system in respect of all research in this field including a review by a standing committee of the physical and biological containment procedures to be employed.

Information on this matter is being sought from the Australian Academy of Science and will be made available to the honorable member when it is received.

HEALTH AUTHORITIES' CHARGES.

(Question No. 15)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of fees charged by, or paid to, the Department of Health, the Mental Health Authority, the Hospitals and Charities Commission and the Commission of Public Health, respectively, what was the fee income in 1975–76 and 1976–77, respectively, by each category of fee and what is the estimated revenue in 1977–78?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Statutory charges or fees received by—

(*a*) Department of Health (including Commission of Public Health)

Item	1975–76	1976–77	1977–78 (Estimated)
	$	$	$
Taxation—Health			
Licences—Poisons	160,358.50	176,185.00	200,000.00
—Cinematograph operators	7,250.00	10,655.00	10,000.00
—Irradicating apparatus	40,477.50	46,825.00	54,500.00
—Pesticide users	5,241.00	6,045.50	5,900.00
Fees and charges for departmental services—Health			
Child minding centres	8,507.50	14,197.50	14,000.00
Public buildings	14,621.50	24,896.75	28,000.00
Dangerous and offensive trades	550.00	130.00	900.00
Food premises	298.00	850.00	850.00
Proprietary medicines	8,162.50	11,400.50	12,000.00
Pest control operators	675.00	2,886.00	2,500.00
Medical Board	59,607.50	160,470.00	166,500.00
Special accommodation houses	1,698.75	3,527.50	5,500.00
Contraceptives registration	5,200.00	1,288.00	1,000.00
Examination of plans and specifications	14,761.26	9,925.25	35,000.00
Exhumation fees	1,140.00	240.00	800.00
Amusement structures	870.10	636.90	600.00
Examination of cinematograph operators	1,080.00	17,267.50	2,000.00

(*b*) Mental Health Authority

1975–76	1976–77	1977–78 (Estimate)
Nil	Nil	Nil

(*c*) Hospitals and Charities Commission.

Fees and charges for departmental services: Health

	1975–76	1976–77	(Estimated) 1977–78
Private hospitals	10,620.00	14,840.00	14,000.00

HOSPITALS' BUDGETS.

(Question No. 25)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of each of the following hospitals—Mercy, Royal Children's, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear, Royal Women's, Alfred, Box Hill and District, Dandenong and District, Fairfield, Maroondah, Preston and Northcote Community, Prince Henry's, Queen Victoria, Royal Melbourne, Southern Memorial (Caulfield), St. George's, St. Vincent's, Western General, Williamstown, Caulfield, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Gippsland, Hamilton, Mildura, Mooroopna, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Ararat, Central Gippsland, Echuca, Frankston, Kyabram, Latrobe Valley, Stawell and Swan Hill—

1. What was the budget allocation from the Hospitals and Charities Commission in 1976–77?

2. What budget was proposed by each hospital—(*a*) without growth; and (*b*) with growth, for 1977–78?

3. What budget was approved for 1977–78, specifying whether growth factor was involved?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The workload involved in answering this question is of such magnitude as to place it beyond the capacity of the present staff establishment of the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

The total budget allocation to hospitals for 1977–78 was $596 million.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME.

(Question No. 38)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the community health programme, what funds are to be made available for recurrent and capital purposes, respectively, for—(*a*) Hospitals and Charities Commission; (*b*) Mental Health Authority; and (*c*) Department of Health projects, specifying the individual projects to receive funds?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

—	Recurrent	Capital	Total
	$	$	$
(*a*) Hospitals and Charities Commission	12,328,000	4,434,261	16,762,261
(*b*) Mental Health Authority	3,987,000	328,224	4,315,224
(*c*) Department of Health	3,199,176	515,067	3,714,243
(*d*) Social Welfare Department	275,157	68,298	343,455
	19,789,333	5,345,850	25,135,183

These figures include an allocation in respect of all approved women's refuge and halfway house projects, which are administered by the Social Welfare Department as from 1st January, 1978.

Lakes Entrance Community Health Centre.
Nowa Nowa Community Health Centre.
Kensington Community Health Centre.
North Richmond Family Care Centre.
Fawkner Park Community Health Centre (South Yarra).
Western Region Health Centre Ltd. (Footscray).
Deer Park Community Health Services.
East Bentleigh Community Health Centre Society.
Southern Memorial Hospital—Caulfield Community Care Centre.
Eaglehawk and Long Gully Community Health Centre.
Traralgon Health and Welfare Service.
Sunbury Community Health Centre.
Maroondah Social Health Centre.
Golden Square–Kangaroo Flat Community Health Centre.
St. Vincent's Hospital—Ringwood Day Hospital.
St. Vincent's Hospital—Depaul Centre.
Royal Melbourne Hospital—Coburg Centre.
Churchill Community Health Centre Society.
West Heidelberg Community Health and Welfare Centre Society.
East Preston Community Health and Welfare Centre Society.
Morwell Community Health Centre.
St. Albans Community Health Service Society.
Broadmeadows Community Health Services.
Doveton–Hallam Community Health Centre.
Chadstone Paramedical Community Health Centre.
Claremont Home for the Aged—Day Hospital.
Rosedale and District Community Care Centre Society.
Moe—Community Health Centre Society.

Kiewa and Ovens Valley Health Services Association.
Richmond Community Health Centre.
Mount Eliza Geriatric Centre—Rosebud Day Hospital.
Collingwood Community Health Centre.
Merbein Community Health Centre.
Marysville and District Community Care Centre.
Norlane–Corio Community Health Centre Society.
Association for the Blind—Illawarra Centre.
Grace McKellar House, Geelong.
Portarlington and District Community Health Centre.
Torquay Community Health Centre Society.
Queenscliff and District Community Health Centre.
Caulfield Hospital—Malvern Day Hospital.
Mount Eliza Geriatric Centre—Chelsea Day Hospital.
Mount Eliza Geriatric Centre—Springvale Day Hospital.
Western General Hospital—Footscray Day Hospital.
Western General Hospital—Sunshine Day Hospital.
Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged—Eaglehawk Day Hospital.
Mount Royal—Heidelberg Day Hospital.
Mount Royal—Brunswick Day Hospital.
Mount Royal—Coburg Day Hospital.
Greenvale Geriatric Centre—Ascot Vale Day Hospital.
Dandenong and District Hospital— Dandenong Day Hospital.
After Care Hospital—Camberwell Day Hospital.
San Remo and District Community Health Centre Society.
Kingston Centre—East Bentleigh Day Hospital.
Quambatook Community Care Centre Society.
Craigieburn Community Health Centre Society.
Mountain District Community Health Service (Cockatoo).
Inglewood, Wedderburn and District Community Health Centre Society.
Stanhope and District Community Care Centre Society.
Brunswick Community Health Service.
Leigh Community Care Centre Society.
Goroke Community Health Centre Society.
Yarrawonga Community Health Centre.
Timboon and District Hospital (Health Centre).
Broadford and District Community Health Centre Society.
Carlton Community Health Service Society.
Chelsea Community Health Centre Society.
Northcote Community Health Centre Society.
Sebastopol Community Health Centre.
Whittlesea Community Health Centre.
Werribee Community Health Centre.
Ballarat—Association for the Blind.
Colac Day Hospital.
Fitzroy–Coolibah Club–Brotherhood of St. Laurence.
Kerang Day Hospital.
Hawthorn Day Hospital.
Multiple Sclerosis Society.
Rheumatism and Arthritis Association of Victoria.
Diabetic Association.
Camberwell Counselling and Care Service.
East Burwood Counselling and Care Centre.
Waverley Social Health Centre.
Community Health Directorate, Hospitals and Charities Commission.
Health Services Research Group.
Royal District Nursing Service.
Mallacoota Bush Nursing Centre.
Dargo Bush Nursing Centre.
Adult Deaf Society.
Royal Children's Hospital.
Southern Family Life Service Association.
Barwon Regional Association for Alcohol and Drug Dependence.
Geelong Health Resource Centre.
Anglesea and Airey's Inlet—Bush Nursing Centre.
Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre.
Buchan Bush Nursing Centre.
Cann Valley Bush Nursing Centre.
Dingee Bush Nursing Centre.
Dartmoor Bush Nursing Centre.
Drysdale Bush Nursing Centre.
Ensay Bush Nursing Centre.
Harrow Bush Nursing Centre.
Orbost and District Hospital.
Winchelsea, Apollo Bay and Lorne Hospitals.
Australian Association for Better Hearing.
Caroline Chisholm Society.
Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre.
Woomelang Bush Nursing Centre.
Co-ordinated Administrative Services.
Elizabeth Street Clinic.
Albert Park Clinic.
Ballarat Community Centre.
Dandenong Community Centre.
Glenhuntly Road Clinic.
Traralgon Community Services.
Camberwell Clinic.
Frankston Clinic.
Warrnambool Community Centre.
Sandringham Clinic.
West Heidelberg Clinic.
Brunswick Community Centre.
Geelong Evaluation and Community Support Centre.
Janefield Family Assessment Centre.
Observatory House.
Central Youth Advisory Service.
Mitcham Clinic.
Healesville Clinic.
Mildura Community Centre.
St. Gabriel's Family Support Centre, Balwyn.
Middle Park Community Support Centre.
Beechworth Community Services.
Bendigo Community Services.
Ararat Community Services.
Clarendon Clinic—Commmunity Services.
Mont Park Community Services.
Therapeutic Assistants for Alcohol and Drug Dependants.
Moreland Hall.
"GROW" Victoria.

Victorian Foundation on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.
Buoyancy Foundation.
Palm Lodge Rehabilitation Centre.
Lifeline Melbourne.
St. Vincent's Hospital—Drink Driving Programme.
Shepparton Community Mental Health Services.
Community Mental Health Relief Team.
Pharmacy Based Community Health Programme.
Broadmeadows Community Mental Health Services.
Sunbury Community Mental Health Services.
Community Child Guidance Services (Dandenong).
Waverley Community Mental Health Services.
St. Kilda Community Health Project.
Prahran Community Health Project.
Women's Liberation Halfway House.
Diamond Valley/Eltham E.C.D.C.
Inner Urban Disadvantaged School Health Project Team.
Barwon Region E.C.D.C.
South Western Region E.C.D.C.
Maroondah Halfway House.
Gisborne Community Health Project.
Frankston Community Health Project.
E.C.D. Training for Allied Health.
Central Gippsland E.C.D.C.
Social Biology Resource Centre.
Central Administrative Services.
E.C.D.C. Training and Retraining Programme.
Audiological and Retarded Services Project.
Central Highlands E.C.D.C.
Preston Area School Health Project Team.
State Family Planning Services.
Noah's Ark Toy Library for Handicapped Children.
Knox E.C.D.C.
Broadmeadows E.C.D.C.
Fitzroy–Collingwood–Richmond E.C.D.C.
Mildura E.C.D.C.
Melbourne E.C.D.C.
Sunshine/Footscray E.C.D.C.
Lilydale–Healesville–Upper Yarra–Alexandra–Yea E.C.D.C.
Goulburn Valley E.C.D.C.
Women's Liberation Halway House.
Maroondah Halfway House.
Co-As-It (Italian Assistance Association) Women's Refuge.
Keilor North-West Region Women's Refuge.
Blackburn Baptist Church Women's Refuge.
Doncaster (Doncare) Women's Refuge.
Western Regional Women's Refuge.
Mary Anderson Lodge.
Southern Halfway House Women's Refuge.
Peninsula Women's Refuge.

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICES.

(Question No. 67)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of district nursing services, whether statistics are available on the equivalent performance of the various services, for instance, visits per nurse per day; if so, what are the statistics and on what basis they are collected?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Statistics are available. However, the example quoted, visits per nurse per day is not readily available. In this instance calculations are necessary and then only an average figure is obtainable.

The statistics are those forwarded at the end of each financial year to the Hospitals and Charities Commission by the district nursing services, as part of the annual returns.

Statistics on these returns are—number of nurses, number of patients visited, number of visits, number of cars, number of kilometres travelled.

ROYAL DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE.

(Question No. 68)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the Sims Report on the Royal District Nursing Service, whether the Government and/or the Department of Health has taken action on each of the recommendations; if so, what action; if not, whether any action is proposed?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The Sims Report was carefully studied by the Hospitals and Charities Commission. The service was notified by the commission that most of the recommendations in the report were acceptable in principle, but that any proposed increases in staff must rest on the availability of funds.

To date no funds have been available for such expansion.

When the funds are known for this financial year, after the State Budget, the service's staff priorities will again be assessed by the commission.

NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS.

(Question No. 109)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of new community health projects, the funding of which was announced in November, 1977, and then in subsequent statements—

1. Which services have been funded and what services will be provided in each?

2. What recurrent funds have been made available and what capital funds will be provided in this financial year?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Broadford and District Community Health Centre Society—Community Health and District Nursing.

Carlton Community Health Service—Community Health Nursing and Social Work.

Chelsea Community Health Centre—Community Health Nursing and Social Work.

Northcote Community Health Centre—Community Health Nursing.

Whittlesea Community Health Centre—Community Health Nursing.

Werribee Community Health Services—Community Health Nursing and Social Work.

Association for the Blind—Kelaston, Ballarat—Physiotherapy, Chiropody, Handicraft Instruction and Welfare.

Multiple Sclerosis Society—Social Work and Physiotherapy.

Rheumatism and Arthritis Association of Victoria—Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

Diabetes Foundation—Community Health Nursing.

Waverley Social Health Centre—Community Health Nursing and Social Work.

Early childhood development complexes at—

City of Melbourne
Footscray/Sunshine
Lilydale–Healesville–Upper Yarra–Alexandra–Yea
Goulburn Valley
Mildura
Fitzroy–Collingwood–Richmond
Frankston
Gisborne

Shepparton community mental health services—

A team of community psychiatric nurses will provide a range of mental health services in Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley.

Community mental health relief team—

A team of relieving staff will be provided to cover the absence of Community Mental Health Centre staff on various types of leave.

Pharmacy based community mental health programme—

A pilot project will be established which will be aimed at improving early diagnosis and drug therapy in the community using existing health services—namely retail pharmacists.

Broadmeadows community mental health services—

Community mental health services will be provided in Broadmeadows by way of a consultation and back up team for other community agencies in the area, together with normal out-patient services and home visiting.

Sunbury community mental health services—

A social worker will be appointed to the Sunbury Training Centre and this person will be responsible for services to the mentally retarded in the community.

Community child guidance services—Dandenong

Staff will be appointed to extend the child guidance facilities at the Dandenong Psychiatric Centre and to provide services to the peripheral centres established under the Dandenong Community Mental Health Project.

Waverley community mental health services—

A community mental health team will be provided to service the City of Waverley.

2. Recurrent $1,579,750.
Capital $ 687,597
(subject to conclusion of negotiations on various capital proposals put to Hospitals and Charities Commission).

NUCLEAR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(Question No. 110)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of patients undergoing nuclear medicine treatment—

1. Whether the Commonwealth Government has advised the States that privately insured patients have to pay for such services from 1st January, 1978; if so, when the State was advised and what action has been taken?

2. What is the estimated number of privately insured patients who will now have to pay and what is the estimated income to the State from these charges in a full year?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. No.

2. In view of the answer to part 1, no answer is necessary.

WORKERS COMPENSATION.

(Question No. 132)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

When it is proposed to increase the present rates of workers compensation of $73 per week for injured workers and the level of payments upon death or injury to values equated to those existing in 1972?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

The matter of increasing the benefits payable under the Workers Compensation Act 1958 is under consideration at present.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR KEON PARK WEST.

(Question No. 133)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether the Northern Metropolitan Region Priorities Review Committee considered requests for the construction of Keon Park West primary school during meetings held in 1977; if so—(*a*) when; (*b*) with what result; and (*c*) whether requests for funding have been made and, in that event, when and to whom?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 3rd August, 1978, as follows—

(*a*) and (*b*) The District Priorities Review Committee had recommended a priority for this school and this was then incorporated on a regional level.

(*c*) As yet no requests for funding have been made.

(Question No. 135)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether an interim planning committee was established in relation to the proposed Keon Park West Primary School; if so—(*a*) who are the persons acting on this committee; (*b*) where each person resides; (*c*) on what dates the committee has met; (*d*) what decisions were made by the committee; and (*e*) whether the committee made recommendations to the Priorities Review Committee and, in that event, when and with what result?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 3rd August, 1978 as follows—

(*a*) Yes there was an interim planning committee.

(*b*) The membership list is as follows—

Mr. Colin Perry, 102 Massey Avenue, Reservoir, 3073.

Mrs. Maria Ganino, 79 Pallant Avenue, Reservoir, 3073.

Mr. John Pentney, Principal, Ruthven Primary School No. 4956, Glasgow Avenue, Reservoir, 3073.

Mr. Bill Curtis, Acting Principal, Lakeside Primary School No. 4882, Radford Road, Reservoir, 3073.

Mr. H. W. Tinning, Building Survey and Planning Officer, Preston City Council.

Mr. Ian Munro, 33 Elliott Avenue, Reservoir, 3073.

Mr. and Mrs. Pannam, 22 Pallant Avenue, Reservoir, 3073.

Mr. Wes Callander (Teacher), Ruthven Primary School No. 4956, Glasgow Avenue, Reservoir, 3073.

Mr. Bill Pitts (Principal) or Mr. Ron Cooper (Deputy Principal), Merrilands Primary School No. 4826, Hughes Parade, Reservoir, 3073.

(*c*) The interim planning committee met on three occasions the dates were—

5th October, 1976.
27th October, 1976.
24th November, 1976.

(*d*) No decisions were made by the interim planning committee; it is their function to make recommendations only.

(*e*) Recommendations were made to the Assistant Director of Primary Education (Facilities) as to what facilities the interim planning committee would like to see in the school. No recommendations were made to the Priorities Review Committee.

(Question No. 136)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Education—

1. Whether consultations have taken place between officers of the Preston City Council and the Education Department with respect to development of housing sites in the area to be served by the proposed Keon Park West Primary School; if so, with what result?

2. What expenditure has been incurred by the Preston City Council and the Country Roads Board to provide for a cycle track to enable children to cycle to school from the estate bounded by Lockton Street and Mahoney's Road to the proposed Keon Park West Primary School?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 3rd August, 1978, as follows—

1. and 2. Discussions have been held between officers of the Preston City Council, and the Education Department. As a result a clearer indication of the potential housing development in the area was gained.

It is understood that the Preston City Council has spent approximately $16,000 to provide a cycle track and the Country Roads Board approximately $25,000 to widen the bridge to enable adequate cycle and pedestrian flow.

BUSH FIRES.

(Question No. 173)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. How many bush fires were reported in Victoria during the fire season for the period 1966–67 to 1976–77 inclusive and how many of these were classified as major fires?

2. What losses have resulted from bush fires in Victoria over the period 1966–67 to 1976–77 inclusive in respect of—(*a*) estimated cost of damage to all property; (*b*) number of lives lost; (*c*) number of people injured; (*d*) number of livestock destroyed; and (*e*) number of houses destroyed or damaged?

3. What funds the Government has allocated specifically for bush fire prevention for the period 1966–67 to 1976–77 inclusive?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. Details are—

Fire season	Total number of fires	*Number of major fires
1966–67 ..	1,552	38
1967–68 ..	2,040	104
1968–69 ..	1,152	65
1969–70 ..	1,213	44
1970–71 ..	1,354	43
1971–72 ..	1,346	36
1972–73 ..	1,989	59
1973–74 ..	1,254	27
1974–75 ..	2,318	104
1975–76 ..	601	65
1976–77 ..	1,004	63
	15,823	648

*A major bush fire is considered to be a fire which burns out more than 50 hectares of land.

2. (*b*) Details in relation to the number of persons who have died as the result of bush and grass fires which occurred outside the Melbourne statistical division in Victoria are—

Year	*Number of Deaths*
1966	2
1967	Nil
1968	1
1969	21
1970	Nil
1971	Nil
1972	1
1973	Nil
1974	Nil
1975	1
1976	Nil
1977	5

Information concerning (*a*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) is not readily available.

3. Details of funds which have been allocated to Government departments for the prevention and suppression of bush fires are—

Year	Funds allocated
	$
1966–67	376,532
1967–68	818,364
1968–69	517,475
1969–70	538,019
1970–71	944,563
1971–72	1,026,719
1972–73	1,254,662
1973–74	1,079,728
1974–75	1,963,064
1975–76	1,809,996
1976–77	2,211,914

With regard to the operations of the Country Fire Authority, which has the responsibility for the control of the prevention and suppression of fires in the urban and rural districts of the country area of Victoria, the Government does not allocate funds to the authority on the basis that a specific proportion of the funds is to be used for the prevention and suppression of bush fires.

Similarly, although the Country Roads Board and the Victorian Railways Board expend moneys on fire prevention works, the Government does not allocate funds to these organizations on the basis that a specific proportion of the funds is to be used for such purposes.

In addition, the State Electricity Commission expends moneys on fire prevention works from funds provided from the general operations of the commission.

LAKESIDE HIGH SCHOOL.

(Question No. 184)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

How many—(*a*) remedial English; and (*b*) remedial mathematics teachers have been requested by the Lakeside High School Council for appointment to the school, how many have been appointed, and when the remainder will be appointed?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 8th September, 1978 that the school's staffing establishment of 63·1 teachers includes 4·4 in recognition of the special needs of the school. The total of counted staff is at present 63·4, all needs to date expressed by the principal having been met except for one vacancy in French for which a replacement is at present being negotiated.

SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHERS IN BENDIGO.

(Question No. 196)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

How many specialist music teachers are currently working in schools in the Bendigo area and how many such teachers are to be employed in 1978?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 11th September, 1978, as follows—

"In the Bendigo city area, the Secondary Schools Division has three teachers, making up 2·1 effective full-time teachers who are employed as class-room specialist music teachers.

The Technical Schools Division employs 1·5 class-room music teachers (six instrumental music teachers are shared between the schools of the three divisions).

I should add that in the Bendigo administrative region, eight teachers, making up 6·7 effective full-time teachers are employed as classroom music teachers.

The Secondary Division has employed 32 class-room and six instrumental music teachers to 1.5.1978, with three of these teachers joining the staffs of Bendigo region schools to take class-room music (i.e. three of the 32).

The employment of music teachers during the remainder of 1978 will depend on losses from the present teaching staff and the consequent requests made by the schools for music teachers."

TECHNICAL EDUCATION FACILITIES FOR KYABRAM.

(Question No. 197)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

1. What are the locations of the nearest technical education facilities available to students in the Kyabram area?

2. Whether the Education Department has received representations from local authorities concerning the need to provide technical education facilities in Kyabram?

3. When it is expected that a technical wing will be established at Kyabram High School?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 8th September, 1978, as follows—

1. The nearest technical school is the Echuca Technical School.

2. Yes.

3. It is not intended to establish a technical wing at Kyabram High School at present because new modern facilities have been approved for Echuca Technical School.

MIDWAY MIGRANT HOSTEL, MARIBYRNONG.

(Question No. 203)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

With regard to the supervision of country apprentices housed at the Midway Migrant Hostel, Maribyrnong—

1. How many apprentices use the hostel facility?

2. What additional assistance is to be given to the present supervisor, Mr. E. A. Baker?

3. How many hours of overtime have been worked by Mr. Baker since his appointment on 7th February, 1976, and, in respect of this overtime—(*a*) what payment has been made to Mr. Baker; and (*b*) what further payment is to be made?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. Approximately 2,000 apprentices a year.

2. An assistant has been appointed through the Footscray Institute of Technology for Mr. Baker (sic).

3. The Teachers Tribunal has approved a payment of $4,840 to Mr. Baker for overtime in the form of a gratuity and this has been paid.

LIBRARY AIDES.

(Question No. 204)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

With regard to the employment of library aides in libraries in Victorian schools—

1. How many schools with libraries—(*a*) employ a library aide; and (*b*) do not employ a library aide?

2. Whether, in view of the need for the appointment of further aides, and with the present rate of unemployment in the State, additional funds will be made available to allow additional appointments this financial year?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978, as follows—

1. Every high school has at least one part-time library assistant (i.e. fifteen hours per week). High school libraries are staffed on the following basis—

Enrolment	*Staff*
1,000 and over	One library assistant
	One library assistant, part-time fifteen hours a week
800 to 999	One library assistant
500 to 799	One library assistant, part-time fifteen hours a week

However every high school has at least a part-time assistant.

2. Any increase will be dependent upon State Budget allocations to the Education Department.

YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Question No. 219)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

With regard to the Yea Primary School—

1. Whether there are plans for the replacement of the Bristol building at the school?

2. Whether there are any other primary schools in the region occupying premises formerly part of a higher elementary school?

3. Whether there are plans for the reblocking of the former higher elementary school woodwork room?

4. Whether any capital works are planned for the school in the Regional Works Programme; if so, when it is expected such works will be undertaken?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 11th September, 1978, as follows—

"1. There are plans for the resiting of the Bristol building at Yea Primary School.

2. Yes—Mansfield Primary School, Euroa Primary School, Rutherglen Primary School and Yarrawonga Primary School.

3. No.

4. Works for the school include replacement of toilet block, provision of staff toilets, relocation of staff room, provision of library improvements to appropriate standards and resiting of Bristol building with associated siteworks. These improvements are currently taking place."

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL.

(Question No. 220)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

With regard to the Kensington Community School, an annexe of Flemington High School—

1. How many students and staff, respectively, are at the school?

2. How many toilets are available?

3. What works have been—(*a*) proposed; and (*b*) planned for the school?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978 as follows—

1. For staffing and administrative purposes the Department treats the Kensington Community School as part of the Flemington High School and therefore no separate staffing schedule is allocated. However, there are 60 students at the school and the number of teachers is 4·5 equivalent full-time.

2. Originally there was only one toilet available but portable toilets have since been provided.

3. A fire escape has been erected at the school but because the premises are leased it is not intended to undertake any costly renovations.

TEACHERS' WAGES AND CONDITIONS.

(Question No. 276)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

What steps, if any, are being taken to redress the situation where anomalies exist between the conditions and wages of teachers in day training centres and those of teachers in special developmental schools?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The Minister of Health has discussed the situation with the Chairman of the Mental Health Authority, and it is generally agreed that a work-value case could be prepared by the Association of Teachers of the Intellectually Handicapped.

Subsequently, the matter was discussed at some length by the Secretary, Mental Retardation Services, with the Chief Industrial Officer, Department of Labour and Industry. As a result of this discussion, officers of the Mental Retardation Services held a meeting with the President of the Association of Teachers for the Intellectually Handicapped on 22nd June, 1978.

The outcome of the meeting was that the President of the Association of Teachers for the Intellectually Handicapped would recommend to the association's executives that a new submission be made to the Department of Labour and Industry on a work-value basis within the principles of wage indexation in order to overcome the anomalies existing between the conditions of wages of teachers in day training centres and special developmental schools.

PLANNING SCHEMES.

(Question No. 279)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough): asked the Minister of Housing, for the Minister for Planning—

1. When he intends to approve Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Planning Scheme Amendment No. 21, particularly

those aspects of the scheme which relate to the conservation and landscape interest zones?

2. How long the amendment has been waiting for Ministerial approval?

3. What has been the cause of the delay in Ministerial approval?

4. What are the estimated effects of further delays on future planning by local government?

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning is—

Because of the size of Amendment No. 21 to the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme and the sheer weight of objections, it was thought appropriate to deal with the amendment in parts to enable its progressive implementation. The Town and Country Planning Board has had the statutory duty to report on the planning scheme and to consider again all the objections, and determinations of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works upon those objections before making a report to the Minister. This has been done, and is being done, progressively, and over ninety per cent. of the amendment has already been dealt with and approved in this way.

It would be misleading to indicate a specific date on which the amendment was transmitted from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works for Ministerial approval because of the statutory procedures which have to be followed and which require the Town and Country Planning Board to report upon the amendment before it can be dealt with by the Minister. There is as little delay as possible between the receipt of a report from the Town and Country Planning Board and approval by the Minister and in fact no part of Amendment 21 which has been reported on by the board remains undealt with by me. It is worthy of note that there were more than 4,000 objections to Amendment 21 and related Amendment 3 all of which required a time consuming review both by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and the Town and Country Planning Board.

Responsible authorities have had the prerogative of granting or refusing permits in most of the area covered by the amendment pursuant to Interim Development Order powers which existed pending final approval. Many of them have issued or refused permits on the basis of the zonings proposed under Amendment No. 21 and there is no reason why they should not continue to do so. As a result, no adverse effect on municipalities or on any owners are anticipated between now and final approval of the last remaining part of the amendment.

Notice of Approval of part 8A of the amendment appeared in the *Government Gazette* of the 23rd August, 1978. This part included the great bulk of the areas referred to as "Conservation" and "Landscape Interest".

In some cases, changes to the amendment appear desirable as a result of objections or of the reviews mentioned above and the rights and interests of affected property owners will be protected in these instances by re-exhibition of the changes wherever necessary. This will occur in the very near future.

RANDOM BREATH TESTING.

(Question No. 291)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

In respect of random breath testing—

1. How many—(*a*) police; and (*b*) vehicles are involved in these operations?

2. During what hours are tests conducted?

3. Whether all police officers involved in testing are specially trained for the operation?

4. What areas have been given attention by the random breath test squads?

5. What criteria are taken into consideration when an area is selected for attention by the squads?

6. What investigations have been undertaken to establish the effectiveness of random breath testing and what effect is it having on the road toll?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. (*a*) An average of seven testing officers are employed at each breath-testing station. A total of 228 personnel are currently qualified to conduct tests.

(*b*) An average of four vehicles, including a towing vehicle and a caravan, are used in connection with actual testing at each station. Other vehicles are used by supervising officers.

2. The majority of random breath tests are conducted between 3.00 p.m. and 1.30 a.m.

3. Yes. All police who conduct random breath tests are specially trained for that purpose and are issued with an authority in writing by the Chief Commissioner of Police pursuant to the provisions of the Motor Car (Breath Testing Stations) Act 1976.

4. Since the Motor Car (Breath Testing Stations) Act 1976 was proclaimed, breath testing stations have been in operation in most areas in the Melbourne metropolitan region.

Testing stations have also been operated in country centres on 39 occasions. Since 1st July, 1977, such centres have included Mildura, Sale, Kyneton, Bairnsdale, Shepparton, Geelong, Benalla, Gisborne, Wangaratta, Yarrawonga, Wodonga and Seymour.

5. The locations at which breath-testing stations are to operate are selected by Traffic Operations Group divisional officers, having regard to various factors, including—

(*a*) accident rate in the locality;

(*b*) traffic flow;

(*c*) areas from which traffic flow emanates, and

(*d*) road conditions, that is, width of road, street lighting, parking, availability, or any other conditions which may affect the safety of the public and the police working at the location.

6. The Road Safety and Traffic Authority has completed an evaluation of the operation of breath-testing stations. The system is being examined by a committee which was established recently to review the statutes and practices relating to drinking and driving.

RAPE.

(Question No. 294)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. What police statistics are available regarding the crime of rape or alleged rape in Victoria?

2. How many reported rapes of all categories have been investigated in the past twelve months, and since statistics have been kept on this crime?

3. What are the statistical details provided to the Government of investigations into the crime of rape?

4. What departmental committees or other Government authorities have been requested to provide information or investigate this crime and its prevention?

5. What recommendation the Government has received regarding reducing the incidence of this crime in the community?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. The *Statistical Review of Crime* an annual publication of the Victoria Police, contains statistical information in relation to rape, attempted rape and accessory to the offence of rape. The statistics are compiled in accordance with the Commonwealth standards for the major crime index.

2. Details are—

Year	Number of rapes of all categories investigated
1959	63
1960	97
1961	114
1962	130
1963	154
1964	134
1965	136
1966 } ..	Crime statistics were not compiled for either of these years
1967 }	
1968	158
1969	146
1970	172
1971	216
1972	237
1973	264
1974	266
1975	276
1976	341
1977	310
Total	3,214

3. Copies of the *Statistical Review of Crime* are forwarded to Government Ministers and to the permanent heads of appropriate Government departments.

4. A committee, entitled the Rape Study Group, which is comprised of representatives from Government and non-Government organizations, was established in 1977 to examine ways and means of alleviating the problems faced by victims of rape and sexual assault. To this end the committee has organized a number of seminars and educational programmes which have been attended by members of the Police Force and the legal and medical professions. In addition the committee is currently developing a public education programme aimed at improving public awareness and understanding of the crime of rape with the view to reducing the incidence of the crime in the community.

5. The Government has not received any recommendations to date in relation to this matter.

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY.

(Question No. 318)

Mr. CRABB (Knox) asked the Treasurer—

Whether, as the Country Fire Authority requested a loan allocation of $8 million for the 1977–78 year, but was in fact only granted $2·4 million, the Minister can assure the House that a more generous allocation will be allowed in respect of the ensuing financial year?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

A reply was sent by letter to the honorable member on 25th May.

HOUSING COMMISSION LAND PURCHASES.

(Question No. 324)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Treasurer—

Whether, in view of the requirement under section 22 (1) (*a*) of the Housing Act 1958 that the Housing Commission is required to obtain his consent to any land purchase, he gave his consent to the purchases at Pakenham, Melton and Sunbury; if so, what prior steps he took to satisfy himself that no irregularities had occurred in connection with the initiation, negotiation and finalization of those purchases?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

Yes. The requirement was that there was a recommendation made by the responsible Minister of the Crown acting in turn on the advice of the Housing Commission. Furthermore it was an invariable requirement that a valuation by the Valuer-General be obtained and stated.

FRANKSTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL.

(Question No. 345)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. What requests for funds for capital works have been made by the Frankston Community Hospital for this financial year and next financial year and what was the result of such requests?

2. What requests for loan funds have been made by the hospital for this financial year and next financial years stating for what purpose the funds are required, and what was the result of such requests?

3. What guarantees have been given by the Hospitals and Charities Commission for a flow of funds to complete the building programme stage 1 new development?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. The following requests for funds for major works were received and approved by the Hospitals and Charities Commission during the 1977–78 financial year—

Post coronary care unit
Preliminary earthworks—Stage 1 (*a*) Development
Food waste disposal unit—Stage 1
Boiler plant and boiler house—Stage 1 (*a*)
Koolshade screens over windows
Cooling equipment—Computer room
Plant room No. 9—modification
Extensions to preliminary earthworks contract
Safety and security fence.
The proposal for Catering Department alterations were approved in part, the proposal to lease a temporary (30 bed) mock-up ward was approved in principle. A request for kitchen modifications (Stage 1 Development) was refused.
Numerous other minor capital works projects received approval and were funded accordingly.

The following major projects have been approved for 1978–79—

Casualty Department extensions
Catering Department—Upgrading kitchen Equipment (principle only)
John Madder Hall staff amenities.
Proposals to extend oxygen and suction facilities, Midwifery Department (replacement of limpet ceiling) are yet to be considered. The proposed day surgical unit has not been approved.

2. No requests for Government guarantee loans have been received. The Hospitals and Charities Commission approved an amount to the maximum of $800,000 as overdraft facilities for the purposes of bridging finance for the 1977–78 financial year. This was primarily to meet costs associated with Stage 1 Development.

The position regarding 1978–79 financial year will not be decided until the State Budget is known and the Hospitals and Charities Commission has assessed the financial situation.

3. It is the Government's intention to complete Stage 1, new development, as soon as possible and provisions to effect this completion will be made, subject, of course, to an adequate level of funds being available.

DYSON ROAD PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, CARRUM.

(Question No. 351)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

What applications have been made by the Chelsea City Council for a grant towards the establishment of the Dyson Road preschool centre at Carrum, stating—(*a*) the date of the applications and amount requested; and (*b*) whether the grant has been deferred; if so, under what conditions and for how long?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

(*a*) By letter dated 28th October, 1976, the City of Chelsea made application for a capital grant towards the construction of a new kindergarten in Dyson Road, Carrum, to replace a kindergarten destroyed by fire in January, 1976. The amount of subsidy sought was not specified at that time but the council advised that the capital cost of

the kindergarten portion of the new building was estimated at $61,000 of which $14,700 was offset by way of the insurance on the building destroyed by fire.

Subsequent representations on behalf of the council by the honorable member and also the Honorable Neil F. Stacey, M.P., indicated that the council was seeking an amount of $30,000 towards the project.

(*b*) Yes. Consideration of the application was deferred until additional funds became available. Some funds have recently become available and on the 24th May, 1978, I approved of a grant of $24,310 to the council on a 2:1 basis. Payment of the maximum grant could not be considered because previous capital grants totalling $5,690 have been recouped by council as part of the insurance payment.

EDITHVALE AND BONBEACH RAILWAY STATIONS.

(Question No. 356)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Transport—

What plans exist for the upgrading and/or maintenance of Edithvale and Bonbeach railway stations, indicating when work is expected to commence?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

The Victorian Railways Board has advised me that it expects to call tenders in June for the reconstruction of Edithvale and Bonbeach station buildings.

The board has advised me that, providing there is an allocation of funds, work could commence on these projects towards the end of 1978.

BIRTH DEFECTS AT YARRAM.

(Question No. 376)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. What investigations were undertaken into the reported high rate of birth defects at Yarram, indicating—(*a*) who were the members of the team; (*b*) for what period they visited the Yarram district; and (*c*) whether their investigations were completed and, if so, when, and with what results?

2. When this matter was first drawn to the attention of the Department of Health by Dr. Woodward and what action was taken at the time?

3. Whether continuing investigations are being undertaken by the department into a possible link with phenoxy herbicides; if so, by whom, what is the nature of the investigation and what overseas sources are being studied?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. A Department of Health team comprising Dr. J. E. Aldred, Senior Medical Officer, Dr. A. Morsy, District Health Officer, Dr. J. Cooper, Medical Officer and Mr. G. Crowley, Assistant Chief Health Inspector, visited Yarram on the 16th February, 1978, to evaluate the situation concerning reports of birth defects in the Yarram district. It was not expected that the team would complete investigations on this day but rather report on what further inquiries should be made. Following this visit the team recommended the formation of an expert committee to consider the various reports in detail. Such an expert committee is now carrying out further investigations.

2. The matter was first drawn to the attention of Dr. A. J. Christophers, Chief Industrial Hygiene Officer in 1976. Dr. Christophers consulted with Dr. Brian Woodward of Yarram who raised the question concerning the use of 2–4–D only. By letter dated 8th December, 1976, Dr. Christophers requested Dr. Woodward to forward details of his case concerning the use of 2–4–D spray and I am informed that Dr. Christophers did not receive a reply to this letter.

3. Yes. The expert committee referred to in 1. above is considering detailed case histories of the persons involved, statistical and epidemiological data from the Bureau of Statistics and a review of scientific literature drawn from world sources and extending over some 30 years.

BIRTH DEFECTS IN ANIMALS IN YARRAM DISTRICT.

(Question No. 377)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

What was the virus which has been allegedly causing birth defects in animals in the Yarram district, indicating the nature of the evidence for this conclusion and the laboratory tests undertaken?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The question of birth defects in animals in the Yarram district is at present the subject of an investigation by a special working group comprising Dr. E. French, Virologist, and Dr. D. Galloway, Animal Geneticist, as part of a full investigation into reports of human birth defects in the area.

The investigation includes the matters raised by the honorable member but it is not expected that these inquiries will be completed for some time.

KEON PARK TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

(Question No. 386)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Education—

1. Whether the $7,800 authorized in 1974–75 for additions to the trade wing at Keon Park Technical School was for establishing urgently required welding facilities?

2. When it is proposed the work will be commenced?

3. Why the work has not been performed?

4. What is the current estimated cost, and what funds are now available for this work?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. and 3. $7,800 was authorized in April, 1975, but because of the subsequent sharp increase in costs the estimate proved to be too low.

2. and 4. A revised estimate of $15,000 was furnished in August, 1977, and the project was referred in December, 1977, to the District Priority Reviews Committee for the allocation of a priority. No indication can at present be given as to when the work will be carried out until a recommendation from that committee is received.

EDUCATION EXPENDITURE.

(Question No. 391)

Mr. KENNETT (Burwood) asked the Minister of Education—

1. What amount is being spent per pupil in—(*a*) State primary schools; and (*b*) State secondary schools by the Victorian Government this school year?

2. What amount is being spent by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, respectively, per pupil in private schools?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

The amount being spent by the Victorian Government in State schools this school year has not been finalized as expenditure for the second half of the school year has not been assessed in detail.

1. 1976–77 Victorian Government expenditure per pupil—

(*a*) State primary schools—$1,049.

(*b*) State secondary schools—$1,788.

2. Expenditure per pupil in private schools—*

(*a*) Schools Commission advises that for 1978 school year the approximate Commonwealth expenditure, subject to further supplementation for price increases, will be $379.

(*b*) 1976–77 Victorian Government expenditure—$242.

* Expenditure on non-government schools is not dissected into primary and secondary by the Schools Commission or Victorian Education Department.

GIPPSLAND BASE HOSPITAL, SALE.

(Question No. 420)

Mr. McINNES (Gippsland South) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

With respect to Gippsland Base Hospital, Sale—

1. Whether the hospital was recommended for major capital works funding in 1976–77 and 1977–78?

2. Whether the hospital was included in the 1977–78 capital works funding programme; if not, when it is proposed that the programme will be included for funding?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Yes, both years.

2. Yes.

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN WITH IMPAIRED HEARING.

(Question No. 434)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. What is the—(*a*) name; and (*b*) qualification of each member of the Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing and what is the legal status of the Council?

2. What assistance the Victorian Government has—(*a*) given; or (*b*) promised the Council in—(i) cash; (ii) land; and (iii) other forms, indicating in the case of any loans the interest payable and term of the loan?

3. What assistance the Commonwealth Government has—(*a*) given; or (*b*) promised the council, indicating in the case of any assistance promised under the Handicapped Persons' Assistance Programme the date on which payment is to be made?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Mrs. J. A. Calvert-Jones (President)
Mrs. Whitney King, C.B.E., B.A., LL.B., Vice-President
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, D.B.E., Vice-President
Mr. J. T. Borthwick, Vice-President
Mrs. D. F. G. Blunt, Honorary Secretary

Mrs. L. J. Derrick, B.A., B.Ed., Assistant Secretary
Mr. A. W. Jones, Honorary Treasurer
Mr. J. A. Calvert-Jones
Professor G. M. Clark, M.B., M.S., Ph.D., F.R.C.F., F.R.A.C.S.—Chairman of Academic Sub-committee
Mrs. A. P. Derham, M.B.E., M.A.C.E.
Mrs. C. M. Howell
Mrs. I. R. John, M.B.E., R.T.
Mr. E. H. Keir, B.A., T.T.C.T.D., M.A.P.S.S.
Mr. T. A. Lennon
Professor R. R. H. Lovell, M.D., B.S., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., M.C.S., F.R.A.C.P.
Dr. I. P. McIntyre, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P.
Miss I. Palmer, B.A. (Hons.), M.Ed.
Mrs. N. F. Pescott, Dip. Physio, M.A.P.A.
Mr. L. Smith
Hon. A. A. Staley, LL.B., M.P.
Dr. A. E. Wilmot, M.B., B.S., D.C.H., M.P.H., F.A.C.M.A., B.Sc., Dip. Diet.
Mrs. G. A. Wood, Dip. K.T.C. (Vic.), Dip. Adv. Studies Ed.

The Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing (Victoria) is an incorporated company limited by guarantee, registered with the Hospitals and Charities Commission under the classification of "Benevolent Society—Organisation for the Welfare of Boys and Girls".

2. (*a*) $150,000 for land purchase and $119,454.64 for initial architects' fees, consultants' fees and provision of caretaker's residence.

(*b*) Bridging finance to cover the building contract amount of $884,330. This bridging finance has been made available pending financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the Handicapped Persons Assistance Act. As a pre-school centre the council also receives salary assistance plus $2,600 per annum for running expenses through its kindergarten maintenance subsidy, plus free milk.

3. (*a*) Subsidy on a $2 for $1 basis for approved items of equipment purchased and rental subsidy under the Handicapped Persons Assistance Programme.

(*b*) Nil.

BLACKBURN CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH IMPAIRED HEARING.

(Question No. 435)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether hearing-impaired children placed in the proposed Blackburn centre of the Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing will be subject to assessment by the Ascertainment Committee?

2. What services offered by the centre are not clearly available within the existing structure of services for the hearing-impaired child?

3. Whether it is envisaged that the centre will charge fees for its services; if so, at what level?

4. What will be the basis of selection of the 160 children with normal hearing who will share the centre facilities, and what *per capita* contribution the Government will be making to the cost of pre-school education of these children over and above the *per capita* cost of pre-school education in a conventional centre?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is —

1. Yes.

2. The following services, located in a regional multi-disciplinary setting, are not readily available within the existing structure of services for the hearing-impaired child—

(*a*) Diagnosis and assessment, relevant medical consultations, rehabilitation programmes, parent counselling and guidance in auditory training and language teaching in the one centre.

(*b*) Occasional care, toddlers play group, 3, 4 and 5-year-old kindergarten programmes for hearing-impaired children, situated in a hearing environment, i.e. hearing peers will constitute major proportion of enrolments.

(*c*) Occasional care programme to provide parents with child minding for brothers and sisters of hearing-impaired child while diagnosis, consultations and guidance sessions are carried out, and to provide parents with occasional care of the hearing-impaired child so that he or she can be left for a few hours relief for parents.

(*d*) Short-term accommodation for country families whilst visiting the centre for above diagnostic services.

(*e*) Parent guidance to families through use of demonstration home to simulate home-type situations and through home visits.

The aim of the Department of Health, in co-operation with the Blackburn centre, is to provide a regionally comprehensive service for the diagnostic assessment of hearing impairment in infants and pre-school children.

The centre will, within the framework of the Department of Health regional audiology services, conduct department diagnostic clinics to support infant welfare screening test of hearing and the pre-school and School Medical Service.

It is also the aim of the Department of Health in association with the Blackburn centre to provide a regionally based parent habilitation programme utilizing to the full the unique facilities available within the centre.

The centre is seen as providing an environment for the total assimilation of hearing-impaired infants and pre-school children into as normal an environment as possible.

The department views the centre as a pilot scheme for regional detection, diagnosis and habilitation of the hearing-impaired child and is confident that it will serve as an appropriate model for future regional developments within Victoria.

3. It is not proposed that the centre will charge fees for diagnostic services. Fees for individual auditory training and language teaching sessions will be based on current fees—a sliding scale according to parents' ability to pay—presently up to a maximum of $4 per session. Fees for ordinary pre-school programmes will be in line with local kindergartens. No child is debarred from any of the programmes through the parents' inability to pay. The occasional care services will be provided free for those visiting the Audiology Centre for initial appointments; it is anticipated that regular enrolments will pay 50 cents per hour in line with other occasional care centres.

4. Normal kindergarten entrance procedures will apply to children with normal hearing who will share the centre's facilities, i.e. the central enrolment scheme of the Nunawading City Council. The Government will not be making any additional *per capita* contribution to the cost of pre-school education of these children over the *per capita* cost of pre-school education in a conventional centre.

BENALLA TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

(Question No. 441)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether he has received a request from the Benalla Technical School Parents and Citizens Association for the school to become co-educational; if so, when a decision will be made, and if the request is granted when it will be implemented?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 8th September, 1978 that a request has been received and a conversion programme to make the school fully co-educational will be implemented from the beginning of the 1979 school year.

CONSERVATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES.

(Question No. 460)

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

Further to the question without notice asked on 15th March, 1978, concerning the change over from petrol to liquid petroleum gas for Government vehicles—

1. What was the actual text of the agreement reached between the States and the Commonwealth Government regarding use of liquid petroleum gas for Government vehicle fleets?

2. What are the details of the conversion programme for Victoria, indicating the Government Department, or instrumentality involved, vehicle types and target dates?

3. What moneys the Government has made available to enable the conversion to be effected?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

1. At the meeting of the Australian Minerals and Energy Council held in Hobart on 10th March, 1978, the Ministers agreed that recommendations for an increase in the octane rating of regular motor spirit and the increased use of liquefied petroleum gas could result in the improved utilization of our indigenous oil reserves and an easing of lead pollution levels.

2. The Public Works Department have approached the Victorian Government Motor Transport Committee about the possible use of alternative fuels including liquid petroleum gas.

To evaluate alternative fuels such as petrol, LP gas, diesel fuel and electricity a controlled four-way test of these fuels by four identical vehicles is being organized, with participation by the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria and the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.

3. No firm technical proposal has been finalised in relation to test conditions required and money allocated will depend on the content of this submission when received.

SNAKE BITE KITS.

(Question No. 473)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Further to question No. 27 answered on 14th March, 1978, whether the examination of the three brands of snake bite kits included an evaluation of their usefulness and effectiveness; if so, what was the conclusion of the inspecting officers in each case?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

No.

SPEED LIMITS FOR INTERSTATE TRANSPORT VEHICLES.

(Question No. 476)

Mr. GUDE (Geelong East) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether the Minister is aware of the concern of interstate road hauliers at the Victorian speed limit of 40 m.p.h. imposed on interstate transport vehicles?

2. If he will ascertain and advise what are the speed limits in all other States?

3. Whether the Government will review the speed limit to conform with other States?

4. Whether the Minister will review the present penalties which can result in a truck operator being fined by the court for exceeding the speed limit and then ultimately losing his licence, whereas car drivers may only be liable for on the spot fines?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. Representations have been made to me concerning the speed limits applicable to the operation of commercial goods vehicles in Victoria. The present general limits are—

Built-up area (kilometres per hour)	Outside built-up area (kilometres per hour)
Under 3 tonnes—60 .. Truck-trailer over 3 tonnes—50	Under 3 tonnes—100 Over 3 tonnes—65

2. Details of the general speed limits applicable to the operation of commercial goods vehicles in the other States are—

State	Built-up area (kilometres per hour)	Outside built-up area (kilometres per hour)	Prima facie
New South Wales	All vehicles 60	4·5 tonnes and under	80
		Over 4·5 tonnes	80
Queensland	All vehicles 60	All vehicles	100
South Australia	All vehicles 60	4 tonnes and under	110
		Over 4 tonnes	80
Tasmania	All vehicles 60	4·5 tonnes and under	110
		Over 4·5 tonnes	80
Western Australia	All vehicles 60	4·5 tonnes and under	110
		Over 4·5 tonnes	80

3. An inter-departmental committee has been established to examine whether or not the existing maximum speed limits applicable to heavy commercial vehicles in Victoria are appropriate having regard to Victorian road and traffic conditions and to related safety aspects of heavy commercial vehicle operations.

4. Traffic infringement notices may be issued by the police to the drivers of heavy commercial vehicles in relation to breaches of the speed restrictions applicable under regulation 1001 of the Road Traffic Regulations 1973.

It is not proposed to amend the legislation at present to make provision for the issue of traffic infringement notices in relation to breaches of section 33 of the Motor Car Act 1958 which is concerned with speed restrictions for heavy commercial vehicles outside built-up areas.

BIRTH DEFECTS AT YARRAM.

(Question No. 482)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether the Minister will make available to the member for Brunswick the first and any subsequent reports of investigations into the reported high rate of birth defects at Yarram, and whether the Minister will lay the relevant file on the table of the Library?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

A preliminary report of the investigations of the working party was the subject of a news release dated 19th April, 1978. Further reports of the investigations into the reported high rate of birth defects at Yarram will be made available as the work of the committee proceeds.

The file on the inquiry includes the current investigations by the committee and cannot be made available at this time.

BUILDING BLOCKS.

(Question No. 504)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Minister for Planning—

1. How many building blocks in the area controlled by the Westernport Regional Planning Authority have been found unsuitable for building development, indicating who is now responsible for payment of rates on these blocks?

2. What future use will be made of these blocks, indicating whether the present owners are to be compensated by the authority?

Mr. HAYES (Minister for Planning): The answer is—

1. The Western Port Regional Planning Authority has identified 12,377 building lots on 46 subdivision estates as being inappropriate for housing development at the density provided for in the sub-division and having regard to the natural conditions on the land (particularly drainage), the sensitivity of the environment, development considerations and the costs of providing adequate services to the sites.

In a submission from the authority to the Ministry for Planning, the authority identified 1,835 lots in 12 estates where the land is clearly not suitable for residential development for technical, economic or environmental reasons. It was suggested that this land be purchased and either placed in a reserve following purchase, resold or leased back to private operators for other more appropriate uses.

For the balance of lots identified by the authority, residential development of the area would not necessarily be an inappropriate use. Existing densities, spatial arrangements and servicing costs, however, suggest that restructuring (involving consolidation of several small lots) should take place before housing development takes place.

An intention to restructure a subdivision does not presently affect the responsibility for the payments of rates in a direct way. However, in cognisance of the difficulties faced by some rate payers, the Government through the Local Government Rates Act 1976 gave municipalities a discretion to exempt allotments of any specified class or in any specified area from the whole or any part of the normal minimum rate, with a view to enabling positions such as this to be met. The granting of any discretion is however the prerogative of the council.

2. Where restructuring occurs, the value of the land could well be appreciably increased, and the question of compensation would not therefore arise.

HEAD LICE IN SCHOOLS.

(Question No. 508)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. How many children attending primary schools in each of the past three years within the City of Coburg have been found to be infected with head lice?

2. What method is used to treat the infection?

3. Whether the Minister will consider attaching trained staff to those schools in which head lice is of regular occurrence; if not, why?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. The information sought by the honorable member is not available. However, in 1977 all schools within the City of Coburg were visited and the infestation rate estimated at approximately 10 per cent.

2. Malathion lotion is the treatment of choice; this is distributed through the local council. Management of outbreaks is better achieved however by the preventive approach involving case finding and treatment combined with home visits, education and measures to prevent re-infestation occurring.

3. No. The Department of Health currently subsidizes the employment of two nursing sisters by the City of Coburg. The nursing sisters are employed in such a way that one is always available on request. Both nurses are experienced in the control of infestation with Pediculosis Capitis. In 1977 they were able to cope with the workload.

GAS SALES.

(Question No. 514)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What was the growth in sales of gas in each of the past five years, indicating the projected growth in each case and the areas where the growth in consumption has occurred?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

The growth of gas sales which has taken place over the past five years is set out in the "10 Year Statistical Summary" contained in the Gas and Fuel Corporation's report for the year 1976–77 which was tabled on 7th March, 1978.

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DIVISION FUNDS FOR LAND PURCHASES.

(Question No. 522)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Conservation—

What amounts were allocated in the 1977–78 Budget to the Fisheries and Wildlife Division for the purpose of purchasing land, indicating—(*a*) how much has been spent to date; (*b*) what departments undertake land purchases for the division; and (*c*) what steps will be taken to ensure that the allocation will be fully spent?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): The answer is—

(*a*) and (*c*) A total of $250,000 was set aside in the Wildlife Management Fund for land purchases for the Fisheries and Wildlife Division for 1977–78.

This allocation was fully committed by the end of the financial year.

(*b*) To date, land purchases have been undertaken by the Public Works Department and the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

TEACHERS.

(Question No. 530)

Mr. JASPER (Murray Valley) asked the Minister of Education—

1. Whether the Education Department is investigating the confinement leave provision relating to female teachers within the teaching service?

2. Whether abolition of confinement leave could allow for the employment of all unemployed teachers in the Primary Division?

3. Whether continuation of the present trend in the ratio of female primary teachers to male primary teachers will result in a large percentage of primary schools being staffed completely by female teachers in future?

4. Whether the Government has any control over the intake of students at State Colleges of Victoria to ensure a greater percentage of male teachers at the colleges?

5. Whether the Government will be taking action to correct the imbalance between the number of male and female teacher?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978 as follows:

1. Yes.

2. No. Employment is not related to number of teachers on confinement leave.

3. No. A recent survey has shown that the initial predominance in the ratio of females to males of 5 to 1 up to the age of 25 drops to 1.32 to 1 in the 31 to 35 age group.

4. The State Colleges individually determine their own admission procedures and they are each controlled by autonomous councils.

5. No such action is contemplated at present. The survey referred to in 3 above clearly indicates that the imbalance still tends to correct itself in the 31 to 35 age groups.

ENERGY POLICY.

(Question No. 538)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

1. What is the detailed energy policy for conservation of resources and how it is being applied?

2. Whether he endorses the findings of the report of the Ministry of Fuel and Power on energy dated March, 1977, indicating any areas of disagreement?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

1. I refer the honorable member to the Green Paper on Energy tabled in Parliament in March, 1977, which outlines the conservation alternatives open to the Government.

An all-party Parliamentary Committee known as the Conservation of Energy Resources Committee, has been established to advise the Government on conservation of energy resources in Victoria.

2. Yes.

CLARENDON TERRACE, EAST MELBOURNE.

(Question No. 543)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Minister for Planning—

1. What action the Government proposes taking to preserve Clarendon Terrace, Clarendon Street, East Melbourne from demolition?

2. Who is the present owner of the building?

3. When the structure was built?

4. What are the dimensions of the site?

5. What is the estimated cost of restoration?

Mr. HAYES (Minister for Planning): The answer is—

1. The Government provided funds to the National Trust of Australia (Victorian Division) which allowed it to purchase Clarendon Terrace so that the building's preservation would be assured.

2. The Trust is now the owner of the building having purchased it from Compac Limited.

3. Approximately 1857.

4. 25·3 metres by 40·25 metres.

5. The funds provided to the Trust included a sum to allow for feasibility studies to be undertaken into restoration. The estimated costs will be known only after the completion of the studies.

CHLOROFORM IN TOOTHPASTES.

(Question No. 557)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. What toothpastes currently offered for sale in Victoria contain chloroform as an ingredient, indicating in the case of each brand the percentage of chloroform?

2. For what purpose chloroform is used in an ingredient?

3. Whether chloroform is carcinogenic?

4. What action he will take to investigate the possible risks of using chloroform in toothpastes and, if there is a degree of danger, to so advise the public?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. The Director of the South Australian Analytical Laboratories of the Commonwealth Department of Science in Laboratory Report No. G76/910947 has reported that of 41 samples of toothpastes obtained from retail sources in Australia, ten samples contained chloroform. The brand names and amount of chloroform present were as follows—

Brand name	Chloroform present per cent (w/w)	Marketer or manufacturer
Ipana White	0·2	Bristol-Myers Co.
Macleans Fluoride Mildmint	0·8	Beecham (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Macleans Fluoride Freshmint	0·9	Beecham (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Fluoride Aquafresh	0·7	Beecham (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Macleans Spearmint	0·9	Beecham (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Macleans Fluoride (Spearmint) ..	0·9	Beecham (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Appeal (Green)	0·7	Colgate-Palmolive
Appeal (Red)..	0·7	Colgate Palmolive
Ultra Brite Cool Mint	0·6	Colgate-Palmolive
Smokers toothpaste	0·5	Scott and Browne (Australasia) Pty. Ltd.

2. The main reason for the inclusion of chloroform in toothpastes is as a flavouring agent. Chloroform also contributes to the cleansing ability of toothpastes which contain it and its antiseptic action inhibits bacterial growth in the toothpaste after manufacture.

3. and 4. On the 27th October, 1977, the Commonwealth Minister for Health (the Honorable R. Hunt, M.P.) reported that all available information in Australia on the matter of chloroform in toothpaste had been examined by the Poisons Schedule Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council and by the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee who had concluded that there was no evidence to indicate that the use of chloroform in human drugs and cosmetics, such as toothpaste, was dangerous to humans.

However, the matter will be kept under close review by both the Commonwealth authorities and the Victorian Poisons Advisory Committee.

CHLOROFORM.

(Question No. 562)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether the Minister will ascertain and inform whether chloroform was banned in the United States in April, 1976 as an ingredient in toothpaste, cough medicines and other drugs and whether the Commonwealth Government Laboratories tested toothpastes available in Australia and found that 10 of 38 brands contained chloroform?

2. What cough medicines and other proprietary remedies currently available contain chloroform as an ingredient?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. As mentioned in the answer to question No. 557 the matter of chloroform in toothpaste was the subject of a press statement by the Honorable R. Hunt, M.P., Commonwealth Minister for Health on the 27th October, 1977. Mr. Hunt said that there was no evidence to indicate that the use of chloroform in human drugs and cosmetics, such as toothpaste, was dangerous to humans.

The Food and Drug Administration of the United States had prohibited the addition of chloroform to human drug and cosmetic products on 29th July, 1976. This action had followed a report in March 1976 of cancer studies on mice and rats and was mandatory under United States law. The studies, carried out by the National Cancer Institute of the United States had shown that some of the test animals developed kidney and liver tumors after being fed high levels of chloroform five days a week for two years.

Based on the American studies and assuming a maximum of 1 per cent in a toothpaste, an adult human would have to consume almost six medium size tubes of

toothpaste five times a week to ingest an amount of chloroform equivalent to that fed to test animals.

The United States Food and Drug Administration noted that there were no results to show that chloroform caused cancer in humans and in view of the small amount of chloroform to which an individual might be exposed in using drug and cosmetic products containing chloroform, the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner determined that the present risk to the public was minimal and that such products could not reasonably be considered to constitute an imminent health hazard.

The results of the Commonwealth Government laboratory testing of toothpastes available in Australia are quoted in the answer to question No. 557.

2. Inquiries by the Commonwealth Department of Health in 1976 disclosed that chloroform is included in a large number of proprietary medicines particularly the "cough medicine" type. A large proportion of such products are prepared in accordance with the standard formulae described in the British Pharmaceutical Codex and the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulae and are dispensed from retail pharmacies with chloroform as an indicated ingredient.

WALLAN SECTION OF HUME FREEWAY.

(Question No. 585)

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla) asked the Minister of Transport—

With respect to the Wallan section of the Hume Freeway—

1. From what source funds will be made available to meet the cost of—(*a*) the visit of the expert from England to advise on future work on the pavement area; and (*b*) the reforming and sealing of the freeway?

2. Whether such moneys will be obtained from—(*a*) taxpayers of Victoria; (*b*) the Country Roads Board; (c) national highway funds; or (*d*) the contractors originally involved in building the freeway?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

1. and 2. The costs associated with the visit of Dr. Croney have been met from the Transport Fund.

Application has been made to the Commonwealth Government to provide funds under the States Grants (Roads) Act 1977 for national highways to meet costs of the asphalt overlay.

The source of funds to meet the cost of repairs is the subject of negotiations between the contractor and the board.

PORTABLE CLASS-ROOMS.

(Question No. 590)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether there has been any increase in the $30 maintenance allocation via the direct grant scheme for portable class-rooms?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978 as follows—

No. The $30 maintenance allocation has not been increased, however, the allocation for the rest of the buildings has been increased by six cents to $2.20 a square and by four cents to fifty-six cents a pupil for primary schools; by twelve cents to $2 a square and by six cents to eighty-two cents a pupil for secondary and technical schools.

Other components of the direct grant were also increased this year.

BUSH FIRES.

(Question No. 592)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

1. What is the estimated cost of damage incurred in the bush fires found to be the fault of the State Electricity Commission?

2. Whether the commission is liable for compensation for the damage incurred; if so, what will be the method of payment?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

1. While the estimated cost of damage is unknown, the State Electricity Commission of Victoria estimates that it will meet claims of $26·3 million (of which $14·3 million is covered by insurance) by way of damages in respect of the nine fires of 12th February, 1977, for which some responsibility was found against it by the Board of Inquiry into the Occurrence of Bush and Grass Fires in Victoria.

2. On the basis of the findings by the board of inquiry, which do not necessarily imply legal liability, the State Electricity Commission of Victoria is proceeding to settle direct with claimants, their solicitors and insurance companies, as appropriate, all reasonable claims for losses sustained in these nine fires. As at 12th May, 1978, the State Electricity Commission has paid to 178 individual claimants and eleven insurance companies acting on behalf of a number of claimants, an amount in excess of $9·6 million.

WORKERS COMPENSATION PREMIUMS.

(Question No. 609)

Mr. A. T. EVANS (Ballarat North) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

Whether the Chief Secretary's office is currently considering the introduction of legislation in relation to the cost incurred by sporting clubs in paying for workers compensation premiums; if so, whether he can inform the House when legislation will be introduced into Parliament to allow for relief similiar to that proposed in New South Wales and South Australia?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

Action in this respect was taken in the Workers Compensation (Special Provisions) Act 1978 which came into operation on 23rd May, 1978.

SCHOOL COUNCIL-EMPLOYED PERSONNEL.

(Question No. 613)

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether he will provide all relevant information covering arrangements regarding the superannuation rights for school council-employed personnel?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978 that a scheme which would enable employees under the Education (School Councils) Act to become contributors to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund is being examined at present in detail.

CONTAMINATION OF TAKE-AWAY FOODS.

(Question No. 618)

Mr. FOGARTY (Sunshine) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether, within recent years, the National Health and Medical Research Council has undertaken a microbiological survey of certain foods, particularly ready-to-eat take-away foods such as chicken or rissoles, with a view to detecting salmonella organisms; if so, whether the survey produced comprehensive data on micro-organisms in certain types of food and, in that event, what is the nature of the reports from the council and has the Minister received reports from Victorian health inspectors dealing with possible contamination of take-away foods?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The National Health and Medical Research Council undertook a microbiological survey of "take-away" foods in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Perth and Sydney during the period September 1974–August 1976.

The samples were analyzed for E. coli, staphylococci, salmonella, B. cereus, C. perfringens and V. parahaemolyticu by standardized methods, and the results were subjected to computer processing and statistical analysis.

The survey provided much valuable information which was generally reassuring but indicated a need for better cooking, handling and storage after cooking in some instances of food sold for consumption without further processing.

No specific reports have been received from Victorian Municipal Health Inspectors with regard to "take-away" foods.

SWIMMING POOL FOR POLICE ACADEMY.

(Question No. 621)

Mr. JASPER (Murray Valley) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. What are the proposed construction and completion dates of the swimming pool at the Police Academy?

2. Whether tenders have been called for the construction; if so, how many tenders have been received?

3. What is the estimated total cost of the project?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1 and 2. The swimming pool is incorporated in the physical training complex which is being constructed at the Police Academy. Six tenders were called for under a selective tendering system. The contract was let to the successful tenderer on 4th May, 1977. Due to industrial delays, the project is not expected to be completed before February, 1979.

3. The estimated cost of the physical training complex is $2,900,000 of which $1,210,000 has been attributed to the cost of the swimming pool and associated equipment and facilities.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

(Question No. 638)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): asked the Minister of Education—

What is the extent of community group representation on the Community Education Committee?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

The Community Education Committee was never set up to be a broadly representative committee but rather an advisory group of specialists with some background/expertise in community education.

However there are representatives of teacher unions, parents groups, community education associations, other State departments, education department divisions, academics, local government, Catholic Education Office and so on.

A list for 1978 is shown hereunder.

The committee has recently considered its composition and has this year asked for representatives from Personnel Division, Youth Council of Victoria (a conglomerate of 56 community organisations) Public Works Department, and Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Only nine of the Community Education Committee of 29 are in fact on the committee in their capacity as Education Department officials. There are others (five) who work for the Education Department but are on the committee in another capacity. In this sense the Community Education Committee is well represented by community groups.

All members of Community Education Committee are involved heavily with community groups and for this reason were selected to be on the committee.

Community Education Committee—1978

Dr. R. M. Maddocks, Asst. Director General, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne, 3002. Ph: 651 2544.

Mr. Neville Barwick, Asst. Director General, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne, 3002. Ph: 651 2542.

Dr. Ian Bennett, Education Department, Nauru House, 14th Floor, 80 Collins St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 651 0532.

Mr. Tony Delves, Huntingdale Tech., Baker's Road, South Oakleigh, 3167. Ph: 579 2322.

Mr. Gary Bryant, Youth, Sport & Recreation, 570 Bourke St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 602 1566.

Mr. Peter Carroll, AACE, Cnr. Eley & Middleborough Rds., Burwood, 3125. Ph: 288 6711.

Mr. David Dodd, Victorian Teachers Union, Donburn Primary School, Azalia Ave., Doncaster East, 3109. Ph: 842 5897.

Mr. Gary Edwards, Technical Teachers Assoc., Box Hill Technical School, Dunloe Ave., Box Hill, 3128. Ph: 89 0231.

Mr. Barry Fitzgerald, Ballarat College of Advanced Education, State College of Victoria, Gillies St., Ballarat, 3350. Ph: (053) 34 1202.

Ms. Glenys Holland, Council of Adult Education, 256 Flinders St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 63 4231.

Mr. Ted Jane, Local Government, Civic Centre, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, 3131. Ph: 874 2211.

Mr. Jim Lawry, Primary School Division, 7 Tooli Court, Ringwood East, 3134. Ph: 870 9481.

Ms. Areta McCulloch, Community Librarian, Huntingdale Technical School, Baker's Road, South Oakleigh, 3167.

Ms. Jan McKenzie, Victorian Federation of State Schools Parents Clubs, 225 Bourke St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 654 4626.

Mr. Terry McKenzie, Catholic Education Office, 383 Albert St., East Melbourne, 3002. Ph: 654 2199.

Mr. Ted Poulton, Victorian Council of School Organisations, Richmond Community Education Centre, Church St., Richmond, 3121. Ph: 42 1411.

Mr. Gavan Boyle, Victorian Secondary Teachers Association, Molesworth St., Prahran, 3181. Ph: 51 5276.

Ms. Phil Slattery, Voluntary Learning Groups, Nunawading Centre, 25 Mountain View Rd., Nunawading, 3131. Ph: 878 7631.

Mr. Warren St. Clair, Vice-President, AACE, C/- Heathmont Primary School, Frances St., Heathmont, 3135. Ph: 870 6098.

Mr. Jerry Tickell, Alternative Schools, Swinburne Community School, 505 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, 3122. Ph: 818 1521.

Mr. Ron Dyett, Secondary Schools Division, Nauru House, 12th Floor, 80 Collins St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 651 0011.

Mr. Geoff Davidson, Victorian Association of Continuing Education Centres, Wangaratta C.C. Centre, 62 Ovens St., Wangaratta, 3677. Ph: 67 2800.

Mr. Eric Bawden, Senior Citizens, Baker's Road, South Oakleigh, 3167. Ph: 579 2322.

Mr. John Shone, Youth Council of Victoria, Ground Floor, 511 Lt. Collins St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 60 1617.

Mr. Erroll Hutchesson, Personnel Division, Nauru House, 7th Floor, 80 Collins St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 651 0231.

Mr. Bob Grose, Technical Division, Nauru House, 80 Collins St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 651 0011.

Ms. Sue Smith, Ministry for Planning, 500 Collins St., Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 617 0211.

Ms. Kristine Whorlow, Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, C/- Latrobe & Springs Street, Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 662 2011.

Mr. John Weston, Public Works Department, 7 Parliament Place, Melbourne, 3000. Ph: 651 9111.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

(Question No. 639)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

1. Whether he has invited the Ministers for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Youth, Sport and Recreation to appoint a representative from each of their departments to the Community Education Committee; if not, whether he intends to do so, and, if not, why?

2. Why there is no Education Department migrant services representation on the Community Education Committee?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation has been represented by Mr. G. Bryant (Director of Regional Services) since the committee began operations last year.

The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has a representative on the Community Education Committee in Ms. Kristine Whorlow.

2. The Education Department's Migrant Services are not represented on the Community Committee as are many other branches, services, and sections of the department.

The eclectic nature of community education is such that to even attempt to represent every group involved in community education would be impossible.

Many of the State's community education initiatives involve ethnic programmes and for this reason we have a representative from Immigration and Ethnic Affairs together with the distinguished community education specialists who are also very experienced with all sorts of communities.

The AACE is a more broadly represented group which can and is anxious to accommodate all groups involved in community education in Victoria. This association is represented on the Community Education Committee which only deals with community education in Victoria as it affects the Education Department of Victoria.

NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRES.

(Question No. 641)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

1. When the committee was appointed to report to him on the development of Neighbourhood Learning Centres?

2. Who are the members of the committee?

3. Whether the committee has reported yet; if so, whether he will make available a copy of the report to the member for Footscray?

4. What funds have been made available this financial year to assist such centres and how this allocation has been spent?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. The original committee was appointed on the 25th January, 1977; Commonwealth legislation provides that the committee be restructured yearly and a new committee was appointed for 1978.

2. The members of the 1978 committee are—

Ian Bennett—Community Education Consultant.

Judi Kiraly—Community Programs, Director Prahran College.

Kristine Whorlow—Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Norman Thompson—North Ringwood Community Development Centre.

Colin Cave represented by Glenys Holland—Council of Adult Education.

Patsy Bollard—Migrant Womens Advisory Bureau.

Leonard Watts represented by Dr. Noel Watkins—Assistant Director Technical Education.

Mr. W. Russell—Chairman.

3. No formal report has been furnished by the committee as yet; the provision of such a report will be considered at the November meeting of the committee.

4. The funds made available this financial year are shown on the list hereunder.

Advisory Committee on Voluntary Learning Groups
Funded 1978 Groups as at 8th September, 1978

No.	Name of group	Address	Programme	Date funded	Amount funded
					$
209	Northern Suburbs Community Project 'G' Division Art Group, Pentridge	35 McCarthy Grove, Montmorency	Psychiatric Division Resettlement and rehabilitation	29.6	500
210	Croatian Adult Group	34 McClelland Street, Bell Park 3215	Literate in Croatian (preparation for English) Pilot funded program	10.4	1,545
213	Williamstown Resource Centre	Newport Library 13/15 Mason Street, Newport	Literacy Programme—Basic English	10.4	1,050
215	Speld Management Committee	P.O. Box 146, Camberwell 3124	Language for everyday living	9.2	2,000
217	St. Aidan's Good Shepherd Convent	Bendigo 3550	Adult Migrant Class	9.2	600
218	St. Stephens School	71 Whitelaw Street, East Reservoir 3073	Personal Development for single mothers	6.6	1,742
222	Kallista Community House	P.O. Box 71, Kallista 3791	Human Relations, Personal Development	6.6	770
224	Malvern Neighbourhood Centre	33 Abbotsford Drive, Chadstone 3148	Literacy Program	9.2	509
229	Maroondah Alcoholics Recovery Project	75 Patterson Street, East Ringwood	Rehabilitation Program	10.4	2,000
231	Eley Park Community Association	c/o 55 Lenne Street, East Burwood 3151	Getting Ready—a preparation for formal study	9.2	750
232	'557' Community House	557 Burwood Highway, Vermont South 3133	Getting back to work and staying there	9.2	570
235	Brunswick Unemployed Group	184 Victoria Street, Brunswick	Printmaking	9.2	700
236	Croydon Learning Exchange	210 Mt. Dandenong Road, Croydon 3136	Where do I go from here (rehabilitation program)	9.2	1,430
238	The Centre	Chisholm Street, Wangaratta 3677	Beechworth Training Prison program	9.2	2,000
239	Hotham Job Centre	531 Centre Road, Bentleigh 3204	Numeracy and Literacy	9.2	490
240	National Y.M.C.A. College	196 Albert Road, South Melbourne 3026	Basic Reading, writing and spelling	10.4	1,900
241	Union of Australia Turkish Workers	139 Sydney Road, Coburg 3058	Teaching English (mainly industrial) to Turkish Adults	10.4	1,450
244	Central Gippsland Cont. Education Centre	P.O. Box 15, Sale 3850	Pottery for Adult handicapped/retarded persons	9.2	600
247	Quest Centre for the Unemployed	12 Surrey Road, South Yarra 3141	Bridging program in life skills for unemployed youth (mathematics, english and mechanics)	10.4	2,000
245	Prahran Multicultural Community Centre	54 Fitzgerald Street, South Yarra	Basic Literacy and Numeracy	10.4	2,000
248	Hawkesdale Agricultural Discussion Group	P.B. 15 Hawkesdale 3287	Education program for Farmers	10.4	1,200
249	Boroondara Kindergarten's Migrant English Class	7 Cooke Court, North Richmond 3121	English for New Australians	10.4	800
251	North Ringwood Community Centre	120 Oban Road, Ringwood 3134	Increasing literacy through discussion on social issues, book reviews and understanding our language	10.4	1,000
253	Heidelberg Children's Community Co-operative Ltd.	58 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe	Evening Classes	10.4	725
254	Young Womens' Christian Association of Dandenong	P.O. Box 792, Dandenong	Preparatory Bookkeeping Course for Women	10.4	550
255	Young Womens' Christian Association of Victoria	P.O. Box 1062, Richmond North	Training event for women by women	10.4	2,000
257	Young Womens' Christian Association—Outreach	P.O. Box 369, Bairnsdale 3875	Training to enable women to organise and run a Drop-In Centre	10.4	980
259	Fairfield North Parent and Child Play-group	Primary School, Station Street, Thornbury	Self improvement skills	10.4	1,420
260	Auto-Moto Social Association	P.O. Box 80, Abbotsford 3067	English and communication for Yugoslavs	10.4	923
262	Australian Council for Adult Literacy	P.O. Box 826, Woden, A.C.T. 2606	National Adult Literacy Conference—Melbourne	10.4	750
264	Outlets	43 Mason Street, Newport 3015	Development of communication skills	6.6	820
269	Donvale Living and Learning Centre	46 Canopus Drive, Doncaster East 3109	Basic maths class	6.6	590
274	Hawksburn School—Community Centre	Cromwell Road, South Yarra 3141	Literacy Skills for Migrant Adults	6.6	550
276	Outer Eastern Literacy Program	C/o Ivan Watson, Teleopea Road, Clematis 3782	Adult Literacy Program	6.6	1,000
277	Young Womens' Christian Association of Geelong	19 Aberdeen Street, Newtown 3220	Basic English	6.6	1,000
279	Action for Family Planning	C/o 85 Cowper Street, Footscray 3011	Training course for Migrant women	6.6	2,000
282	Horsham Education Centre	P.O. Box 590, Horsham 3400	Basic Reading instructions and tutor training program	6.6	1,875
283	Australian Association for Community Education	C/o Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne	Providing teaching skills for community groups	29.6	1,000
285	Western Region Centre for Working Women	93 Cowper Street, Footscray 3011	Communication for women working in factories	29.6	1,900
287	West Heidelberg Mothers Learning	20 Morobe Street, West Heidelberg 3081	To teach mothers of children with diagnosed and stated learning difficulties	29.6	662
289	Nunawading North Neighbourhood Centre	25 Mountainview Road, Nunawading 3131	Return to study	29.6	1,000
292	Footscray Women's Voluntary Learning Group Committee	89 Albert Street, Footscray	Migrant women english support group	29.6	296
294	Footscray Women's Voluntary Learning	89 Albert Street, Footscray 3011	Theory of Driving (Grouped with 292)	29.6	593

No.	Name of group	Address	Programme	Date funded	Amount funded
					$
296	Murrabit Advancement Group	P.O. Box 12, Murrabit 3579	Dairy School, Farm Welding, English	29.6	1,000
298	Brunswick Unemployed Group	184 Victoria Street, Brunswick	Project Hothouse	29.6 9.8	1,690
299	Welcome Book Shop and Drop-In Centre	6 Main Street, Upwey	Counselling services in communication, self-analysis and rebuilding of self esteem	9.8	1,300
302	Castlemaine Literacy Group	13–21 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine	Adult Literacy Program	9.8	300
312	Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau	5 Osborne Avenue, Springvale 3171	To help isolated Italian Women's group	9.8	700
314	Waverley Adult Literacy Program	3 Fleet Street, Mt. Waverley 3149	Basic Literacy and numeracy Program	9.8	500
318	P.A.C.E.	P.O. Box 1105, Shepparton 3630	Basic Literacy Skills	9.8	500
319	Narre Warren Community Centre	13 Woodley Street, Narre Warren	Office Management/procedures/Basic bookkeeping	9.8	716
330	Salvation Army Homeless Youth	720 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy 3068	Support program for homeless young people	9.8	1,255
			Total		56,201

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION FINANCES.

(Question No. 647)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Treasurer—

What amount of finance the Government has made available to the State Electricity Commission in each of the past five financial years, and what was the source of the funds in each case?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

—	Government advances from Works and Services Account	Loan Council borrowing allocation	Total
	$ Million	$ Million	$ Million
1972–73	16·0	40·0	56·0
1973–74	16·0	41·3	57·3
1974–75	13·0	40·0	53·0
1975–76	14·0	41·4	55·4
1976–77	14·0	70·0	84·0

ROAD FATALITIES IN MITCHAM.

(Question No. 658)

Mr. CRABB (Knox) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

In respect of the electoral district of Mitcham—

1. How many road fatalities there were in each of the past five years, and what was the number and percentage of persons killed in each year who were—(*a*) pedestrians; (*b*) passengers; (*c*) drivers; (*d*) motorcycle riders; (*e*) bicycle riders; (*f*) travelling at speeds greater than the prescribed speed limit; (*g*) showing blood alcohol readings between 0 and .05 per cent; (*h*) showing blood alcohol readings in excess of ·05 per cent; and (*i*) under the influence of drugs other than alcohol?

2. Whether there are any reports indicating that particular sections of road, intersections or other features of the road sys-

tem in the electoral district which constitute or contribute to a traffic hazard; if so—(*a*) what are the sections, intersections or other features concerned; and (*b*) what plans there are for overcoming the hazards?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*). Accident statistics are not normally available on an electoral district basis. However, in this case it has been possible to isolate the accidents which occurred within the electoral district of Mitcham. Details are—

Road user	Year 1973	Percentage of total killed	Year 1974	Percentage of total killed	Year 1975	Percentage of total killed	Year 1976	Percentage of total killed	Year 1977	Percentage of total killed
Pedestrians	..	..	6	50	..	..	5	50	11	73·3
Passengers	3	42·9	1	8·4	2	100	2	20	1	6·7
Drivers	3	42·9	4	33·3	..	..	..	..	3	20
Motorcycle riders ..	1	14·2	..	..	..	..	1	10	..	..
Bicycle riders ..	..	..	1	8·3	..	..	2	20	..	..
Unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	7	100	12	100	2	100	10	100	15	100

(*f*), (*g*), (*h*) and (*i*). This information is not readily available in relation to the electoral district of Mitcham.

2. Reported accidents and traffic flows are indicators which are used to identify locations which are to be considered for treatment under the State intersection control programme in order to reduce traffic hazards and improve traffic movements. In this respect signals have been listed for installation, under the Road Safety and Traffic Authority's 1977–78 works programme, at the following intersections—

Mitcham Road–Springvale Road;

Maroondah Highway–Station Street–Williams Road;

Maroondah Highway–Chapel Street.

In addition it is proposed to re-model the existing signals at the intersection of Canterbury and Springvale Roads and to install signals at the intersection of Station Street and Wantirna Road, as part of the authority's 1978–79 works programme.

Additionally the following locations have been included in the list of sites which are to be considered for future treatment under the STATCON programme.

Intersections—

Doncaster Road–Tunstall Road;
Blackburn Road–Beverley Street;
Mitcham Road–Park Road;
Wantirna Road–Reilly Street;
Springvale Road–Station Street;
Mitcham Road–Springfield Road;
Canterbury Road–Terrara Road;
Maroondah Highway–Doncaster East Road;
Maroondah Highway–Cochrane Street;
Springvale Road–Central Road;
Maroondah Highway–Goodwin Street;
Canterbury Road–Stevens Road;
Springfield Road–Williams Road;
Mitcham Road–Alwyn Street;
Canterbury Road–Blanche Drive;
Springfield Road–Goodwin Street.

Mid-block locations—

Doncaster Road between Shaw Street and Tunstall Road;
Mitcham Road between Andover Avenue and Springvale Road;
Springfield Road between Evandale Avenue and Mountain View Road;
Mitcham Road between Park Road and Wrendale Drive;
Blackburn Road between Beverley Street and Ireland Avenue.

POLICE STATIONS.

(Question No. 662)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

With regard to the Nunawading, Doncaster and Doncaster East police stations, respectively—

1. How many police personnel of each rank, man the station for each shift?

2. What proportion of time on duty is spent out of the station and what is the apportionment of time between general patrol work and each other activity?

3. What are the boundaries of the area serviced from the station?

4. What vehicles are attached to the station?

5. What radio communications equipment is attached to the station?

6. What plans are there for expanding local police services in each of the years 1979 to 1983 inclusive?

7. What Criminal Investigation Branch coverage there is in these districts?

8. Whether Criminal Investigation Branch patrols of each of these districts are in unmarked cars?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

The information requested can only be provided in respect of the Nunawading and Doncaster police stations as there is no police station at Doncaster East at present.

1. Nunawading police station

Personnel strength of station—

2 senior sergeants
6 sergeants
29 senior constables or constables.

Police at this station are rostered to provide a 24-hour service daily on the following basis—

7.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.—1 sergeant and 3 senior constables or constables.

8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.—1 senior sergeant, 1 sergeant and 3 senior constables or constables.

9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.—1 senior constable or constable.

2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.—1 senior constable or constable.

3.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.—1 senior sergeant (when available), 1 sergeant and 3 senior constables or constables.

6.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.—2 senior constables or constables.

11.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m.—1 sergeant and two senior constables or constables.

2.

Nunawading police station shift

Proportion of time spent out of the station (approximately)—

7.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.—sergeant, 15 per cent; 3 senior constables or constables, 75 per cent.

8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.—senior sergeant, nil; sergeant, 15 per cent; 3 senior constables or constables, 15 per cent.

9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.—senior constable or constable, 85 per cent.

2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.—senior constable or constable, 75 per cent.

3.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.—senior sergeant and sergeant, 15 per cent; 3 senior constables or constables, 75 per cent.

6.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.—2 senior constables or constables, 75 per cent.

11.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m.—sergeant, 15 per cent; 2 senior constables or constables, 75 per cent.

Doncaster police station shift

Proportion of time spent out of the station (approximately)—

7.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.—sergeant, 15 per cent; 2 senior constables or constables, 75 per cent.

9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.—senior sergeant, nil; senior constable or constable, 10 per cent; senior constable or constable, 75 per cent.

3.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.—senior sergeant and sergeant, 15 per cent; 2 senior constables or constables, 75 per cent.

11.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m.—sergeant and senior constable or constables, 85 per cent.

The police station itself is open for sixteen hours each day from 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. The sub-district is then patrolled by the station divisional van from 11.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m.

2.

Doncaster police station

Personnel strength of station—

2 senior sergeants
4 sergeants
19 senior constables or constables.

Police at this station are rostered to provide a 24-hour service daily on the following basis—

7.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.—1 sergeant and 2 senior constables or constables.

9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.—1 senior sergeant and 2 senior constables or constables.

3.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.—1 senior sergeant (when available), 1 sergeant and 2 senior constables or constables.

11.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m.—1 sergeant and 1 senior constable or constable.

The outside duties of members generally consist of patrolling combined with attending to calls and complaints received. The amount of time spent on patrolling and other duties varies greatly according to the hour of the day and the day of the week.

4 and 5.

Police station	Boundaries of area serviced
Nunawading ..	Same boundaries as the City of Nunawading.
Doncaster	Municipal boundary of Shire of Eltham, from the junction of the continuation of Raffey Street, Templestowe, and the Yarra River, north-easterly to the Mullum Mullum Creek. South east along the Mullum Mullum Creek to the Nunawading municipal boundary. Westerly along the Koonung Creek to High Street, Doncaster. Northerly along High Street and back to the starting point on the Yarra River.

Police station	Vehicles attached to station	Radio communications equipment at station
Nunawading ..	1 divisional van 2 sedans	1 base receiver and two portable radios. Each station vehicle is fitted with a receiver and transmitter.
Doncaster	1 divisional van 2 sedans	1 base receiver and one portable radio. Each station vehicle is fitted with a receiver and transmitter.

6. A new police station is being erected at the corner of Dryden Street and Doncaster Road, Doncaster East. The station, which will replace the present sub-standard station in Doncaster Road, is expected to be in operation by August, 1978. It will be provided with sufficient personnel to maintain a full 24-hour service.

The present personnel strength of the Nunawading police station is considered adequate for current needs. There are no plans at present to expand police services during the next five years.

However, as with all areas of the State the policing needs of the Nunawading and Doncaster police sub-districts are kept under constant review and changes made as necesssary.

7. The Nunawading Criminal Investigation Branch, which has a personnel strength of one senior sergeant, one sergeant and five senior constables or constables, services the Nunawading police sub-district. The Doncaster Criminal Investigation Branch which has a personnel strength of one senior sergeant, one sergeant and three senior constables or constables services the Doncaster police sub-district, as well as the Warrandyte police sub-district.

8. Yes.

MAROONDAH POLICE DISTRICT.

(Question No. 667)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

In respect of the Maroondah Police District, whether there has been an increase or decrease in the incidence of major criminal offences in the past five years, indicating the type of offence and the ratio of apprehension and conviction in relation to the number of offences?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

The information sought is not readily available in the form requested.

The total major crime statistics for the Maroondah Police District for each of the past five years are—

Year	Number of major crimes reported	Number of major crimes cleared	Percentage of crimes cleared
1973 ..	8,906	4,654	52 per cent.
1974 ..	8,356	4,243	51 per cent.
1975 ..	8,650	4,524	52 per cent.
1976 ..	8,824	4,301	49 per cent.
1977 ..	10,602	4,252	40 per cent.

SALE AND STORAGE OF PESTICIDES.

(Question No. 681)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether any pesticides available over the counter in Victoria have been placed under strict control in the United States of America; if so—(*a*) how many products on sale here have restrictions placed on their use, sale and storage in that country, naming the products in each case, and the percentage concentration of the pesticide; and (*b*) whether the Government is investigating the need to license operators for health and environment reasons?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

(*a*) In respect of products available to the domestic consumer, the Minister of Health has been advised that products based

on 2, 4, 5–T are not now available in the United States of America, but are still available in Victoria. The Minister understands that in the case of DDT neither the domestic consumer nor the farmer can obtain this compound in the United States of America but it still has a very limited use in Victoria.

Insofar as household insecticides are concerned, DDT is allowed in residual sprays or insecticidal paints, dusting powders and smoke generators but not in space sprays or insect sprays or fly sprays.

Pesticides are registered in Victoria under the Pesticides Act and enquiries concerning availability of particular products in this State should be directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

(*b*) Pest control operators working in the domestic and industrial pest control field are required to be registered with the Commission of Public Health under the Health Act 1958 and there is at present no proposals to vary or extend these requirements.

The Aerial Spraying Control Act as administered by the Minister of Agriculture has certain application in this area and enquiries concerning any proposals to amend this particular legislation should be directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

(Question No. 685)

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

In respect of State Electricity Commission activities—

1. Whether existing or prospective customers have indicated a major growth in demand; if so, what are the details of the expected growth and the anticipated new customers?

2. How many personnel are specifically employed by the commission to develop energy conservation priorities, giving in each case a breakdown of each officer's responsibilities in this area, and listing the actual conservation projects, if any, being undertaken?

3. Whether the commission allocated any part of its advertising budget to energy conservation advertisements in the 1975–76, 1976–77 and 1977–78 financial years; if so, how many advertisements have been published, indicating—(*a*) in which media outlet; (*b*) at what cost; (*c*) the name of the publication in each case; (*d*) the date of publication; and (*e*) a brief summary or copy of each advertisement?

4. What are the growth forecasts in—(*a*) domestic transactions; (*b*) commercial transactions; (*c*) industrial transactions; (*d*) public lighting; (*e*) bulk sales; and (*f*) other commission activities for each of the next ten years?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

1. Certain existing and prospective customers have advised the commission of possible major growth in demand. The details of such inquiries are confidential until released by the customers.

2. On average the equivalent of about 40 commission personnel is employed in providing energy conservation advice and guidance to its customers. The duties of many more involve close attention to the effective use of energy in the commission's operations.

As many hundreds of officers are concerned with conserving energy in both the internal and external activities of the commission, I have arranged with the commission to discuss each officer's responsibility in this area should you wish to pursue this matter further.

Actual conservation of energy areas in which the commission has had significant involvement include—

Appliance performance.
Solar energy.
Advice to industry and commerce.
Conservation of energy publications.
Submissions to Parliamentary Conservation of Energy Resources Committee and to Department of Minerals and Energy.
Electrical Research Board.
Heat pumps.
Integrated environmental design of buildings.
System loss reduction.
Home service.
Electric vehicles.
Insulation in homes.
Institution of Engineers, Australia, task force on energy.

3. The State Electricity Commission had allocated part of its 1975–76 and 1976–77 advertising budget to a "wise use" of energy program that had been developed early in the 1975 calendar year.

Some $2,500 was spent in the first year in testing the effectiveness of the advertising message, but the program did not proceed further at that time.

In 1975 the commission discontinued all advertising to the general public that might be regarded as promotional until appropriate guidelines had been established for a balanced energy policy for the State.

Since July, 1977 advertisements have appeared in three flights. Because of the bulk, details have been forwarded direct to Mr. Amos as have details of related costs and a copy of each of the advertisements displayed in the press and the text of radio spots.

4. The commission's forecasts are reviewed annually to take account of the continuing change in economic and technical development. The annual percentage

growth rates of each customer class as currently forecast are—

	1977–78	1978–79	1979–80	1980–81	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	1985–86	1986–87
Domestic	5·2	7·4	7·3	7·2	7·2	7·2	7·2	7·2	7·2	7·2
Commercial	5·5	9·7	9·6	9·3	9·0	8·7	8·4	8·1	7·2	7·3
Industrial	3·9	4·3	3·8	12·1*	12·2*	3·9	5·4	4·5	3·6	5·4
Bulk supplies	0·7	6·2	4·8	4·5	4·2	3·9	3·8	3·7	3·7	3·7
Public lighting	5·2	5·3	5·0	6·3	5·7	5·1	5·6	6·1	5·8	5·4
Traction	3·7	3·3	6·4	8·6	6·1	5·2	4·1	2·9	2·0	1·3

* The high percentage growth rate in the industrial class in 1980/81 and 1981/82 (12·1 and 12·2) is much higher than other years because the third Alcoa pot line of 100 megawatt capacity will be coming on to the system in stages.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SERVICES.

(Question No. 695)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Minister for Social Welfare—

1. Whether it is the usual practice of the Social Welfare Department to refuse to help someone who has visited the Melbourne office, rather than a regional office which is zoned as being their area?

2. Why a resident of Diamond Creek must go to the Preston office of the Social Welfare Department when requiring help or advice, when Preston is a most inconvenient suburb to travel to and from by public transport, and the city office is more accessible?

Mr. DIXON (Minister for Social Welfare): The answer is—

1. It is not the usual practice of the Social Welfare Department to refuse help to persons who have visited the Melbourne office rather than the regional office which is zoned as being in their area. The department recognizes that members of the public may in fact call at the city office because they are not aware of the existence of the local regional office or because it is more convenient for them to visit Melbourne central business district. However, it is the usual practice of the Melbourne office to refer members of the public to their regional office on matters which are not urgent. The department, on the base of wide advice and community consultation, has concertedly moved staff and resources to regional areas and as a consequence the Melbourne office is not equipped to maintain a full and active service commitment to members of the public who could in fact utilize their regional facilities.

2. The problems of residents of Diamond Creek are recognized, however, a visiting service is conducted to the area from the Preston Regional Centre. It has been proposed that a sub-office be established in the Diamond Creek area and the proposal is currently being considered.

ENERGY SOURCES.

(Question No. 704)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

Further to question No. 1211 answered on 3rd May, 1977 and the statement that research projects directly funded by the Victorian Government in 1976–77 will require the expenditure of approximately $700,000 —(*a*) what projects were included; and (*b*) what amount was set aside for each project?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

The answer which I have to question No. 1211 asked by Mr. Cathie referred to an expenditure requirement of $700,000 for research projects funded directly by the Victorian Government in 1976–77.

The projects referred to are all projects supported by the Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee and the individual allocations of funds were set aside for each project in 1976–77 as follows—

	Allocation $
1. Project 75/1—Brown coal evaluation	300,000
2. Project 76/1—Brown coal dewatering	118,750
3. Project 76/2—Review of processes for conversion of brown coal to liquid fuels	20,000
4. Grants to tertiary institutions	90,000
Monash University hydrogenation catalysis	
Melbourne University	
(*a*) Effect of coal lithotype on dewatering	
(*b*) brown coal colloidal properties	
Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education	
(*a*) evaluation of by-product tar	
(*b*) Sorption properties of chars	

5. Exchange of information on brown coal petrology with the German Democratic Republic involving the secondment of two GDR experts for approximately three months	200,000
	$728,750

WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT.

(Question No. 705)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

In view of the proposed legislation to legalize chiropractors, what steps have been taken or are proposed to amend the definition of "medical service" in the Workers Compensation Act 1958 to ensure that workers seeking the services of chiropractors for relief from back pain are not required to do so at their own expense in cases where workers compensation liability exists?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

The matter of the amendment of the Workers Compensation Act 1958 to provide for the reimbursement of costs of chiropractic treatment is being considered in conjunction with the examination of the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry into Workers Compensation.

FIRE FIGHTERS' SUPERANNUATION SCHEME.

(Question No. 706)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Treasurer—

Whether the case put to the Chief Secretary by representatives of 42 fire fighters for inclusion in the current superannuation scheme has been referred to him for consideration; if so—(*a*) when; and (*b*) with what result?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

Yes.

(a) 1st December, 1977.

(*b*) Amendments which have improved benefits under the Superannuation Act in the last 25 years have not contained any provision for retrospectivity. However the Government was aware of the difficulties of formulating a viable scheme and accordingly gave an undertaking to the Union that, irrespective of the date of commencement of the Act, benefits would be retrospective to 18th August, 1976. This provision was incorporated in the Act.

EDUCATION FUNDS FOR PRESTON REGION.

(Question No. 707)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Minister of Education—

1. What total amount of funds was allocated to the Preston region in the 1976–77 financial year, indicating the breakdown of funds allocated in the general categories such as capital works and maintenance and the amount unexpended in each category?

2. Why some funds were not expended in the Preston region and whether the funds were returned to Consolidated Revenue?

3. Whether the funds were re-directed in any way and used for another purpose; if so, what purpose?

4. What assurances exist to ensure that there will be no under expenditure in the region in 1977–78.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. Funds allocated to the Northern Metropolitan Region in 1976–77.

	Allocation $ million	Expenditure $ million	Under expenditure $ million
Major Works	10.57	8.3	2.18
Maintenance and Minor Works	1.205	1.113	.092
Total	11.775	9.503	2.272

2 and 3. Under-expenditure was a result of the various strikes and suspension in the letting of Government contracts for a period before Christmas, which had an irrecoverable effect on the school building program in the time available.

In an attempt to expend the total allocation monies were transferred from regional major works to other areas. The main area was in the purchase of sites.

The overall effect was an under expenditure of $5·043 million against the total funds allocation for the State.

4. All the funds allocated to the Northern metropolitan region for the 1977–78 financial year have been expended.

GLENROY WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Question No. 710)

Mr. CULPIN (Glenroy) asked the Minister of Education—

1. Whether in May, 1974, the Glenroy West Primary School was recommended for staff administration improvements and provision of art facilities by the upgrade operation task force; if so, when these improvements will take place?

2. Whether he will lay on the table of the Library the file and memoranda relating to this matter?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978 as follows—

1. There are several schools in the Preston region where these art/craft rooms can be provided by conversion of existing classrooms.

In all cases the upgrade task force recommended art/craft by conversion and staff improvements.

In the case of Glenroy West the original proposal is to proceed and the Public Works Department is currently providing a revised estimate.

The amount of finance that will be available for regional works in 1978–79 will depend on allocation of the State Budget. At this stage it is not possible to say when the work will be carried out.

Regional recommendations on new priorities for 1978–79 will be given full consideration shortly after the State Budget allocations.

2. Yes.

STORAGE OF POISONOUS CHEMICALS.

(Question No. 714)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether there are any regulations which apply to the safe storage and security of poisonous chemicals; if so, which regulations, and whether the various premises occupied by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey throughout Victoria comply with such regulations?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Yes. Regulations under the Poisons Act 1962, Health Act 1958 and Inflammable Liquids Act 1966 and in particular the Poisons Regulations 1963 (No. 2) and the Poisons Regulations 1963 (No. 3).

Premises occupied by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey are not legally bound to comply with the respective regulations, but those which have been inspected by officers of this department do comply.

SMALL-POX INJECTIONS FOR CHILDREN.

(Question No. 724)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of small-pox injections for children—

1. Whether the World Health Organization, the National Health and Medical Research Council and medical advisers in the Department of Health, respectively, no longer recommend such injections?

2. Why the Department of Health is still either encouraging or directing infant welfare sisters and similar persons to give small-pox injections?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

The World Health Organization initiated a global small-pox eradication programme in 1967 which included a policy of selective vaccination in those immediately at risk and a redirection of the routine vaccination effort to concentrate on problem areas in order to maximize the resources of countries still infected.

The success of this programme has led countries to re-evaluate their vaccination policies and accordingly the National Health and Medical Research Council has recommended that routine infant vaccination against small-pox be discontinued.

Many countries however are still requiring visitors to produce a valid certificate of vaccination against small-pox so vaccination of intending overseas travellers is still continuing although on a smaller scale than in the past.

The Health Act 1958 provides for the free vaccination against small-pox of children under the age of seven years by a public vaccinator who must be a medical practitioner. The Commission of Public Health has advised councils that parents should be dissuaded from seeking such vaccination but that it may be administered on request.

KNOX EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

(Question No. 725)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of evaluations of the Knox Early Childhood Development Project—

1. Apart from the initial evaluation report already published by the Department of Health, what other evaluation of the project has been carried out, indicating when and by whom?

2. Whether any other reports have been prepared; if so, by whom, when they were delivered to the relevant sections of the department, and when it is expected that the reports will be released?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. Evaluation of the Knox Early Childhood Development project has been carried out by a research psychologist (Dr. P. Leaper) and a research sociologist (Miss Y. Wadsworth).

The research psychologist's task was to evaluate whether or not the programme and services provided fostered and enhanced the well-being of the children; this work was carried out between February 1975 and June 1977. The research sociologist's task was to assess the suitability of the services provided from the community point of view; this work was carried out between January 1975 and June 1978.

In addition to these evaluations, funds have been made available through the Community Health Programme for a full-time research worker to be employed by the City of Knox to investigate the general needs of the community.

2. The final report of the research sociologist is now complete and a copy has been made available to the honorable member.

The research psychologist submitted two reports; the first was an evaluation of the work of the consultant psychologist and was written as an internal report not intended for publication. However, excerpts from this report were included in the 1977 Annual Report of the Knox Early Childhood Development Programme which were published by the City of Knox. The second report, on toddler play groups in the City of Knox, was received by the Chief Health Officer on the 9th June, 1977 and a copy will be made available to the honorable member.

The Department of Health has also received a number of reports by the research officer employed by the City of Knox. These reports, while relevant to the evaluation of the Early Childhood Development project, were submitted to the council of the City of Knox and inquiries regarding their availability should be directed to the council.

OVERSEAS VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD.

(Question No. 731)

Mr. McKELLAR (Portland) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

In respect of each of the past five financial years, and in this financial year to date—

1. What countries were visited by the Victorian grower member representatives on the Australian Wheat Board on behalf of that Board and what was the destination in each case?

2. What was the purpose of each visit?

3. What staff members of the board accompanied either of these members on each visit?

4. What was the total cost of each visit?

5. What was the individual cost in respect of each grower member?

6. Whether any other persons were included in these visits at Board expense; if so—(*a*) what are their names and addresses; (*b*) what was their expertise; and (*c*) what was the individual cost of each of their visits?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): The answer is—

The Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry has provided the following information in respect of overseas visits by Victorian grower-members of the Australian Wheat Board during the periods in question.

Victorian grower-member	Date of visit	Countries visited	Total cost of mission
			$
Mr. A. C. Everett (retired 25.10.74) ..	February, 1973 ..	Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia	6,169
	November, 1973 ..	Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom	20,661
Mr. M. Bourke (appointed 26.10.74) ..	August–September, 1975	Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia	7,889
	October–November, 1976	China, Japan	18,085
	February, 1977 ..	China	14,162
Mr. M. Bourke	November, 1977 ..	Indonesia, Singapore	4,743
Mr. E. B. Nuske	February, 1974 ..	Chile, Peru, Argentina, Brazil ..	12,862
	February, 1975 ..	Peru, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico	12,467
	October, 1975	Japan, Republic of Korea, Taiwan ..	12,804
	February/March, 1976 ..	Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand	11,879
	August, 1977	Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand	19,511

NOTE: The above costs cover the total costs of each mission; the individual costs of grower-member on such missions are not separated because of overlapping of costs such as communication expenses, customer entertainment, in-country travel.

1. The purpose of the Australian Wheat Board delegations or missions to foreign countries falls into two main categories—

(*a*) negotiating missions, that is, actually selling wheat, or

(*b*) missions aimed at market penetration; increasing the sales volume of Australian wheat; or settling problems that, at times, develop between buyer and seller.

2. All board delegations are accompanied by at least one member of the board's management, but not more than two; the second, when included, usually being for market introduction, marketing experience or for technical advice (i.e., quality control or pests and diseases).

3. For some years the board has had a policy that on selected visits board members may be accompanied by their wives at Board expense, such expenses to be limited to air fares and accommodation. While the board has absolute discretion in deciding when and to what destination a wife should accompany a member, the general guidelines are as follows—

(*a*) When a board member has made three overseas visits on board business he may be eligible to be accompanied by his wife on the fourth. This may be varied by the board, having regard to the length of service of the board member. In the case of the current Victorian board members, their length of service is—

Mr. M. Bourke—4 years
Mr. E. E. Nuske—15 years

Mr. Nuske has been accompanied by his wife on three visits overseas during the 15 years of his service, and Mr. Bourke has been accompanied by his wife once in his 4 years of service.

(*b*) That it is considered by the board that the presence of wives will further the business relationship between the customer and the board.

(*c*) That reciprocal invitations have been extended by the buyer's country to include wives in delegations.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

(Question No. 733)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

1. In respect of the School Medical Service during 1977 (*a*) how many children were examined; (*b*) in respect of the routine initial medical examination, how many children were—(i) examined; and (ii) not examined; (*c*) what specialist examinations were conducted; and (*d*) how many schools were not visited by—(i) medical officers, (ii) nursing staff; and (iii) medical officers and nursing staff?

2. What was the establishment of the service and how many positions were filled in terms of full-time equivalents as at 31st March, 1978?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. (*a*) One hundred and sixty-nine thousand, three hundred and seventy-nine were examined in schools in 1977.

(*b*) (i) 33,639 full medical examinations were conducted in routine grades.

(ii) Approximately 42,400 children in grade 1 but did not receive a routine initial medical examination during 1977. However, many of these children received a routine vision and audiometry screening. The majority of the children not examined would have received an examination at pre-school level and were therefore not due for an initial medical examination.

(*c*) Speech—664
Hearing—97
Special school examinations—2055
Special Developmental School examinations—494
School problem examinations—111
Referrals from Health professionals outside the School Medical Service—892
Reading, Treatment and Research Centre—141
Other Special examinations—866
Teacher examinations—8209.

(*d*) 736. Of the 1660 schools visited, 29 were seen by medical officers, 982 by medical officer and school nurse teams and 649 by nurses working alone.

2. Staff establishment as at 31st March 1978 was as follows. Positions filled in terms of full-time equivalents are shown in brackets—

School medical officers	62	(50)
School nurses	102	(102)
Administrative and clerical staff	24	(24)
Nursing aide	1	(1)

MOTOR CAR POLLUTION.

(Question No. 738)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Conservation—

In the past two years to date, what levels of lead emissions from motor cars have been recorded in Melbourne, indicating—(*a*) the points where tests were taken; (*b*) how these readings compare with air quality levels in Europe and California; (*c*) the amount of lead additives currently allowed in petrol; and (*d*) the year when the standard will become more stringent, indicating the level of the proposed standard?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): The answer is—

(*a*) Two different sampling techniques are used by the Environment Protection Authority to determine atmospheric levels of particulate lead. High volume sampling is the

more commonly used. Samples are collected on filters once every six days, each sample is the composite of continuous 24 hour sampling.

High volume sampling results (in micrograms of lead per cubic metre of air) are—

Location and period	Overall average for stated periods	Highest 24 hour average
Roof of Science Museum, Swanston Street, August, 1976–March, 1978	0·5	2·9
Materials Research Laboratories, Maribyrnong, April, 1976–August, 1976	0·4	1·5
Public Works Department, Port Melbourne, April, 1976–December, 1976 ; July, 1977–March, 1978	0·6	2·7
Gas and Fuel Corporation Depot, Box Hill, September, 1976–October, 1977	0·8	4·1
Glenhuntly Tram Depot, South Caulfield, November, 1977–March, 1978	0·3	1·2
Watsonia Army Barracks, April, 1976–July, 1976	0·5	1·6

The second method of sampling (Low Volume Sampling), is used for determining short term atmospheric lead levels. Sampling is usually conducted for one day at a particular location, with samples taken for one hour periods.

Low Volume Sampling results (in micrograms of lead per cubic metre of air)—

Location	Highest daily average	Highest hourly average
South end of Tullamarine Freeway	5·0	16·0
Richmond exit of South Eastern Freeway	3·8	5·4
Johnson Oval, Tooronga	1·0	4·0
Kew near Eastern Freeway (before opening of Freeway to traffic) ..	0·1	0·2

Sampling at all sites was performed for one day, except at the Tullamarine Freeway site, where five days sampling were performed.

(*b*) Comparison with particulate lead levels measured in California and Europe is difficult, as the concentrations measured are dependent on sampling locations, sampling periods, and sampling techniques, and results are often reported in different formats.

The Melbourne results should be used only as an indication of the order of the pollution problem.

Californian measurements indicate that the daily averages ranged from 0·10 to 4·8 $\mu g/m^3$ within the periods for which data is available. The majority of the results are between 1 and 3 $\mu g/m^3$. The highest levels are obtained in the South Coast Air Basin, where the motor vehicle population is the highest.

Detailed European information is difficult to obtain. Summary results published by the Commission of the European Communities in 1973, indicated that—

(i) in residential zones of metropolitan areas, the average monthly concentration often exceed 1 $\mu g/m^3$ but the yearly average is below 2 $\mu g/m^3$, the highest daily averages reached 5 $\mu g/m^3$;

(ii) in traffic areas, the concentrations are significantly higher than in residential areas, highest monthly average reached 6·5 $\mu g/m^3$ and the highest daily value reached 10 $\mu g/m^3$.

The Melbourne readings indicate that in some areas of Melbourne, the atmospheric lead concentration is of the same order as many cities in Europe and California.

(*c*) The amount of lead additives currently allowed in petrol is the equivalent of 0·5 gram of lead per litre of petrol.

(*d*) The year when the standard will become more stringent is 1979, and the level will be 0·45 grams of lead per litre of petrol.

HERBICIDES.

(Question No. 740)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether any research has been undertaken on the breakdown products of current herbicides, especially in lakes and streams?

2. Whether any research has been undertaken into the rate of dilution in streams adjacent to sprayed areas, and whether the Department of Health or any other department takes regular samples of water, testing specifically for dioxin; if so, with what results?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Yes.

2. Yes. Research has been undertaken by the Forests Commission and co-ordinated by the Pesticides Review Committee to determine the residues of 2,4,5-T that may be found in streams adjacent to large scale spraying of forest areas with this herbicide. This investigation indicated that levels of 2,4,5-T in water supplies resulting from these operations would be considerably below the acceptable level of 0·02 parts per million. No tests were made

for residues of the dioxin known as TCDD as it was confidently expected that levels of this substance would be well below that capable of detection.

RAGWORT AND BLACKBERRY CONTROL.

(Question No. 741)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Lands—

What has been the cost in each of the past three years of annual ragwort and blackberry control, indicating the cost and amounts, respectively, of herbicides used, the amounts charged to landholders, and the estimated labour costs of the programme?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): The answer is—

For ragwort control the cost in each year—

Labour cost	
1974–75	$191,743
1975–76	$207,865
1976–77	$240,827
Herbicide cost	
1974–75	$29,841
1975–76	$38,217
1976–77	$38,645

Amount of herbicides used

	1974–75	1975–76	1976–77
2, 4–D Ester 80 per cent.	8,837 litres	6,911 litres	9,208 litres
2, 4–D Amine 50 per cent.	3,343 litres	1,867 litres	3,425 litres
Picloram—2, 4–D mixture	193 litres	153 litres	58 litres
Polyborchlorate	3,144 kilograms	5,004 kilograms	5,511 kilograms
Sodium chlorate preparation	..	..	1,262 kilograms

Amounts charged to landholders*	
1974–75	$13,703
1975–76	$17,618
1976–77	$25,280

* These are estimated totals as detailed records of each entry work file are not collated at present, and considerable extra clerical resources would be needed to give exact figures. These figures are very close to the real position and reflect the extra work being done on ragwort control for landholders.

For blackberry control—

Labour cost	
1974–75	$622,398
1975–76	$663,706
1976–77	$776,921
Herbicide cost	
1974–75	$107,665
1975–76	$156,699
1976–77	$183,391

Amount of herbicides used

	1974–75	1975–76	1976–77
2, 4, 5–T Ester 80 per cent	15,311 litres	10,848 litres	15 150 litres
2, 4, 5–T low volume Ester 36–40 per cent	3,554 litres	2,808 litres	10,857 litres
Amitrole	18,183 litres	17,698 litres	21,651 litres
Picloram—2, 4–D mixture	5,154 litres	1,008 litres	1,526 litres
Polyborchlorate	422 kilograms	..	127 kilograms

Amounts charged to landholders*	
1974–75	$47,961
1975–76	$61,663
1976–77	$88,480

* These figures are estimated totals as detailed records of each entry work file are not collated at present as there are such large numbers involved, and considerable extra clerical resources would be needed to give exact figures. These figures are close to the real position and reflect the increasing amount of control work being done for landholders on blackberry.

PINE PLAINS

(Question No. 744)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Lands—

In respect of the Land Conservation Council report on the Mallee study area, how many farmers hold leases in the Pine Plains area, stating in each case—(*a*) their name; (*b*) the period of the lease; (*c*) the rental; (*d*) the size of the area; and (*e*) the value per acre?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): The answer is—

No farmers hold leases within the Pine Plains area. However one farmer holds a grazing licence pursuant to section 130 of the Land Act 1958.

The details are as follows—

(*a*) the name of the licensee is Mr. D. L. O'Sullivan.

(*b*) The licence is an annual one and the current term would be from 1st October, 1977, to 30th September, 1978, but normal departmental practice is to offer a renewal each year.

(*c*) The current rental is $675 per annum.

(*d*) The size of the area licensed is approximately 31,000 hectares or 76,600 acres.

(*e*) The Lands Department does not maintain formal valuations of unalienated Crown land, and it is not considered to be warranted to seek a valuation from the Valuer-General's Office in this instance. The rental payable for a grazing licence is based on assessment of grazing capacity by departmental officers, and is not necessarily directly related to capital value.

DRIVERS' LICENCE EXAMINATION.

(Question No. 757)

Mr. CRABB (Knox) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

Whether any arrangements have been made by the Motor Registration Branch for the production of drivers' licence examination papers in the Arabic and Turkish languages; if so, when such papers can be expected to be available?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

There are no written tests in relation to obtaining a driver's licence. However, applicants for learner driver permits are required to undertake such tests. The tests in the Turkish language became available on 19th December, 1977. Arrangements are being made at present for the introduction of written tests in the Arabic language. However, I am unable to indicate when the test will be introduced as this is dependent upon the time taken to translate and print the test and the *Before You Drive* booklets, which must be distributed before the tests commence.

RAILWAYS BOARD PAYMENTS.

(Question No. 758)

Mr. CRABB (Knox) asked the Minister of Transport—

What sums of money were paid by the Victorian Railways Board to taxi firms in each of the past three years and what are the details concerning these payments?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

Details of the amounts paid to taxi firms during period 1st March, 1976, to 31st October, 1977, are set out below.

These payments were made for the following purposes—

	$	$
1. Placement of train crews to operate rail services and transport of crews for relief and changeover purposes—		
Country	336,425·00	
Suburban	115,184·00	
		451,609·00
2. Usage for various essential operations such as attendance at disruptions to train services, equipment breakdowns etc. and various other urgent requirements where suitable alternative transport is not available		119,080·52
3. Provision for passenger traffic in lieu of train services		14,669·00
Total		585,358·52

The details in relation to the previous two years are not readily available. To provide this information would involve considerable research involving a substantial number of manhours.

CONTROL OF ANALGESICS.

(Question No. 759)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the sale of analgesics in supermarkets, whether the attention of the Minister and the Department of Health has been drawn to either campaigns advertising cut price analgesics or the sale of analgesics at special prices; if so, what action has been taken in relation to this matter, particularly in view of the National Health and Medical Research Council's report on the sale of analgesics?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Yes. The matter has been considered by the Poisons Advisory Committee who have expressed the view that there is no evidence to suggest that this particular type of sale has led to over-use.

The question of the scheduling of minor analgesic preparations containing aspirin, salicylamide and paracetamol either as single ingredients or in combination has been discussed at the Health Ministers' Conference in February 1977 and February 1978. On each occasion the Victorian view was that no carefully documented scientific

analysis has been prepared which would justify any variation in the control of the sale of these products.

In the absence of such evidence it is not proposed to make any change in the present arrangements for the sale of these analgesics.

HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

(Question No. 760)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the Hospital Development Programme—

1. Which works were carried out during the 1976–77 financial year, specifying—(*a*) the hospital; (*b*) the project; (*c*) the amount spent in the financial year; and (*d*) whether the project is completed and, if not, when it is expected that it will be completed?

2. What works are being undertaken in the 1977–78 financial year, specifying—(*a*) the hospital; (*b*) the project; (*c*) the amount spent in the financial year; and (*d*) whether the project is completed and, if not, when it is expected that it will be completed?

3. Whether discussions have occurred in respect of the 1978–79 financial year; if so, when; if not, why?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Parts one and two—Principal works funded during the years 1976–77, 1977–78 are shown on the following schedule.

Part three—Discussions were held on 10th and 11th April, 1978.

Hospital	Project	Expenditure 1976–77	Expenditure 1977–78	Estimated date of completion
Metropolitan Special				
Bethlehem Public Hospital	Alterations and extensions	269,000	..	Completed
Mercy Maternity	St. Francis Nurses Home additions	329,000	892,000	Completed
Royal Children's	Cardiac Surgery Unit extensions	..	301,000	1978–79
	South building	165,000	80,000	1978–79
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear	Boiler House extensions	256,000	15,000	Completed
	Remodelling Stage 6	1,394,000	494,000	1978–79
	Stage 7	3,000	140,000	1983
Royal Women's	Kathleen Syme Education Unit	45,000	193,000	1978–79
	West wing additions	445,000	109,000	1978–79
Caulfield Hospital	Rehabilitation centre	150,000	18,000	1976–77
General				
Alfred	New ward block	1,996,000	793,000	Completed
Austin	Stage II.	3,228,000	5,285,000	..
	Department of Nuclear Medicine alterations	49,000	40,000	1978–79
	Kitchen extensions	10,000	..	Completed
	Kitchen contract	1,683,000	80,000	Completed
Box Hill	Sparks block Pathology Department	367,000	38,000	1978–79
Dandenong	Boiler house	79,000	1,085,000	1978–79
	Stage III. (South block)	2,416,000	1,755,000	1978–79
Essendon	West wing	7,000	..	Completed
	New 200 bed hospital	1,121,000	858,000	Not yet known
Fairfield	Nurse Training Unit	29,000	630,000	1978–79
Maroondah	Stage I.	230,000	..	Completed
	Stage II. (South block)	1,179,000	201,000	1978–79
	Stage III.	..	280,000	..
Moorabbin	Stage I.	60,000	..	Completed
	Stage II.	999,000	102,000	1977–78
	Stage III.	..	290,000	..
Mordialloc	Operating theatre, kitchen, boiler house	657,000	37,000	1978–79
Preston and Northcote	Radiology Department extensions	26,000	..	Completed
	Outpatients Department	..	39,000	1978–79
	Intensive care ward extensions	97,000	61,000	Completed
Prince Henry's	Nurses Training Centre	..	130,000	..
	Lift alterations	..	94,000	1978–79
	Pharmacy alterations	66,000	3,000	Completed
	Boiler flues	53,000	..	Completed
	Renovations ward 10w	42,000	..	Completed
	Renovations ward 4	30,000	..	Completed
Queen Victoria Medical Centre	J. Block Administration additions	19,000	24,000	1978–79
	Casualty and Outpatients Department	45,000	14,000	1978–79
	Fire precautions	..	170,000	1978–79
	Clayton planning	137,000	747,000	Unknown at this date
Royal Melbourne	Records additions	34,000	82,000	1978–79
	Outpatients floors 5, 6 and 7	112,000	15,000	Completed
	Ground floor—Outpatients remodelling	149,000	156,000	Completed
	New lifts	..	57,000	1978–79
Sandringham	Outpatients and Pharmacy alterations	..	47,000	1978–79
Southern Memorial (Caulfield)	New ward block	1,148,000	2,000	1978–79
	Kosher kitchen	32,000	12,000	1977–78
St. George's (Kew)	Central Services Block	70,000	357,000	1978–79
	40 bed medical wing	674,000	10,000	1978–79
St. Vincents (Fitzroy)	Security ward	..	49,000	1978–79
	Bolte Rehabilitation Centre	182,000	..	Completed
	Radiology Department	105,000	2,000	Completed

Hospital	Project	Expenditure 1976–77	Expenditure 1977–78	Estimated date of completion
General—continued				
Sunshine	New hospital and associated works	1,285,000	2,694,000	Not yet known
	40 bed unit (old hospital)	220,000	..	Completed
Western General (Footscray)	Outpatients Department	1,647,000	167,000	Completed
	Hospital extensions and master plan	246,000	222,000	..
	Refrigeration plant	138,000	48,000	1978–79
	Kitchen redevelopment	..	230,000	1978–79
	Radiology Department	42,000	3,000	Completed
Williamstown	Physiotherapy Department extensions	..	21,000	1978–79
	Berk Burn Nurses	91,000	50,000	Completed
Country Base				
Ballarat	Intensive care ward and cafeteria	461,000	10,000	Completed
	Medical services block	217,000	619,000	..
Bendigo	Mortuary alterations	..	40,000	Completed
	Ward block	2,211,000	428,000	1978–79
	Operating theatre	..	139,000	..
Geelong	Nurses education unit	171,000	49,000	Completed
	West wing	1,370,000	167,000	Completed
	Psychiatric unit relocation	100,000	13,000	1978–79
	Baxter House air conditioning	39,000	..	Completed
Gippsland (Sale)	Medical Services Wing	320,000	7,000	Completed
Goulburn Valley (Shepparton)	Stage III.	3,906,000	1,447,000	1978–79
	R.M.O's flats	6,000	6,000	1978–79
	Pathology Department	48,000	14,000	..
Hamilton	South east wing	1,516,000	1,601,000	..
	Dental clinic	..	37,000	1978–79
	Boiler house	..	13,000	..
Wangaratta	Obstetrics Paediatric's wing	649,000	55,000	1978–79
Warrnambool	New kitchen	..	472,000	..
Wimmera (Horsham)	Staff dining room	..	8,000	..
	New day hospital	254,000	26,000	Completed
	Staff accommodation	..	80,000	1978–79
	Pathology Department	158,000	374,000	1978–79
General				
Ararat	Remodelling stage III.	36,000	380,000	1978–79
Apollo Bay	Alterations and additions	..	12,000	..
Benalla	Radiographers residence	..	15,000	1978–79
Boort	Additions	2,000	113,000	..
Casterton	Alterations and additions	..	47,000	1978–79
Cobram	Alterations and additions stage I.	23,000	..	1978–79
Colac	Boiler house	134,000	..	1978–79
Dimboola	Nurses' Home wing and day centre	..	315,000	1978–79
Echuca	Camray Ward	26,000	..	Completed
	"Lumeah" Nurses' Home	..	11,000	..
	Day hospital	11,000	..	Completed
Frankston	Temporary convalescent ward	222,000	..	Completed
	Major extensions, stage I.	470,000	520,000	1978–79
Healesville	Ward toilets	..	37,000	1978–79
Heywood	Additions	..	134,000	1978–79
Inglewood	Ward remodelling	5,000	132,000	1978–79
Kaniva	Matrons flat	16,000	8,000	Completed
Korumburra	Nurses' Home ward	..	..	1978–79
Kyabram	Maternity wing additions	..	..	1978–79
Kyneton	Kitchen remodelling	49,000	35,000	Completed
Latrobe Valley (Moe)	Catering services alterations	..	76,000	Completed
Lorne	Alterations	..	..	1978–79
Numurkah	Stage I.	173,000	72,000	Completed
	Midwifery air conditioning	37,000	3,000	1978–79
Nhill	Kitchen remodelling	..	65,000	1978–79
	Geriatric project	..	..	1978–79
Ouyen	Staff residences and administration	..	47,000	1978–79
	Toilet facilities	..	55,000	Completed
Orbost	Kitchen additions	50,000	5,000	Completed
Portland	Food services and casualty	400,000	200,000	1978–79
Robinvale	Additions and alterations	207,000	210,000	Completed
St. Arnaud	Toilets additions, etc.	60,000	25,000	Completed
Seymour	N. H. Ward	..	..	1978–79
Swan Hill	Stage I.—development	40,000	..	Completed
	Day hospital	49,000	..	Completed
	N. H. Ward	..	50,000	1978–79
Terang	Kitchen and theatre suite alterations	18,000	2,000	Completed
Warracknabeal	Kitchen remodelling	..	132,000	1978–79
West Gippsland (Warragul)	Nursing Home Ward	10,000	207,000	Completed
	South wing	165,000	..	Completed
Werribee	Midwifery and stores additions	158,000	26,000	Completed
William Angliss (Ferntree Gully)	Temporary Casualty and Outpatient Department	..	6,000	1978–79
	Stage I.	160,000	450,000	1979–80
Hospitals for the aged				
Alexander	Covered way	39,000	..	Completed
	North wing	108,000	500,000	1979–80
Bendigo	North wing—six floors	115,000	..	Completed
	Kitchen extensions	160,000	5,000	Completed
	Staff amenities	45,000	230,000	1979–80
Grace McKellar	Percy Baxter Rehabilitation	60,000	..	Completed
	New sub-station	..	..	1978–79
Kingston Centre	Kitchen—Stage 1	248,000	..	Completed
	Kitchen—Stage 2	..	..	1979–80
Mount Royal	Fire protection	36,000	13,000	Completed

Hospital	Project	Expenditure 1976–77	Expenditure 1977–78	Estimated date of completion
General—continued				
Ovens and Murray.. ..	New kitchen	1,200,000	170,000	1978–79
	New boiler plant	16,000	6,000	Completed
	Ingram Lawford wards	12,000	406,000	1978–79
Queen Elizabeth	Group laundry	210,000	560,000	1979–80
	Fire precautions	750,000	10,000	1978–79
Bundoora	New centre	89,000	680,000	Not yet known

LAKE COLANGULAC.

(Question No. 777)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Conservation—

Whether he will lay on the table of the Library the files and all relevant correspondence and documents concerning the Environment Protection Authority and Lake Colangulac and the decision by the Minister?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): The answer is—

The relevant departmental files will be laid on the table of the Library.

PSYCHOSURGERY.

(Question No. 780)

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong West) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether the Minister will ascertain and advise the actual or estimated number of psychosurgery treatments carried out annually in private medical practice?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Psychosurgery operations are not subject to notification to the Department of Health. Information is not available to the department as to the actual or estimated number of such treatments carried out annually in private medical practice.

MARGARINE PRICE WAR.

(Question No. 783)

Mr BURGIN (Polwarth) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

1. Whether he is aware of the grave threat facing Victorian dairy farmers and butter producers as a result of the margarine price war operating in Australia since the middle of February this year?

2. Whether the price war has reached such intensity that butter's share of the spreads market is now approximately 30 per cent nationally, with the remainder of the market being captured by margarine?

3. Whether he is aware that this price war was initiated by the Melbourne firm Southern Packers Pty. Ltd. through its control of the listed company Marrickville Holdings Ltd. which produces the "Miracle" margarine brand?

4. Whether, as Victorian dairymen have most to lose from this price war, the Government will intervene to prevent Southern Packers Pty. Ltd. interests causing greater harm to dairy producers of this State?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): The answer is—

1. Yes. Victoria is the major producer of butter in Australia and the production of butter in other States is decreasing. Any further erosion of Australian sales of butter will have a grave effect on the future profitability of many Victorian dairy farms and butter producers.

2. Yes. At the height of the price war, which is now declining, butter sales were about 30 per cent of the spreads market in Australia. As the price of table margarine returns to the levels that existed before the price war, sales of butter are expected to return towards the level of 40 per cent of the spreads market.

3. Yes.

4. Because other States have virtually removed quota restrictions on table margarine, there is no way the Victorian Government could intervene effectively in the present situation.

As the Australian Dairy Corporation does not have the powers required to implement effective marketing of butter in Australia, it has not been able to protect butter's share of the Australian market for spreads, and the levies it spends on advertising are largely wasted.

I have made public statements on this deficiency, and have expressed the opinion that the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority could organize effective marketing of butter within Australia.

ENERGY STUDY.

(Question No. 792)

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

Whether he is now in a position to answer the question which appeared as No.

1978 and was asked at the beginning of the last sessional period, namely—

1. Whether he is aware that the Government's consultants, Kinnaird Hill de Rohan and Young Pty. Ltd. of the Battelle Memorial Institute, who were engaged for the preparation of the Green Paper on Energy, issued an explanatory paper under their name which gave an introduction and objectives of the study?

2. Whether he is aware that this paper was made available to those parties who indicated that they wished to present a submission to the Ministry of Fuel and Power for consideration by the above-mentioned consultants in relation to the then second part of a White Paper?

3. Why the objectives of study were changed, indicating—(*a*) why the scope of the study as defined in the consultants paper as part 11*a* Development Alternatives, 11*b* Policy Considerations, and 11c Policy Options was not the same as that reported on by the Minister as Part 2 of the study on page 3 of the Green Paper?

4. Why the status of the White Paper was changed to that of a Green Paper?

5. What was the total cost of the study, indicating the total amount paid to the consultants?

6. What was the original time table for completion of Part 2 of the study and why it was not adhered to?

7. Whether, in view of the fact that interested parties who presented submissions to the study did so on the understanding that they were contributing to a White Paper, which in its preparation has a scope of study broader than that reported on by the Minister on page 3 of the Green Paper, those parties were subsequently advised that the status of the study was to be changed from a White Paper to a Green Paper; if not, why?

8. Whether the Ministry failed to advise, consult or seek verbal support for the submissions made by those interested parties; if so, why?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. Research indicated that a more informative paper could be produced with slightly modified and extended terms of reference.

4. The Government decided by passing Act No. 8851 to set up a joint select committee to inquire into and report upon the conservation of energy resources in Victoria. It would have been anomalous to have both a White Paper (which by definition sets the policy) and an advisory committee as provided for by the above Act. A combination of a Green Paper and the committee provides Government with the necessary flexibility to regulate energy usage.

5. Cost in man hours of staff and materials of the Department of Minerals and Energy, State Electricity Commission and Gas and Fuel Corporation has not been costed. The amount paid to the consultants as at 1st June, 1978, was $74,902.65.

6. The original time table for the total project was ten months but the task of preparing a total energy paper was decided on and no time limit was or could be set for Part 2.

7. The final status of the paper would not have been effected as the technical submissions made to either colour paper would have been just as valid.

8. Coupled with the technical expertise available to the consultants both locally and from overseas the written submissions were considered sufficient.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES.

(Question No. 804)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of a workshop on Early Childhood Development Centres held at the Malvern Town Hall—

1. Whether the organizers of the workshop had submitted a questionnaire to the Department of Health on the subject; if so, whether this was answered?

2. Whether the Minister wrote to municipal councils setting out his views on the workshop; if so, whether a copy of the letter will be made available to the member for Brunswick?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. No.

2. Yes; yes.

(Question No. 805)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of each existing and proposed Early Childhood Development Centre—

1. What is the current staff establishment, how many of the positions are filled, and whether any expansion of establishments is intended in the current financial year or next financial year?

2. Whether any municipal council has been asked to provide accommodation and administrative staff, or is in fact providing accommodation or administrative staff; if so, which councils and what is the estimated expense to those councils?

3. Whether Early Childhood Development Centres' staff are accountable to the municipal council, or to officers of the Department of Health?

4. Whether the Department of Health has received requests from municipalities for regular discussions concerning the provision and administration of such centres; if so, with what result?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1.

Early childhood development complexes	Community health programme staff establishment	Positions occupied as at 30th June, 1978
Barwon Region	38	36
Diamond Valley/Eltham	21	19
South Western region	17	15
Gisborne	5	..
Frankston	11	..
Central Gippsland	23	20
Central Highlands	24	19
Knox/Sherbrooke	14	1
Broadmeadows	22	15
Fitzroy/Collingwood/Richmond	15	..
Melbourne	11	7
Footscray/Sunshine	19	..
Lilydale/Healesville/Alexandra/Upper Yarra/Yea	19	1
Goulburn Valley	24	9
Mildura	12	5

Any expansion during the next financial year will depend upon the funds made available under the Community Health Programme.

2. Yes. The following councils have provided such services and were reimbursed the total cost as detailed hereunder—

City of Warrnambool	$31,200
Shire of Morwell	$22,300
Shire of Ballarat	$12,735
City of Broadmeadows	$14,000
City of Hamilton	$1,500

3. Staff employed by a municipal council are accountable to the council; staff employed by the Department of Health are accountable to the department.

4. Yes. Discussions are held with municipalities on request.

SPRAYING OF PESTICIDES.

(Question No. 806)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether the Minister has received a petition from residents of the Shire of Sherbrooke and the surrounding area concerning the use of 245T in the spraying of pesticides throughout the shire; if so, what action the Minister proposes to prevent the possibility that danger to humans and to unborn babies might be caused by the use of 245T in a populated area?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Yes.

An expert committee has been appointed to consider all reports of birth defects in the Yarram district and this committee will consider any possible implication of 245T in any such defects.

SPECIAL GRANTS FOR THE ARTS.

(Question No. 809)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of the Arts—

What applications have been made to the Ministry for the Arts in the past twelve months for special grants, indicating the names of the applicants, the amount sought in each case, and whether the grants were approved?

Mr. HAMER (Minister of the Arts): The answer is—

There is no allocation to the Ministry for "special grants" projects. If the honorable member would provide me with details of any case he has specifically in mind I will obtain an answer for him.

BOARD OF WORKS.

(Question No. 822)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Minister for Planning—

1. What particular information is supplied by the transportation section of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Planning Department to the board?

2. Whether such information can be readily obtained from the Country Roads Board, Road Safety and Traffic Authority or the Ministry of Transport?

Mr. HAYES (Minister for Planning): The answer is—

1. The Transportation Planning Division operates within the planning branch of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and is required to provide information to the planning branch and the board, or to the Minister at his request, on a range of matters.

These include advice on existing and proposed reservations for transport purposes in the Metropolitan Planning Scheme and amending schemes, advice on transport considerations in relation to applications made to the Board for land use permits, and advice on the provision of transport facilities (both public and private) in developing areas and their co-ordination in outline development plans.

In addition, the division carries out studies such as the metropolitan parking study and the Hierarchy of Roads Study which are aimed to provide information for planning purposes in relation to transport needs.

2. No.

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.

(Question No. 825)

Mr. REMINGTON (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

How many buildings in the inner city area over seven storeys in height are not fitted with fire prevention sprinkler systems?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

Within the city area, bounded by Spring, Flinders, Spencer and Latrobe Streets, there are 167 buildings over seven storeys in height of which 80 are not fitted with fire prevention sprinkler systems, 81 are protected by such systems installed at basement and grounds levels and six are protected to first floor level.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MINISTERS.

(Question No. 826)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

By what means his attention is drawn to proposals, policies, decisions and actions of other Ministers which have ethnic significance, and how his views on these matters are communicated to other Ministers?

Mr JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

The normal process of Cabinet allows a full interchange of views on major proposals, policies and decisions by other Ministers which have significance to the ethnic community. In addition close liaison exists at a number of senior levels between officers of the Ministry and other departments.

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES.

(Question No. 827)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

What is the date and the substance of each report he has prepared on specific needs of ethnic communities in Victoria, indicating in each case, when the report will be published or otherwise made available?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

It is presumed that the Leader of the Opposition is alluding to a current widespread survey being undertaken by my Ministry to assess, at local government level, the needs of and services available to migrants within those municipalities.

The results of the survey will be made available at the conclusion of the survey. In addition, the close contact officers of my Ministry have with ethnic communities, and the activities of the Victorian Ethnic Affairs Advisory Council are constant and vital sources of information on specific needs of migrants.

MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS TELEVISION COMMERCIALS.

(Question No. 828)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

What is the substance of each television commercial which has been produced for the Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, indicating in each case the—(*a*) name of the production company; (*b*) date of the contract; and (*c*) cost?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

The substance of the Ministry's only television production centred on the total Australian community programme. This was produced by Video Workshop and the cost of production was $7,000 approved by the Tender Board on 28th April, 1977.

SAFETY INFORMATION FOR ETHNIC GROUPS.

(Question No. 829)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

1. What is the date and substance of each proposal he has had prepared for the production of multi-lingual, multi-media safety information?

2. What arrangements he has made for pilot testing proposals in order to determine —(*a*) their relevance for particular industry situations; (*b*) the appropriateness as seen by employees; and (*c*) other varieties?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

Since 1976 the Ministry has worked closely with the Victorian Industrial Safety Convention. An ethnic liaison group was established in the Victorian Industrial Safety Convention which includes representation from the Ministry, industry, unions and ethnic groups. The ethnic liaison group has developed a series of safe working procedures which will be translated, published and distributed to employers, unions and ethnic groups.

The ethnic liaison group also produced a draft standard on industrial signs and warnings for the Standards Association of Australia. The ethnic liaison group is currently evaluating audio-visual methods to help with job safety.

The Ministry works with the Standards Association of Australia and has developed a draft standard on industrial signs and warnings.

SERVICES FOR ETHNIC GROUPS.

(Question No. 830)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

On what dates consideration was given to the Henderson Report recommendations on the provision of services for ethnic communities, indicating with what result, and when the recommendations will be brought into effect?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

The recommendations relating to ethnic groups in the various reports of the Henderson Commission of Inquiry into Poverty were considered as the reports were released. The Ministry examines the recommendations made in all major reports relating to ethnic affairs and takes appropriate action relating to ethnic communities. This involves close liaison with a wide range of government departments to improve services provided to the ethnic communities. So far as the Henderson report is concerned, the recommendations on law, education and health are particularly important. The work carried out and instigated by the Ministry is highlighted in its annual report.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ETHNIC GROUPS.

(Question No. 831)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

What consideration has been given to producing a guide to rights and procedures in areas such as employment, accommodation, health care, education and workers' compensation to supplement the existing *Migrants' Melbourne* directory?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

The information in *Migrants Melbourne* is already extensive. However, explanations are deliberately kept to a minimum as the average person cannot cope with lengthy written details and may become confused by fully comprehensive information on such complicated matters as employment, accommodation, health etc. *Migrants Melbourne* is intentionally, therefore, a reference book in the sense that it has basic information and refers people to the appropriate areas where they may obtain fuller details and explanations.

The Ministry is aware that migrants need information on a number of subjects and is assisting government departments to produce multi-lingual information. At present the Ministry is producing a series of brochures on all aspects of the Victorian education system. It is also working with a number of health groups (e.g. the Thalassaemic Society of Victoria, the Nerve Deafness Foundation) to produce multi-lingual information.

The Ministry feels that the most effective way to present detailed information on any one particular topic is to work with the department concerned to assist it to produce simple material to arrange translation and to advise on the most effective means of distribution to migrants.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING IN ETHNIC PRESS.

(Question No. 832)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

What is the policy of the Government on advertisement of public service and statutory authority staff vacancies in the ethnic press?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

In keeping with the need for the most critical control of expenditure the Ministry's advertisements for public service and statutory authority staff have been and will continue to be placed in the most appropriate media. It is clear that the requirements for entry to the public service require qualifications incorporating high literacy in English. If this were not the case the ethnic press may be such an appropriate medium.

MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS ADVERTISING.

(Question No. 833)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

Whether he is now able to advise how the $76,185 balance of the Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs advertising appropriation has been allocated?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

The Leader of the Opposition is misinformed on a balance of $76,185 in the advertising allocation of the Ministry. At the conclusion of the fiscal year there may be only a minor under-utilization of the publicity allocation.

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCANNERS.

(Question No. 834)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether a copy of the report in respect of Computed Tomography Scanners, prepared for the Hospitals and Charities Commission, will be made available to the member for Brunswick?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

No. The investigation on Computed Tomography Scanners was instituted to answer a number of specific questions to assist the Hospitals and Charities Commission in determining the provision of services in hospitals in Victoria.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES.

(Question No. 835)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of schools and pre-schools in the Shire of Melton for the years 1976 and 1977; respectively—

1. Which schools were visited by—(*a*) the School Medical Service; and (*b*) the School Dental Service?

2. How many students—(*a*) received; and (*b*) did not receive, initial medical examinations?

3. Which pre-schools were visited by the Pre-School Medical Service and how many students were—(*a*) examined; and (*b*) not examined?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. (*a*) 1976—Melton Primary School 430, Melton South Primary School 3717, Melton West Primary School 5036, Rockbank Primary School 919, Toolernvale Primary School 946. 1977—Diggers Rest Primary School 2479. (*b*) Nil.

2. The number of students seen for routine medical examination at the schools during the years 1976–77 were as follows—Diggers Rest Primary School 2479, 13; Melton Primary School 430, 77; Melton South Primary School 3717, 44; Melton West Primary School 5036, 109; Rockbank Primary School 919, 5; Toolernvale Primary School 946, 114.

The number of children not given a routine medical examination is not known but all children attending the schools visited who had not received a routine medical examination at pre-school were offered a medical examination subject to parental consent.

3. The pre-schools visited in the Shire of Melton and the number of children examined by the School Medical Service in 1976 and 1977 were—

Pre-schools	1976		1977	
	Examined	No. not examined	Examined	No. not examined
Diggers Rest	not open 1976	..	18	2
Melton	72	3	70	3
Melton South	74	1	73	2
Melton Presbyterian–Methodist	79	1	68	1
Toolernvale	not open 1976	..	36	3

All children attending the pre-schools visited and who were eligible for school the following year were offered a medical examination subject to parent consent.

MAROONDAH AND WILLIAM ANGLISS HOSPITALS.

(Question No. 836)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the Maroondah Hospital and the William Angliss Hospital, respectively—

1. What number of beds is available at the hospital and what additional services are provided apart from in-patient services?

2. What works are currently under way at each hospital, specifying the works being carried out, the estimated date of completion, and the cost?

3. What plans for additional works have been submitted to the Hospitals and Charities Commission, specifying the works to be carried out and whether any approvals have been given by the commission; if so, for what additional works and what will be the commencement date?

4. What is the estimated number of beds for each hospital in 1980 and 1985, and when is it expected that a full range of out-patient and casualty services will be available?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Maroondah Hospital

1. Sixty beds are presently in use. Limited out-patients including primary and emergency care.

2. None.

3. Sketch plans for Stage 3, which have been approved by the Hospitals and Charities Commission, consist of kitchen expansion, dining and staff amenities, workshops, mortuary, linen stores, pharmacy, paramedical, out-patients, casualty and primary contact areas, medical records, delivery suites, operating theatre suites, nurseries and intensive care units are also included.

The working drawings and specifications should be completed by November 1978. The estimated cost is $20 million, and depending upon the availability of finance, should take 3 years to complete.

4. 1980—95 beds; 1985—170 beds.

Out-patient and casualty services are to be available upon completion of Stage 3.

William Angliss Hospital

1. One hundred and thirty-six beds are presently in use. The following additional services are provided—casualty, out-patients, pharmacy, pathology, day hospital and operating theatres.

2. A services building and staff amenities wing (Stage 1) is under construction. The estimated completion date is December 1979 and the estimated cost is $4·4 million.

A temporary building for casualty was completed in June 1978 at a contract price of $100,794.

3. Permission has been given by the commission for the preparation of plans for Stage 2, which consists of a permanent casualty department with accident/emergency facilities and theatre.

At this time a commencement date for construction cannot be determined.

4. 1980—136 beds; 1985—136 beds.

The full range of casualty and out-patient facilities is expected to be available on completion of Stage 2.

SUBSIDY FOR MOTHERS.

(Question No. 839)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, what consultations have occurred between him or the Department of Health with industry and unions, indicating when such discussions took place and whether any submissions were received from such organizations, and if so, from whom?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out. All discussions, submissions and considerations relating to the study of this particular aspect as undertaken by the Consultative Council on Preschool Child Development are recorded in the published report of that council. Present inquiries, including those of the interdepartmental committee, will no doubt include consultation with interested organizations. Details will be made available in due course.

CHELSEA TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SURVEYS.

(Question No. 846)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether any surveys have been undertaken into the density of traffic and pedestrians in Nepean Highway and Station

Street, Chelsea, including the Argyle Avenue crossing, in each of the past five years; if so with what result?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

Over the past five years, the only traffic and pedestrian counts carried out by the Country Roads Board in the City of Chelsea on or near the Nepean Highway were in 1973 and 1977, the results being as set out below—

Date	Location	Time	Traffic volume North of crossing	Traffic volume South of crossing
Nepean Highway traffic				
1st April, 1977	Station Street (near Mordialloc Creek)	7.00 a.m.–7.00 p.m.	31,131	22,124
		7.15 a.m.–8.15 a.m.	4,082	2,392
		4.30 p.m.–5.30 p.m.	3,895	2,803
13th May, 1977	Lincoln Parade	7.45 a.m.–8.45 a.m.	2,201	2,193
11th May, 1977	Lochiel Avenue	7.30 a.m.–8.30 a.m.	2,152	2,189
9th May, 1977	Edithvale Road	7.30 a.m.–8.30 a.m.	2,402	2,417
30th May, 1977	Swanpool Avenue	7.45 a.m.–8.45 a.m.	2,515	2,586
27th May, 1977	Chelsea Road	7.45 a.m.–8.45 a.m.	2,530	2,510
23rd May, 1977	Argyle Avenue	7.45 a.m.–8.45 a.m.	2,461	2,556
20th May, 1977	Bondi Road	7.30 a.m.–8.30 a.m.	2,148	2,198
18th May, 1977	Station Street (north of Patterson River)	7.00 a.m.–8.00 a.m.	2,059	2,585
30th April, 1977	Station Street (south of Patterson River)	4.45 p.m.–5.45 p.m.	2,428	1,998
Traffic crossing railway line				
1st April, 1977	Station Street (near Mordialloc Creek)	7.00 a.m.–7.00 p.m.	9,223	
		7.15 a.m.–8.15 a.m.	1,694	
		4.30 p.m.–5.30 p.m.	1,110	
23rd May, 1977	Argyle Avenue	7.45 a.m.–8.45 a.m.	124	
Station Street traffic				
26th June, 1973	North of Eel Race Road	7.00 a.m.–7.00 p.m.	1,638	
		7.00 a.m.–8.00 a.m.	132	
		4.45 p.m.–5.45 p.m.	264	
Pedestrian movements on Nepean Highway bridge over the Mordialloc Creek				
3rd November, 1977		2.30 p.m.–4.30 p.m.	356	
4th November, 1977		7.15 a.m.–9.15 a.m.	114	

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

(Question No. 852)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

On what dates and with what results he made representations to the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security requesting the retention and regular monthly publication of the more detailed Commonwealth Employment Service unemployment statistics, including a breakdown according to—(*a*) country of birth; and (*b*) date of arrival in Australia?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

I believe it is inappropriate to differentiate between migrant and non-migrant statistics in so far as they apply to unemployment. Such an approach, while being extremely difficult to administer could be seen as discrimination against a group or groups in the community. Also the value of such statistics is questionable. For these reasons I have not approached the Commonwealth Ministers concerned.

SUBSIDY FOR MOTHERS.

(Question No. 855)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, what is the basis on which he arrives at 25 per cent as the proportion of the community for which the State has an obligation to provide child care?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

This estimate is based on (*a*) the known percentage of children whose parents are not currently availing themselves of kindergarten facilities in Victoria; and (*b*) an estimate of the proportion of the abovementioned children whose parents are unable to take advantage of kindergarten services because the hours are too limited.

(Question No. 856)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, what is the basis of his statement that children attending day care centres have an "inherited character" from their parents and an "acquired character" from the centres, and whether this is recognized more as a disturbance than distinctions in character associated with parents and schools?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

This statement was made as an expression of opinion and was based upon views and theories which have been frequently canvassed in discussions on early childhood development.

(Question No. 857)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, what is—(*a*) the estimated cost of the scheme; and (*b*) the proposed date of introduction?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question No. 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out. The information requested by the honorable member will not be available until the report by the departmental committee is presented.

(Question No. 858)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, whether payments are to be indexed so that increases to the cost of providing child care services are automatically reflected in the level of subsidy?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out and until such time as a decision is taken on the matter no information is available on the matters raised by the honorable member.

(Question No. 859)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, what is the date and substance of each consultation which has been held with the Commonwealth Government with a view to seeing that subsidy payments are not counted as a disqualification for the purpose of assessing child endowment entitlements?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

No such consultations have so far taken place but the matter referred to by the honorable member will most certainly be taken into consideration in consultations with the Commonwealth Government prior to any decision on the proposal.

(Question No. 860)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, what arrangements have been made for the 31 per cent of working mothers who are migrants and who have children under six, with a view to seeing that they receive no less encouragement to learn English, and experience no less social isolation, than would be the case if they continued their paid employment?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out. The information requested by the honorable member will not be available until the report by the departmental committee is presented.

(Question No. 861)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, whether the subsidy is to be paid in full for each child in the family who would otherwise be eligible for a place in a child care centre, or whether the subsidy will be limited to a single eligible child?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question No. 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out. The information requested by the honorable member will not be available until the report by the departmental committee is presented.

(Question No. 862)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, what studies have been conducted with a view to seeing whether the stated goals of the scheme can be achieved by greater use of flexi-time, part-time work and shared jobs?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still

being carried out. The information requested by the honorable member will not be available until the report by the departmental committee is presented.

(Question No. 863)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, whether his attention has been drawn to studies which show that children in day care centres derive a positive stimulation from their inter-action with other adults and children; if so, what arrangements have been made to strengthen the play groups movement with a view to seeing that this stimulation is maintained?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

Yes. I am aware of the value of properly planned day care centres for children. The Health Department is continuously pursuing policies directed towards a positive stimulation for children as a result of day centre activities.

(Question No. 864)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, whether comparable schemes in other countries have been studied; if so, whether there is evidence to suggest that in some circumstances these schemes have led to women being withdrawn from the work force against their wishes and, in that event, whether adequate safeguards against withdrawal under duress have been developed?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out. The committee will no doubt review comparable schemes in other countries as part of its inquiries.

(Question No. 865)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, whether the subsidy is to be altered when a child attends sessions at a pre-school; if so, on what basis?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out. The information requested by the honorable member will not be available until the report by the departmental committee is presented.

MIGRANT ORIENTATION SERVICES.

(Question No. 867)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—

1. What multi-lingual arrival orientation services are available on arrival for migrants who choose to settle in Victoria, and how these services are advertised?

2. Whether he is aware of the plight of many Chilean migrants who, on arrival in Australia, have found that their trade qualifications are not recognized; if so, whether he has made representations to the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs urging the immediate appointment of technical advisers to the main migrant intake centres in Chile and, if so—(*a*) when these appointments will be made; (*b*) how many will be appointed; and (c) to which cities they will be appointed?

3. What form of assistance he is providing for Chilean migrants who, having settled in Victoria during the past twelve months, have found that, due to inadequate pre-migration assessment of their qualifications, they are not able to work in their skill area and are consequently (*a*) unemployed; or (*b*) under-employed?

4. In view of his statement as reported in *The Age* newspaper of 2nd March, 1978, that the communication barriers had also caused more than 40 per cent of industrial accidents in Victoria last year, why the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has not published appropriately detailed multi-lingual, multi-media safety information either independently, or in conjunction with the Department of Labour and Industry, and when such information will be produced?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): The answer is—

1. At present only migrants who stay initially in Commonwealth hostels have regular access to information on community service. The Ministry is currently developing multi-lingual orientation material to be given to all migrants on arrival in Victoria. Commonwealth departments have shown a great willingness to co-operate in such a programme.

2. (*a*), (*b*) and (c)

I am aware that a number of migrants (not only the six and a half thousand Chileans in Australia) have had difficulty in getting their trade qualifications recognized in Australia. This has been pointed out several times in the last few years to the Commonwealth Minister. The Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has accordingly taken steps to ensure that overseas officers are better informed on such matters.

The Central Trades Committee (represented at local levels by Local Trades Committee) has been looking into the recognition of overseas trades qualifications since post war immigration began. The Central Trades Committee is composed of union representatives, employers and representatives of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Representatives of that department and of the committee travel overseas to investigate training in countries from which migrants come.

3. The Ministry has made strong representation to the Commonwealth and supports new procedures to ensure the best possible pre-migration assessments are made. The Ministry is preparing a brochure on the recognition of overseas qualifications, including trade qualifications which will be translated into the major ethnic languages and distributed widely.

Since 1976 the Ministry has had a close working relationship with the Commonwealth Employment Service. A Ministry recommendation to have multi-lingual cassettes in Commonwealth Employment Service offices has been accepted and these are being produced. Also, through the State/Commonwealth Co-ordination Committee on Ethnic Affairs action is being taken to have pre-warning of migrant arrivals. This will assist the Ministry and all involved government bodies particularly the Commonwealth Employment Service in forward planning.

4. I refer to the answer supplied to question No. 829.

SUBSIDY FOR MOTHERS.

(Question No. 871)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of his announcement of a $2,000 subsidy scheme to allow mothers to stay at home to look after their children, whether any subsidy will be available for mothers of children of primary school age; if so, on what basis the subsidy will be determined, and whether the subsidy will be at a reduced amount and, in that event, what amount?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

As mentioned in the reply to question 837, investigations into proposals concerning extended day care for children are still being carried out. The information requested by the honorable member will not be available until the report by the departmental committee is presented.

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE.

(Question No. 874)

Mr. FOGARTY (Sunshine) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether the Minister or the Department of Health has received reports dealing with recommendations from the Foods Standards Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council to limit the concentration of vinyl chloride monomer in food containers and foodstuffs; if so—(*a*) on what grounds the recommendations were based; and (*b*) what action has been taken?

2. Whether the substance is the parent substance from which polyvinyl chloride wrappings are made?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Yes.

(*a*) The limits were recommended by the Foods Standards Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council following an examination of all available evidence in Australia and overseas concerning the migration into food of vinyl chloride monomer from polyvinyl chloride wrappings and containers and the possible toxicity of such vinyl chloride monomer when eaten rather than inhaled. The committee took into account that the only proven cases of toxicity were caused by inhalation over long periods of time such as had taken place in the manufacture of certain types of plastics. There was no evidence, either locally or overseas, that the use of polyvinyl chloride containers had caused adverse effects on health. Nevertheless, in view of the uncertainty surrounding the migration of vinyl chloride from wrappings into foods, the committee recommended the fixing of limits for vinyl chloride concentration in food containers and food.

(*b*) The standards recommended at the meeting of the 81st session of the National Health and Medical Research Council in October, 1975, have been adopted in this State.

2. Yes.

COBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL, MELTON.

(Question No. 887)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

With regard to the Coburn Primary School, Melton—

1. What is the present enrolment?

2. What is the planned enrolment in 1979, 1980 and 1981, respectively?

3. How many portable class-rooms are at the school?

4. How many additional portable class-rooms are to be provided in 1979, 1980 and 1981, respectively?

5. What plans there are for the construction of additional permanent class-rooms, and when such works will be undertaken?

6. What plans there are for the construction of an additional primary school in the area?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 3rd August, 1978 as follows—

1. Six hundred and sixty-nine.

2. 730, 800, 900.

3. Five.

4. Additional portable class-rooms will be provided as required when justified by actual enrolments in 1979, 1980 and 1981.

5. At this stage there are no plans for the construction of any additional permanent class-rooms at the Coburn primary school.

6. The region has included on its forward works programme a new primary school in the Coburn area to relieve the Coburn Primary School. However, it is not possible to give any indication at present when this school will be built.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING.

(Question No. 894)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Treasurer—

1. Whether the Government Printer has completed his report on the streamlining of printing activities within Government departments; if not, when he expects the report?

2. Whether the printing section within the Audio Visual Education Centre is being investigated as part of that report?

3. Which printing sections within Government departments are being investigated by the Government Printer?

4. Whether he is aware of the urgent educational need for a replacement printing press for the Audio Visual Education Centre?

5. Whether he will instruct the Tender Board to let a tender for the proposed replacement printing press at the Audio Visual Education Centre forthwith?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

1. 2. and 3. A single report as such is not envisaged. As part of his function the Government Printer is required to continuously monitor and oversee the printing activities and requirements of departments to ensure that an appropriate range of services is provided and that public funds are expended in the most economic way.

4. The question of replacement has been subjected to close inquiry by the Government Printer but the information required to complete the inquiry was only recently supplied to him by the department. However, should the department request urgent attention for any printing matter the Government Printer will assign high priority to the work. To date no such problem has arisen.

5. No.

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY STAFF.

(Question No. 897)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

How many senior firemen are employed by the Country Fire Authority, specifying the numbers of 4th to 1st class senior firemen, station officers grades 1 to 5, inclusive, and other senior officers, including regional officers?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

Details are—

Rank	Number of personnel
Senior Firefighters	34
Shiftworkers	
Firefighters—	
4th Class	6
3rd Class	14
2nd Class	15
1st "B" Class	6
1st "A" Class	13
Dayworkers	20
Station Officers—	
Grade 1	32
Grade 2	27
Grade 3	37
Grade 4	12
Grade 5	12
Regional Officers—	
Grade 1	16
Grade 2	19
Grade 3	5
Grade 4	11
Grade 5	15
Senior Officers	14

HEAD LICE.

(Question No. 907)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of the head lice programme—

1. How many bottles of malathion lotion were given to each municipal council in February, March and April, 1978, respectively?

2. Whether he is aware of delays in obtaining supplies of—(*a*) malathion lotion; and (*b*) combs; if so, what is the reason and what is being done to improve the situation?

3. Whether additional supplies of lotion have been asked for and supplied to Doncaster and Templestowe City Council; if so, what quantity was supplied?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1.

Municipality	February	March	April
Alexandra	..	150	..
Altona City	..	200	..
Ararat Shire	..	..	50
Bacchus Marsh Shire	..	..	200
Bass Shire	..	..	100
Berwick City	..	..	200
Box Hill City	100	200	..
Brighton City	200	..	..
Broadmeadows City	400	600	200
Brunswick City	..	400	200
Camberwell City	200	..	..
Caulfield City	..	..	200
Chelsea City	..	400	200
Cobram Shire	..	..	100
Coburg City	200	400	..
Colac Shire	..	400	..
Collingwood City	..	100	..
Cranbourne Shire	..	..	100
Croydon Shire	200	200	200
Dandenong City	100	200	200
Diamond Valley Shire	200	..	200
Doncaster–Templestowe City	50	56	200
Echuca City	..	..	50
Essendon City	400	..	..
Fitzroy City	100	..	..
Flinders Shire	..	300	400
Footscray City	..	36	..
Frankston City	..	200	..
Geelong City	..	50	..
Gisborne Shire	..	50	..
Hastings Shire	..	200	..
Hawthorn City	200	..	..
Healesville Shire	..	25	..
Heidelberg City	100	200	..
Horsham City	..	50	50
Keilor City	..	200	200
Kerang Shire	..	150	..
Kew City	..	50	..
Kilmore Shire	..	..	20
Knox City	300	250	200
Korumburra Shire	..	..	62
Kyabram Town	..	50	..
Malvern City	..	200	..
Melbourne City	..	200	..
Melton Shire	..	200	..
Mildura Shire	..	24	50
Moorabbin City	..	..	200
Mordialloc City	..	150	..
Morwell Shire	..	12	..
Mornington City	..	150	..
Narracan Shire	..	..	50
Newham and Woodend Shire	..	..	100
Northcote City	..	400	..
Nunawading City	..	400	..
Oakleigh City	400	200	200
Orbost Shire	..	200	..
Pakenham Shire	..	150	..
Prahran City	..	200	..
Preston City	400	..	..
Richmond City	..	50	..
Ringwood City	200	..	..
Romsey Shire	12	..	..
Rosedale Shire	..	..	200
St. Arnaud Town	..	..	50
St. Kilda City	..	..	200
Sandringham City	..	200	..
Shepparton City	100	..	100
Sherbrooke Shire	..	200	..
South Melbourne City	200	..	..
Springvale City	100	..	100
Sunshine City	200	..	..
Swan Hill Shire	..	100	100
Upper Yarra Shire	100	..	..
Wangaratta City	..	..	60
Waverley City	200	400	400
Werribee Shire	200	..	..
Whittlesea Shire	400	200	200
Williamstown City	..	50	..
Wodonga Shire	..	200	..

2. Yes. The heavy demand for these items has caused some delay but arrangements have now been made to double the production of Malathion lotion to 4000 bottles per week. The supply of combs, which is arranged through the Agent-General's office in London, has been delayed due to a world wide demand from limited suppliers. Arrangements have been made for an increase in the monthly contract from 700 to 1000 combs per month for the next year.

3. Yes. Two hundred bottles were supplied to the City of Doncaster and Templestowe on the 1st May and a further 200 bottles supplied on the 10th May, 1978.

PHENOXY HERBICIDES.

(Question No. 908)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Lands—

1. What use of phenoxy herbicides 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T is made by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey—(*a*) for its own purposes; (*b*) on behalf of any other department; and (*c*) by provision to farmers indicating the annual quantities in each case?

2. What companies have been supplying these herbicides since 1970, indicating—(*a*) where the herbicides are stored and in what quantity; (*b*) for how long the herbicides are stored; and (*c*) whether any tests for dioxin levels are undertaken and, if so, with what results?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): The answer is—

1. (*a*) The Department of Crown Lands and Survey makes considerable use of 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T in carrying out its obligations to control noxious weeds in this State

as required under provisions of the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1958 (Act No. 6409). Of the 96 species of plants proclaimed noxious in the state, 2, 4-D is a recommended herbicide on 49, and 2, 4, 5-T is recommended on 13.

(*b*) Agreements exist with several other departments whereby the Department of Crown Lands and Survey carries out control of noxious weeds on lands administered by these Departments. Annual quantities for (*a*) and (*b*) (kilograms active ingredient) used by the department in recent years are—

	1974–75	1975–76	1976–77
2, 4–D	33,465	38,009	38,310
2, 4, 5–T	20,114	22,523	23,279

Usage for other departments is not always recorded separately, therefore, the figures quoted refer to the usage by the department of Crown Lands and Survey on its own behalf plus usage on behalf of other departments.

(c) Since July 1977 the department has initiated a landholder weedicide supply scheme whereby herbicides are sold to landholders for use in controlling noxious weeds. Prior to the introduction of this scheme landholders were assisted in the control of noxious weeds by the provision of a subsidy scheme whereby landholders could purchase herbicides from retailers at a reduced cost; the difference between the retail price and the price charged to landholders being met by the department.

Annual quantities—

In the first nine months of operation of the weedicide supply scheme landholders purchased 51,736 kilograms ai (active ingredient) of 2, 4-D and 12,590 kilograms ai of 2, 4, 5-T from the department.

2. The following table shows the various companies from which these herbicides have been purchased, and sets out in respect of each herbicide the total quantity purchased from each of the companies during the period from 1st January, 1970, to 30th April, 1978.

			litres
2, 4–D	Ester 80 per cent. ..	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd.	321,194
		Ciba Geigy Aust. Ltd.	40,880
		Chemex	8,399
			370,473
2–4, D ..	Ester 40 per cent. ..	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd.	18,206
2, 4, 5–T	Ester 80 per cent. ..	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd.	97,289
		Union Carbide	22,216
		Lane Ltd. Rural Division	23,942
			143,447
2, 4, 5–T	Ester 40 per cent. ..	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd.	42,894
		Union Carbide	7,073
		Ciba Geigy Aust. Ltd.	38,800
			88,767
2, 4–D ..	Amine 50 per cent.	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd.	77,240
		Union Carbide	10,918
		.. ..	88,158

2. (*a*) The herbicides are stored in depots situated in 140 districts throughout Victoria and in quantities as ordered by the district inspector of lands, depending on the seasonal conditions of growth of noxious weeds. Quantities would vary from 20 litres up to 3,000 litres depending on the location.

(*b*) Herbicides are stored for varying periods and this depends upon the work carried out by the Lands Department in each district and the purchase of the herbicides by landholders for their own use. Generally it is a relatively short time of about three months these materials are stored.

(c) The testing of herbicides for dioxin levels comes under the administration of the Minister of Agriculture and it is suggested that this part of the question be referred to the Minister of Agriculture for answer.

AUDIOLOGISTS FOR HANDICAPPED PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

(Question No. 910)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

1. Whether the Education Department was consulted before an advertisement was placed in *The Age* newspaper on 11th March, 1978, inviting applications for the appointment of audiologists to work with hearing impaired pre-school age children; if so, when such consultations were held and who was involved?

2. Whether there is a proposal for the Department of Health to extend its services in the area of hearing impaired children; if so, whether the Minister's representative on the State Council for Special Education has notified the Council of the Department's proposal; if not, why?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. No.

2. Yes. The Health Department representative on the State Council for Special Education (Dr. B. P. McCloskey) has notified the council of the department's proposals.

SCHOOL COUNCIL EMPLOYED PERSONNEL.

(Question No. 913)

Mr. LIND (Dandenong) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether the superannuation rights of technical school and college council employees are to be restored; if so, when?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September, 1978, that a scheme which would enable employees under the Education (School Councils) Act to become contributors to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund is being examined at present in detail.

HEALTH ACT.

(Question No. 914)

Mr. LIND (Dandenong) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether the Provincial Sewerage Authorities' Association has requested the Minister to introduce an amendment to section 83 of the Health Act 1958 to give effect to the recommendations of the Meat Industry Committee to permit—(*a*) the slaughtering of sewerage authority cattle at any abattoir where meat inspection is carried out by the Victorian Department of Agriculture or the Commonwealth Department for Primary Industry; (*b*) the mixing of sewerage authority cattle with other cattle during transport, sale and slaughter; (c) the sale of sewerage authority cattle for purposes other than slaughter after they have reached eighteen months of age; and (*d*) the transfer of stock between sewerage authorities; if so, whether it is intended to accede to the request and, in that event, when or, if not, why?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Amendment of the Health Act to give effect to these recommendations will be considered when conditions in the beef industry improve.

HERBICIDES.

(Question No. 920)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Lands—

Which companies submit samples of herbicides for testing to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, indicating which companies are currently tendering for supply of herbicides?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): The answer is—

It is a requirement of the State Tender Board that companies submitting a tender for supply of herbicides to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey must also submit a sample of herbicide for testing prior to the granting of the contract. Testing is conducted to ensure that the herbicides meet the specifications laid down by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

In the past not all companies have submitted samples. Under these circumstances samples have been obtained from the lowest two or three tenders (depending on price differentials).

Physical stability tests are then conducted on these samples. The sample from the lowest tenderer which passes all the physical stability tests is then forwarded to the Division of Agricultural Chemistry for an active ingredient analysis (levels of the impurity 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin in 2,4,5-T formulations are not determined).

Companies which submitted samples of herbicides with their 1977–79 tender and whose chemicals were subjected to physical tests as stipulated in the Tender Board specifications are given in table 1.

The companies which hold current contracts for supply of herbicides are given in table 2.

TABLE 1.—HERBICIDES TESTED PRIOR TO THE GRANTING OF THE 1977–79 TENDER CONTRACT.

Herbicide sample	Source
Amitrol T.	Giba Geigy Australia Ltd. Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd. Lane Ltd. Rural Division
2, 4–D amine 50 per cent.	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd. ICI Australia Ltd. Union Carbide
2, 4–D ester 40 per cent. L.V.	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd.
2, 4–D ester 80 per cent.	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd. Shell Chemical (Australia) Pty. Ltd. Union Carbide ICI Australia Ltd.
Dicamba	Giba Geigy Australia Ltd. Lane Ltd. Rural Division
Dicamba granules ..	Ciba Geigy Australia Ltd.
MCPA	Ciba Geigy Australia Ltd. Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd. ICI Australia Ltd.
Picloram	Dow Australia Ltd.
Atrazine	Ciba Geigy Australia Ltd.
2, 4, 5–T ester 80 per cent.	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd. Shell Chemical (Australia) Pty. Ltd. Lane Ltd. Rural Division
2, 4, 5–T L.V. ester 40 per cent.	Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd. Ciba Geigy Australia Ltd.
2, 2–DPA	Shell Chemical (Australia) Pty. Ltd. Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd. C. Rudduck Pty. Ltd.
Sodium chlorate/Sodium borate	ICI Australia Ltd. Ajax Chemicals
TCA	Lane Ltd. Rural Division Hoechst Australia Ltd.
2, 3, 6–trichlorophenylacetic acid	Ciba Geigy Australia Ltd.

TABLE 2.—CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY OF HERBICIDES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY.

Tenderer
ICI Australia Ltd.
Nufarm Chemicals Pty. Ltd.
Ramsay and Treganowan Ltd.
C. Rudduck Pty. Ltd.
Ciba Geigy Australia Ltd.
Hoechst Australia Ltd.

Details of the preparations to be supplied under these contracts are set out in full in the Government Gazette of 1st July, 1977, pages 2151 and 2152.

FUNDS FOR ROADS IN SHIRE OF BELLARINE.

(Question No. 922)

Mr. GUDE (Geelong East) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. Whether he will cause a review to be made of the Country Roads Board allocations to the Shire of Bellarine?

2. Whether he will review the decision to not allocate funds to seal Coppards Road between Portarlington Road and Queenscliff Road?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

1. The Country Roads Board's 1978-79 allocations to Bellarine Shire Council for works on roads under the care and management of the council represent an increase over the 1977-78 allocations which is substantially greater than the State-wide average. The allocations have been reviewed but having regard to the relevant priorities throughout the State and the limited funds available to the board it is not possible to allocate additional funds to the Bellarine Shire Council.

2. Coppards Road is an unclassified road in terms of the board's classification of roads but is classified as an urban arterial road under the Commonwealth States Grants (Roads) Act 1977. In allocating funds for roadworks, the board must consider the general availability of road funds including the limits of funds made available by the Commonwealth for its various road classifications. Having regard to the general shortage of road funds and the limit of funds made available by the Commonwealth for urban arterial roads, the board was unable to make an allocation for sealing Coppards Road between Portarlington Road and Queenscliff Road. This work was shown as priority sixteen in a total of 26 jobs set out in the Bellarine Shire Council's application for funds for unclassified roads. Allocations were made for five jobs given lower priorities by the council, but in each case the road in question was classified by the Commonwealth as a rural local road.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS FOR SHIRE OF BELLARINE.

(Question No. 923)

Mr. GUDE (Geelong East) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. When work will commence on new traffic signals at the Alcoa Road and Point Henry Road intersection?

2. Whether approval has been given to the Shire of Bellarine to carry out these works; if not, when such approval will be given?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

A proposal has not been received for the installation of signals at the intersection of Alcoa and Point Henry roads.

However, the Road Safety and Traffic Authority received an application on 18th November, 1977, from the council of the Shire of Bellarine for the installation of signals at the intersection of Geelong-Portarlington, Moolap Station and Point Henry Roads, under the Deferred Payments of Costs Scheme associated with the Statcon Programme. The application is currently being examined by the authority and is to be the subject of negotiation with council as to the design of the signals and the completion of any necessary roadworks.

I am, therefore, unable to indicate at present when the installation of signals will commence at this location.

FINES FOR PARKING OFFENCES, GEELONG.

(Question No. 926)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. How many of the 216 fines of $9 each for parking offences at the Geelong station car parking area at Latrobe Terrace, Geelong have been refunded to date?

2. How many of such fines already paid have not been the subject of an application to the Railways Department for a refund?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

1. Refunds in respect of twenty of the parking infringement notices are being processed.

2. Sixty.

NORTH WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRUNSWICK.

(Question No. 927)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Minister of Education—

In respect of the North West Primary School in Brunswick, whether it is still intended to proceed with works concerning the upgrading of existing library facilities, as promised in answer to question No. 674 on 21st November, 1974; if so—(*a*) what has been the reason for the delay; and (*b*) when it is proposed that work will commence?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

The conversion of existing space to provide a library will commence in accordance with the regional priority of the project and the availability of finance.

FISH CANNERY FOR NEWHAVEN.

(Question No. 928)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy, for the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

What approaches have been made for funds for the establishment of a fish cannery processing plant at Newhaven, indicating by whom, when, what conditions were proposed, and what was the decision?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer supplied by the Minister for State Development and Decentralization is—

No application for funds has been submitted.

WERRIBEE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE.

(Question No. 930)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Further to the announcement of the member for Werribee on 23rd November, 1977, that capital funds of approximately $60,000 and operating funds in the vicinity of $100,000 a year had been allocated to the Werribee Community Health Service, that staff to be employed by the service would include therapists and their aides, a nurse, a social worker, and domestic and clerical staff, and that further staff would be added as the need arose—

1. What capital funds have been allocated to the service?

2. What annual operating funds have been allocated to the service?

3. What staff—(*a*) have been; and (*b*) will be appointed to the service in 1977–78?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Capital funds actually approved for expenditure to date total $4,000.

2. The operating funds allocated to the centre are at present at the rate of $19,200 per annum and will be increased to $48,000 per annum when all approved staff are engaged.

3. (*a*) A community health nurse; (*b*) a social worker and typist-receptionist have been approved, but not yet appointed.

CHILD CARE CENTRES.

(Question No. 933)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of the funding of day nurseries and child care centres—

1. Whether discussions between State and Commonwealth officers concerning the recurrent funding of such centres have yet been concluded; if so, on what basis?

2. Whether the State is now prepared to provide funds towards the recurrent costs of centres established with Commonwealth Capital Grants; if not, why?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. Despite protracted discussions and the offer of the Victorian Government to share funding of all children's service programmes (including day care) with the Commonwealth on a shared basis, no finality has been reached The discussions have included the question of a block grant for all children's services.

At present recurrent funding to subsidize day nurseries is based on 80 per cent of the salary costs of approved staff under the Health (Child Minding) Regulations whilst the Commonwealth formula is based on a per capita formula depending upon the age groupings of children attending.

2. The Victorian Government is only prepared to make recurrent subsidies available to those day care centres where a State capital grant has been made towards its establishment. In view of the uncertain future funding of Commonwealth sponsored day care projects, Victoria is not prepared to offer recurrent assistance to those centres which have been established with Commonwealth funds.

TRAVEL SICKNESS TABLETS.

(Question No. 934)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the ready availability of travel sickness tablets such as Avil, whether the Poisons Advisory Committee has now discussed amendments to the schedules to the Poisons Act 1962; if so, whether it has made a recommendation to the Minister and what action has been taken?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Travel sickness tablets of the kind mentioned by the honorable member for Brunswick are not readily available. They are currently controlled under Schedule 3 of the Poisons Act 1962 and as such are only available from a registered pharmacist in a limit pack of ten. A limited number of reports concerning deliberate abuse of these tablets is being studied by the Poisons Advisory Committee in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council.

CAR PARKING AT GEELONG RAILWAY STATION.

(Question No. 935)

Mr. GUDE (Geelong East) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. Whether he is aware of the continuing problem of car parking at Geelong railway station?

2. Whether there are unused parking spaces at the South Geelong, North Geelong, Corio and Lara stations?

3. Whether an investigation will be made into the actual number of spaces unused at stations other than Geelong?

4. Whether he will arrange for a review to be made of the present timetable with a view to easing the present problem at Geelong station?

5. Whether a study of car parking needs at Geelong railway station will be undertaken with the aim of providing a considerable number of new spaces for the future?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. The use of commuter car-parking facilities is assessed by the Victorian Railways Board each six months.

The survey taken in December, 1977, showed the use of car parks at stations near Geelong to be as follows—

	Capacity	*Actual usage*
South Geelong ..	112	55
North Geelong ..	148	115
Corio	57	16
Lara	55	41

4. I understand that since Monday, 8th May, the 3.10 p.m. Melbourne to Geelong train has been rescheduled to stop at North Geelong. This means that shoppers who would otherwise have parked their cars at Geelong can now travel from North Geelong and take advantage of the convenient afternoon return service.

5. There is no other railway land within easy walking distance of the station which could at the moment be used for car-parking purposes. However, the board has commuter car-parking needs continually under review and is aware of the demand at Geelong.

FRANKSTON PINE PLANTATION FILES.

(Question No. 936)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

If he will lay on the table of the Library the files and all relevant correspondence concerning the extractive leases abutting the Pines Forest housing estate, including all requests to end these leases?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

Yes. I will arrange to lay on the table of the Library the files relevant to the Frankston Pine Plantation area and the extractive industry lease held by Pioneer Quarries (Vic.) Pty. Ltd.

HERBICIDES.

(Question No. 937)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. What were the recommendations of the 75th Session (1972) of the National Health and Medical Research Council concerning the herbicide 245T, indicating what action was taken at the time as a result of these recommendations and when?

2. What were the recommendations of the 82nd Session (1975) of the council concerning 245T, indicating what action was taken, and when this action was taken?

3. Whether current regulations on dioxin only relate to TCDD; if so, what other action is being contemplated to control other forms of dioxin apart from TCDD, indicating how many other forms there are?

4. Whether there is any scientific evidence that pure 245T has produced fetotoxic and teratogenic effects in mammals?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. The council considered recent reports of teratogenic abnormalities in mice and rats following administration of large oral doses of the weedicide 2,4,5-T. This substance is included in section III. of the Recommended Tolerance for Residues of Pesticides and Agricultural Chemicals in Foods as published in Appendix VI. of the report of the 68th Session of the council. No residues have been detected and none is permitted in or upon food.

Council recommended that—

(i) All persons exposed to 2,4,5-T in its manufacture and use should use special precautions, such as protective clothing, to ensure that skin absorption does not occur.

(ii) Women in the child-bearing age group should not be exposed to 2,4,5-T.

(iii) The residues of 2,4,5-T in water supplies should not exceed 0·02 parts per million.

At that time the Department of Health was satisfied that no women were being exposed to 2,4,5-T either in its manufacture or use. The department accepted the limit of 0·02 parts per million of 2,4,5-T in water supplies in assessing the hazards to public health from the aerial application of 2,4,5-T in forest areas.

2. The 82nd Session of the council was not held in 1975. It is presumed that the recommendations referred to are those made at the 80th Session (1975) which were as follows—

"Council considered the most recent reports of teratogenesis following the administration of large oral doses of 2,4,5-T and considered that the available evidence indicated that the impurity tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin (TCDD) was the agent implicated in congenital abnormalities. Council noted that recent information had shown that 2,4,5-T available in Australia contained less than 0·1 parts per million of TCDD at which level no teratogenic activity has been reported. Council considered that recommended safety precautions followed in the handling of pesticides should provide adequate protection to all persons exposed to 2,4,5-T in its manufacture and use.

Council therefore rescinded the recommendation on 2,4,5-T made at its 75th Session.

Council recommended that 2,4,5-T containing more than 0·1 part per million of TCDD should not be permitted for use as a herbicide in Australia and that there should be a maximum residue limit of 0·02 parts per million of 2,4,5-T permitted in water."

The limit of 0·1 parts per million of TCDD in 2,4,5-T was incorporated into the Australian Standard Specification for Herbicides of the Phenoxyacetic Acid Type published on 1st August, 1976, and incorporated into Standards for Pesticides under the Pesticides Act on the 6th July, 1977.

3. Current regulations under the pesticides Act relate only to TCDD; no action is contemplated to control other forms of dioxin.

Dioxin is a generic term to group a type of chemical compound and the total number probably runs into hundreds; TCDD is the only dioxin which has been found in 2,4,5-T and is the only one known to possess extreme biological activity.

4. Yes. Experimental studies have indicated that, at extremely high dosage, 2,4,5-T containing less than 0·02 parts per million of TCDD can be teratogenic in mice.

NEWHAVEN SWAMP, PHILLIP ISLAND.

(Question No. 940)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Lands—

What approaches have been made to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey to acquire land at the Newhaven Swamp, Phillip Island, indicating—(*a*) by whom; (*b*) when; and (*c*) what conditions were proposed?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): The answer is—

The department received a submission from Messrs. M. Blonder and J. Mueller in March of this year concerning the establishment of a fish processing industry on portion of the Newhaven Swamp on Phillip Island.

That submission is in the preliminary stages of investigation.

MOOROOPNA AND DISTRICT BASE HOSPITAL.

(Question No. 941)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Further to the answer to question No. 34 given on 21st March, 1978, in connection with the Mooroopna and District Base Hospital—

1. Whether every part of stage 2, except the midwifery section, has to be altered; if so, what is the cost of these alterations and when they will be completed?

2. Whether it is intended to transfer the day hospital which currently functions in the administrative building at Shepparton to a ward area at Mooroopna; if so, when that will occur?

3. Whether permission has been sought to plan renovations and alterations to the Mooroopna buildings to make them suitable for their future role; if so, what has been the response of the Hospitals and Charities Commission and when permission will be granted?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. The only parts of stage 2 which have to be altered are those areas being used as temporary pharmacy, pathology and radiology departments. The estimated cost of these alterations is $488,000.

The documents for the alterations are in two parts and these have been completed.

The project is now ready to call tenders. However, these will only be called in the new calendar year, so that the start will coincide with the completion of the current pathology building contract.

This consists of out-patients and casualty departments plus alterations to radiology, and should take approximately six months to complete after the new pathology building is occupied in June–July, 1979.

2. Yes. A transfer date has not been decided.

3. Yes. The Hospitals and Charities Commission has agreed to alterations and renovations to existing buildings. The Buildings will become available only after all patients and services have been transferred to the Goulburn Valley Base Hospital at Shepparton.

ALFATHESIN.

(Question No. 944)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether the Minister or his officers are aware of comments made by the Bendigo City Coroner, Mr. F. X. Clancy, concerning the anaesthetic "Alfathesin" and its possible connection with the death of Sharon Louise Davey; if so, whether an investigation has been made into the drug; indicating with what result, and whether a copy of any report will be made available to the member for Brunswick?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Yes. The matter is being investigated by officers of my department and has been referred to the Drug Evaluation Committee of the Commonwealth Department of Health. The honorable member for Brunswick will be advised of the outcome of these investigations.

ZOONOSES.

(Question No. 947)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether statistics relating to zoonoses are accepted as a complete record of all human cases diagnosed in Victoria; if not, why?

2. Whether all cases of zoonoses and other notifiable diseases confirmed by serology, bacteriolgy or other testing by pathology laboratories in Victoria are notified or otherwise referred to the Commission of Public Health?

3. Whether a survey of cases of hydatidosis diagnosed or treated in Victorian hospitals in recent years has been published in *The Medical Journal of Australia;* if so, whether there were discrepancies with annual notifications?

4. What are the details of the control of the feeding of sheep offal to dogs in Victoria?

5. Whether statistics relating to notifications of brucellosis and hydatidosis, respectively, record—(*a*) the geographic distribution; and (*b*) the occupations of human cases; if so, what are the details for each of the past ten years?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Statistics on zoonoses are not accepted as a complete record of all human cases occurring in Victoria; it is probable that a small percentage of cases are not notified.

2. Under existing legislation pathology laboratories (except in the case of Salmonellosis) are not required to notify diseases confirmed by them.

3. Yes; yes—see answer to 1 above.

4. The Health Act does not provide for the control of the feeding of sheep offal to dogs. Inquiries concerning the controls should be directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

Year	Number of cases	Metropolitan	Western	North Western	Northern	North Eastern	Eastern	Dairy farm associated	Meat workers	Veterinarians	Other
1968	133	22	..	1	1	1	108	Majority	..	..	18 acquired overseas
1969	113	10	5	1	2	10	85	76	1	2	7 acquired overseas
1970	106	15	10	1	..	2	78	Majority			
1971	40	20	5	1	..	2	12	Majority	10	2	4 acquired overseas
1972	30	6	6	2	..	3	13	24			
1972	30	6	6	2	..	3	13	24			
1973	17	10	1	..	1	2	3	2	1	..	7 acquired overseas Grazier (1) Stockman (1) S.E.C. linesman (1) Milk truck driver (1) Laboratory workers (2)
1974	17	4	1	1	2	1	8	9	6	1	1 acquired overseas
1975	41	5	11	..	..	4	21	18	8	1	Stock agent (1)
1976	24	9	4	..	..	2	9	Majority	10		
1977	21	5	2	..	2	1	11	10	8	..	Milk truck driver (1)

Year	Number of cases	Probable place in which acquired	Occupation
1968	8	Yugoslavia (1)	
1969	5	Italy (1) Yugoslavia (1)	Sheep farm associated
1970	9	Western district (4)	Sheep farm associated
		Melbourne metropolitan (1)	Fed dog sheep offal
		Yugoslavia (1)	
		Madras (1)	
		Tasmania (1)	
		Omeo (1)	Sheep farm associated
1971	3	Western district (2)	Truck operator, sheep farmer
		Gippsland (1)	Boy on sheep farm
1972	4	Italy (1)	Sheep farm associated
1973		Western district (2) North east (1) Greece (1)	Sheep farm associated
1974	3	Western district (1)	Sheep farm associated
		Maffra (1)	
		Omeo (1)	
1975	2	Western district (1)	Sheep farm associated
		North western (1)	
1976	2	North eastern (1)	Sheep farm associated
		Eastern (1)	
1977	3	Yugoslavia (1)	
		Western district (2)	Sheep farm associated

WODONGA–CUDGEWA RAILWAY.

(Question No. 949)

Mr. WHITING (Mildura) asked the Minister of Transport—

In each of the financial years from 1970–71 to 1976–77, inclusive—

1. What revenue was earned on the Wodonga to Cudgewa railway line?

2. What were the operating costs of the line?

3. What major items of freight in tonnes were transported on the line?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

1. The Victorian Railways Board has advised me that the total outward revenue received from the Cudgewa line in the years referred to is as follows—

1970–71	$69,260
1971–72	$74,138
1972–73	$52,271
1973–74	$56,086
1974–75	$96,137
1975–76	$78,138
1976–77	$55,254

2. To provide sufficiently accurate operating costs of this line for the period mentioned would entail very extensive research involving a substantial number of man-hours.

I would, however, draw the honorable member's attention to the fact that the operating costs of this line are similar to those referred to in the report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System. Of course, the costs will now be substantially higher.

Furthermore, the whole of the revenue earned cannot be regarded as an offset against expenditure on this line only, because the freight relating to this revenue travels over other lines in addition to the Cudgewa line.

3. During 1976–77 the major commodities transported on the line were superphosphate, livestock and petroleum products.

Details for the years prior to this are not readily available.

REPLACEMENT STAFF LISTS.

(Question No. 954)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether he intends to personally approve replacement staff lists in future in the Technical Schools Division or to hand this responsibility back to the Technical Schools Division administration so that the operation can proceed smoothly and without unnecessary bureaucratic delay?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

The present procedures for replacement staff will continue for 1978. There is no unnecessary bureaucratic delay.

The procedures for 1979 have yet to be discussed by the staffing officers of the Technical Schools Division and Assistant Director-General Mr. A. T. Hird.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL TEACHERS.

(Question No. 955)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

1. Why the employment of additional teachers of mathematics/science in the Technical Schools Division was not approved following the request from the deputation from the Benalla, Wangaratta and Wodonga technical schools?

2. Whether he acknowledged that there is a shortage of mathematics/science teachers at Wangaratta, and in the Technical Schools Division generally, and whether he was informed of the names of qualified unemployed teachers that were available?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. Two additional teachers of mathematics were approved for appointment at Wangaratta Technical College and both have been appointed.

2. The department considers that Wangaratta Technical College is now adequately staffed in the mathematics and science areas.

The Technical Schools Division holds current applications from qualified unemployed teachers but has currently few if any in mathematics and science.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER CONSUMER AFFAIRS ACT.

(Question No. 958)

Mr. GINIFER (Keilor) asked the Minister of Consumer Affairs—

1. In the years 1976 and 1977, respectively, how often the Director of Consumer Affairs has sought the consent of the Minister to prosecute under the Consumer Affairs Act 1972, indicating how often he has given his consent to prosecutions by the Director?

2. In what circumstances the Minister and the director exercise their respective powers under the Act?

3. As Rena-Ware Distributors Pty. Ltd. has been named in the past two years as a constant offender against consumers, why prosecutions have not been launched against that organization?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Consumer Affairs): The answer is—

1 and 2. There is no requirement for the Director of Consumer Affairs to seek the consent of the Minister in order to prosecute persons under the Consumer Affairs Act 1972. Proceedings may be taken by any inspector or by any other person authorized by the Minister or, in any particular case, by any person whose rights are impaired or who is specially aggrieved by the commission of the offence.

There were 25 prosecutions launched in 1976–77.

3. As outlined in the director's report, clear evidence of breaches of the Consumer Affairs Act by sellers of Rena-Ware products is difficult to obtain. Investigations into two of these alleged breaches of the Act are taking place at present.

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY.

(Question No. 959)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. What action has been taken or is proposed by the Country Fire Authority in respect of "La France" ladders which

resulted in the death of a fire fighter, and which have been the subject of a union ban for several years?

2. What the authority deems to be "minimum manning" of permanent fire fighters and officers in the authority?

3. Whether the Chief Fire Officer has tabled a report on these matters; if so—(*a*) to whom; and (*b*) what are the contents?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. As the result of the accident referred to, which occurred in 1968, the "La France" ladders were modified and tested on the basis of recommendations from consulting engineers. The ladders have operated without fault since that time.

2. Because of the availability of registered volunteer fire fighters throughout Victoria, the Country Fire Authority considers that it is not necessary to determine a minimum manning requirement in relation to permanent fire fighters and officers.

3. The Chief Officer reported to the authority on 30th September, 1968, in relation to the accident, involving the "La France" ladder, which resulted in the death of an officer. He recommended that the ladders be modified. The Chief Officer has not submitted a report concerning minimum manning requirements.

DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

(Question No. 960)

Mr. HANN (Rodney) asked the Premier—

1. Whether he is aware of the drug awareness campaign being conducted by Rotary International in conjunction with other service clubs; if so, whether a request was made to the Government some twelve months ago via the Minister of Health seeking financial assistance towards the cost of this campaign and particularly the supplying and distribution of booklets, indicating what are the full details of the request and why the Government has refused to accede to the request?

2. Whether the Government is providing any financial assistance towards this campaign or any other drug awareness campaign; if so, what amount?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

1. (*a*) Yes. (*b*) Yes. Kyabram branch of Rotary International sought funds to buy 3000 copies of booklets from a private publisher. (c) Available funds had already been allocated for other drug awareness campaigns.

2. The Health Education Centre of the Department of Health has, since September, 1975, spent $8,800 in conducting seminars for various service clubs' drug awareness campaigns. The centre has also supplied thousands of copies of literature about drugs and has provided consultant advice to leaders of service clubs on drug awareness campaigns.

CONTROL OF RAGWORT IN ALBERT RIVER VALLEY.

(Question No. 961)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Lands—

What were the conclusions of the study undertaken by Mr. R. Edgar of the Department of Agriculture into an economic evaluation of the use of intensive sheep grazing as an alternative to herbicides for the control of ragwort in the Albert River Valley, and what decision was made?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): The answer is—

The conclusions from the study were—

1. Using a 10 per cent discount rate, the scheme was estimated to yield a net present value ranging from $31,045 to $115,410 for a project life of ten years. For a project life of twenty years, the net present value was estimated to be within $13,750 and $189,170. No judgment was made about the duration of the scheme other than to expect the scheme to operate for ten years and perhaps twenty years. The project was evaluated over both ten and twenty years.

The most likely net present value using a 10 per cent discount rate was $41,770 over a ten year life and $87,135 over a twenty year life.

A net present value greater than zero is equivalent to being able to successfully repay the capital over the life of the project at 10 per cent interest per year. The most likely net present value for the ten year project, $41,770, would be equivalent to a surplus of $6,800 each year, in addition to repaying the capital over ten years.

There is a risk that less than the most likely results may eventuate. The range of net present values show the possible results; a present value loss of up to about $31,000. Taking the risk into account, the results are good on economic grounds.

The range of net present values were all greater than zero when a 7 per cent discount rate was used in the analysis. A cost of capital that is less than 10 per cent may be judged acceptable. If 7 per cent was acceptable, the total scheme would be quite secure on economic grounds.

2. Analysis of the scheme was based on a proposal that involved all landholders. Partial adoption of the scheme could jeopardise both the physical and economic benefits of the scheme, by some landholders not participating fully in the scheme.

3. The scheme was not economically justified solely on the basis of savings to the Lands Department. Yards, a shearing shed and equipment and sheep proof fences were estimated to cost about $60,000 compared with a saving of $15,000 to the Lands Department over ten years.

4. Landholders would marginally gain increased farm incomes by adopting or expanding sheep enterprises, depending on the amount of capital development they would be required to finance. Dairy farmers completely changing to sheep enterprises would have to increase their stocking rates by 10 per cent to maintain their incomes. Labour and working capital are unlikely to prevent landholders participating in the scheme.

5. The capital cost of the scheme was estimated to cost about $76,000 based on landholder estimates of facilities required.

6. Seventeen landholders spent an average total of $2,850 per year over the last three years on herbicides for weed control. The majority of the herbicides were for control of ragwort. The ragwort control scheme would be expected to reduce this cost to about $2,000.

The decision about this study was that it not be implemented due to the fact that many of the landholders sold their land for development of pine plantations by the Forests Commission. The earlier proposal, initiated by the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board, therefore, did not continue.

REVENUE FROM MOTOR REGISTRATION FEES.

(Question No. 963)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale) asked the Treasurer—

In respect of each of the financial years from 1965–66 to 1976–77, inclusive—

1. What total sum was received in motor registration fees?

2. What amount of the funds so received was applied to the costs of making and maintaining roads, indicating the proportion as a percentage of total fees?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

A reply was sent by letter to the honorable member on 25th May.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

(Question No. 970)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In regard to the School Dental Service—

1. How many dental therapists are currently working in the service and at what locations?

2. How many additional therapists will be appointed in 1979 and 1980, respectively, and what are the planned locations?

3. How many dental clinics are currently in operation, indicating at what locations, and what additional clinics will be opened in 1979 and 1980, respectively?

4. What progress has been made in the provision of mobile surgeries and what proposed areas are to be covered by these facilities?

5. What body is responsible for determining the location of dental clinics and therapists?

6. What is the estimated cost of the service for the 1977–78 year and what proportion of this expenditure is met by the—(*a*) State; and (*b*) Commonwealth Government?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. Sixty dental therapists are currently working at the following schools—

(*a*) Dental clinics—

Moonee Ponds West
Ascot Vale West
Kensington
Aberfeldie
Flemington
Footscray
Kingsville
Altona East
Altona Gate
Glengala
Sunshine Heights
Sunshine North
St. Albans Heights
St. Albans East
Stevensville
Footscray School Dental Centre
North Fitzroy School Dental Centre
Headquarters of the Field Services Dental Therapy School

(*b*) Mobile clinics at the following schools—

Essendon North
Ascot Vale
Spotswood
Essendon
Albion
Seaholme
Altona
Albion North
Sunshine
Broadmeadows East
Gladstone Views
Campmeadows
Dallas
Dallas North
Eastmeadows
Yarraville

2. It is anticipated that 50 dental therapists will graduate in December, 1978, and a further 50 in December, 1979.

The 1978 graduates will commence duty at the start of the 1979 school year in the following areas at either dental clinics in school grounds or mobile dental clinics—

Werribee area
Deer Park area
Keilor Heights area
Preston area
Olympic Village area
Lalor area
Reservoir area
Ruthven area
Geelong and surrounding areas
Warragul area
Latrobe Valley area
Sale area

It is not possible to give any indication of the location of the 1979 graduates who will commence duty at the commencement of the 1980 school year.

3. See answer in 1 and 2 above.

4. During the 1977–78 financial year 22 double surgery mobile units were constructed for use in areas mentioned in the reply to question 1 as well as in remote country areas which have previously received service from the School Dental Service.

Ten double surgery mobile units are planned for 1978–79.

5. The responsibility for final determination in connection with location of dental clinics and therapists is that of the Minister responsible for this administration. Decision in this regard is taken after considering the advice and recommendation of the officers of the department responsible for the organization and provision of school dental services.

6. $5,981,000. The proportion of this amount met by the State is $1,702,000 and by the Commonwealth $4,279,000

DENTURES.

(Question No. 971)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Why people presenting themselves to dental mechanics for dentures cannot obtain partial dentures which are essential to the satisfactory functioning of both upper and lower occlusion?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The *Dental Technicians Act* 1972 provides that only advanced dental technicians may supply and fit dentures and take impressions and such authority is subject to the following conditions as specified in section 28 of the Act—

"(2) An advanced dental technician is not required to be supervised by or working in accordance with the written prescription of a dentist while engaged in—

(*a*) making fitting and supplying dentures and taking impressions for the purposes thereof; and

(*b*) repairing dentures.

(3) An advanced dental technician shall not—

(*a*) make fit supply or repair dentures to be fitted to a jaw in which there are natural teeth or parts of natural teeth;

(*b*) fit any dentures or take impressions in a manner which involves work upon a mouth in which there is any disease disorder open tissue or any abnormality of the hard or soft tissue;

(*c*) perform any work on a person whose mouth is not fit to receive artificial dentures."

MOUTH GUARDS.

(Question No. 972)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Why dental mechanics are not permitted to construct mouth guards, which are not artificial appliances but are designed to protect the natural teeth from accidents, and are freely available from pharmacists?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Artificial appliances designed to protect natural teeth from accidents which are available from pharmacists do not require personal attention in the manufacture or fitting. The purchaser immerses the appliance in hot water which softens the material prior to fitting over the teeth.

Mouth guards made by dentists involve techniques similar to those used in artificial denture manufacture—making an impression of the natural teeth. Section 13 of the Dental Technicians Act 1972 provides that a dental technician shall not attend any person requiring dental attention, dentures or appliances.

A dental technician may however construct a mouth guard in accordance with the written prescription of a dentist.

STATE SUPERANNUATION BOARD.

(Question No. 973)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Treasurer—

When it is expected that the Superannuation Board's electronic data processing programme for producing cheques will be rewritten, in view of his admission that at present no provision is made for regular statements to public servants on superannuation?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

The State Superannuation Board late in 1977 commenced a complete review and rewrite of its electronic data processing activities. During the course of that review, the opportunity will be taken to ensure that statements covering alterations to pension cheques are provided to pensioners as soon as possible.

TEACHERS.

(Question No. 974)

Mr. PLOWMAN (Evelyn) asked the Minister of Education—

In relation to the employment by the Education Department of primary, secondary and technical teachers, respectively—

1. What are the hours of employment, indicating the starting and finishing times?

2. How many weeks in a year teachers are employed?

3. Whether there is any arrangement for the payment of overtime where teachers work in excess of the hours required?

4. Whether any system similar to flexitime applies in any Victorian State school?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 7th September as follows—

1. (*a*) The statutory working hours of all teachers are from 8.45 a.m. until 5.06 p.m. with provision for a ¾ hour luncheon period.

(*b*) By regulation, primary schools must commence operation between 9 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. and must finish between 3.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.

The most common hours of operation in primary schools are—

City Schools	9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Country Schools	9.15 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Given these hours, primary teachers would normally be expected to be on duty fifteen minutes before the first session and until dismissal time. However, many are in attendance much earlier than 8.45 a.m. and departure times vary considerably, according to commitments such as staff meetings, committee meetings, transport supervision (in country areas) and other duties.

(*c*) By regulation, State schools other than primary schools shall observe hours between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. except in cases approved by the Director-General.

In practice, children are in attendance at most secondary and technical schools for between 6½ and 7 hours per day. Of this time, approximately five hours are devoted to formal instruction, and the attendance time of teachers would vary considerably according to the pattern generally outlined for Primary teachers.

Typical attendance hours for children in post-primary schools would be, say, 8.45 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with teachers expected to be in attendance from, say 8.30 a.m. until any time after 3.30 p.m. depending on the commitments of the day.

2. Teachers are employed for 52 weeks per year. However, the May, September and Christmas vacations total, on average 10½

weeks per year. If normal Public Holidays are also taken into account, schools are usually open for about 40 weeks per year.

3. and 4. In technical schools, some teachers may be required to work outside the hours of 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. In such circumstances teachers may qualify for overtime payments. They may also elect to have each hour of such duty recognized as the equivalent of 1½ hours of duty completed within the normal hours.

If the latter option is taken, teachers may be excused from full attendance during the hours of 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Overtime payments can only be made where the teacher has been allotted scheduled duties (made up of classroom teaching time and other defined duties) in excess of 22 hours per week.

In high schools, teachers taking evening classes do so independently of their normal day-school commitment and are paid at a fixed rate for taking such classes.

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE.

(Question No. 983)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether the Minister received a letter on or about 16th September, 1977, from the Huntington's Disease Association seeking financial assistance; if so, when the Minister will reply to the letter?

2. What assistance is given by the Department of Health to persons suffering from Huntington's disease?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. The Minister of Health has no recollection of receiving a letter on or about the 16th September, 1977, from the Huntington's Disease Association seeking financial assistance.

2. A number of sufferers from Huntington's disease are cared for within psychiatric hospitals conducted by the Mental Health Authority. The out-patient clinics and other services of the authority are also available to provide advice and guidance to sufferers from the disease and their families.

In addition, there is a special clinic conducted at the Royal Melbourne Hospital by a member of the staff of the Melbourne university Department of Psychiatry to provide advice, guidance and genetic counselling to patients and their families.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING EQUIPMENT IN LATROBE VALLEY.

(Question No. 984)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Conservation—

1. On how many occasions and at what frequency the air quality monitoring equipment in the Latrobe Valley has been calibrated and standardized since 1973?

2. What methods have been used to calibrate the air quality monitoring installations?

3. On what dates calibration and standardization has taken place?

4. What is the recommended time between calibrations?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): The answer is—

1. The number of occasions and the frequency at which the air quality monitoring equipment in the Latrobe Valley has been calibrated and standardized since 1973 are as follows—

Nitrogen Oxides Monitoring—	
Number of occasions—	
zero	256
celebrate	202
Frequency—	
zero	every 4 days (mean)
calibrate	every 5·5 days (mean)
Ozone Monitor—	
Number of occasions—	
zero	189
calibrate	182
Frequency—	
zero	every 6 days (mean)
calibrate	every 6 days (mean)
Carbon Monoxide Monitor—	
Number of occasions—	
zero	286
calibrate	253
Frequency—	
zero	every 4·5 days (mean)
calibrate	every 5 days (mean)
Sulphur Dioxide Monitor—	
Number of occasions—	
zero	276
calibrate	112
Frequency—	
zero	every 4 days (mean)
calibrate	every 10 days (mean)
Integrating Nephelometer for airborne particulate index)—	
Number of occasions—	
zero	54
calibrate	54
standardize	11
Frequency—	
zero	every 23 days (mean)
calibrate	evry 23 days (mean)
standardize	every 113 days (mean)

2. The methods that have been used to calibrate the air quality monitoring instruments have been as follows—

Nitrogen Oxides Monitor—

zero by using nitrogen oxides free nitrogen or air.

calibrate by using a permeation tube to generate a test atmosphere of known nitrogen oxides concentration.

Ozone Monitor—
zero by using ozone free air.
calibrate by using internal ozone generator, the output of which generator has been checked twice by KI absorption of ozone and subsequent analysis.

Carbon Monoxide Monitor—
zero by using carbon monoxide free air or nitrogen.
calibrate by using a compressed gas cylinder to provide carbon monoxide of known concentration.

Sulphur Dioxide Monitors—
Electro conductometric instrument—
zero by using sulphur dioxide free air.
calibrate by

(1) an internal electrical standard

(2) permeation tube to generate a test atmosphere of known sulphur dioxide concentration.

Pulsed fluorescence instrument (installed 6th February, 1978, to replace above)—
zero by using sulphur dioxide free air.
calibrate by using a permeation tube and dilution system to generate a test atmosphere of known sulphur dioxide concentration.

Integrating Nephelometer—
zero by using filtered air
calibrate by using an internal standard standardize with "Freon".

3. The air quality monitoring van has been located at the following sites for the indicated period of time—

Hazelwood North—July, 1974–November, 1974.

Moe—December, 1974–February, 1975.

Cross's Road, Traralgon—March, 1975–February, 1976.

Barr's Lane, Flynn—June, 1976–November, 1977.

Willung Road, Rosedale—December, 1977–to date of question.

The dates on which the air quality monitoring instruments have been calibrated and standardized are shown on the attached tables.

4. The manufacturers recommendations for the frequency of calibration of the various instruments are as follows:

Nitrogen Oxides—
Monthly intervals.

Ozone Monitor—
Greatest accuracy is obtained "when the instrument is calibrated daily".

Carbon Monoxide Monitor—
Daily, if operating under adverse temperature conditions, otherwise not as frequently.

Sulphur Dioxide Monitors—
Electro conductometric instrument—zero should be checked weekly with span to be checked as often as required.

Pulsed fluorescence instrument—Daily intervals.

Integrating Nephelometer—
Monthly intervals.

NOTE.—The automatic calibration system has been in operation from approximately 1st June, 1978, providing daily zero and span readings initially for nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides. The operation of this system is independent of the calibrations tabulated in reply to question (3).

HAZELWOOD NORTH—JULY 1974 TO NOVEMBER 1974

Nitrogen Oxides			Ozone			Carbon Monoxide			Sulphur Dioxide			Nephelometer		
Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD
17.7	17.7	..	17.7	17.7	..	17.7	17.7	..	17.7	..	..	17.7	17.7	..
19.7	19.7	..	19.7	19.7	..	19.7	19.7	..	19.7	..	..	..	..	..
23.7	23.7	..	23.7	23.7	..	23.7	23.7	..	23.7	..	..	23.7	23.7	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	24.7	24.7	..	24.7	..	..	..	..	..
25.7	25.7	..	25.7	25.7	..	25.7	25.7	..	25.7	..	..	25.7	25.7	..
27.7	27.7	..	27.7	27.7	..	27.7	27.7	..	27.7	..	..	27.7	27.7	..
..	..	..	31.7	31.7	..	31.7	31.7	..	31.7	..	..	..	..	..
16.8	16.8	..	16.8	16.8	..	16.8	16.8	..	16.8	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.8	..	..	..	..	..
30.8	30.8	..	30.8	30.8	..	30.8	30.8	..	30.8	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	5.9	5.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9.9	9.9	..	9.9	9.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.9	9	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	10.9	10.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.9	11.9	..	11.9	11.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	13.9	13.9	..	13.9	13.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18.9	18.9	..	18.9	18.9	..	..	..	..	18.9	..	..	..	..	..
20.9	20.9	..	20.9	20.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24.9	24.9	..	24.9	24.9	..	24.9	24.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
27.9	27.9	..	27.9	27.9	..	..	..	..	27.9	..	..	..	..	..
30.9	30.9	..	30.9	30.9	..	30.9	30.9	..	30.9	..	..	..	..	..
3.10	3.10	..	3.10	3.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4.10	4.10	..	4.10	4.10	..	4.10	4.10	..	4.10	..	..	4.10	4.10	..
..	..	..	8.10	8.10	..	..	..	..	8.10	..	..	..	..	..
11.10	11.10	..	11.10	11.10	..	11.10	11.10	..	11.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.10	..	..	..	..	..
18.10	18.10	..	18.10	18.10	..	..	..	..	18.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	22.10	22.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25.10	25.10	..	25.10	25.10	..	..	..	..	25.10	..	..	..	..	..
28.10	28.10	..	28.10	28.10	..	28.10	28.10	..	28.10	..	..	..	..	..
1.11	1.11	..	1.11	1.11	..	1.11	1.11	..	1.11	..	..	..	..	..
14.11	14.11	..	14.11	14.11	..	14.11	14.11	..	14.11	..	..	..	..	..

MOE—DECEMBER 1974 TO FEBRUARY 1976

Nitrogen Oxides			Ozone			Carbon Monoxide			Sulphur Dioxide			Nephelometer		
Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD
2.12	2.12	..	2.12	2.12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.12	..	..	..	..	..
6.12	6.12	..	6.12	6.12	..	6.12	6.12	..	6.12	..	..	..	..	..
10.12	10.12	..	10.12	10.12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	11.12	11.12	..	11.12	..	..	..	..	..
13.12	13.12	..	13.12	13.12	..	..	..	..	13.12	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.12	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	18.12	..	..	18.12	..	..	..	..	..
19.12	19.12	..	19.12	19.12	..	19.12	19.12	..	19.12	19.12	..	19.12	19.12	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	20.12	20.12	..	20.12	..	..	..	..	..
23.12	23.12	..	23.12	23.12	..	23.12	23.12	..	23.12	..	..	23.12	23.12	..
..	..	..	24.12	24.12	..	24.12	24.12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30.12	30.12	..	30.12	30.12	..	30.12	30.12	..	30.12	..	..	..	..	..
						1975								
2.1	2.1	..	2.1	2.1	..	2.1	2.1	..	2.1	..	..	..	..	..
3.1	3.1	..	3.1	3.1	..	3.1	3.1	..	3.1	..	..	..	..	..
6.1	6.1	..	6.1	6.1	..	6.1	6.1	..	6.1	..	..	6.1	6.1	..
7.1	7.1	..	..	..	..	7.1	7.1	..	7.1	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	9.1	9.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13.1	13.1	..	13.1	13.1	..	..	..	..	13.1	..	..	..	..	..
15.1	15.1	..	15.1	..	..	15.1	15.1	..	15.1	..	..	..	..	..
16.1	16.1	..	16.1	16.1	..	16.1	16.1	..	16.1	..	..	..	..	..
17.1	17.1	..	17.1	..	..	17.1	17.1	..	17.1	..	..	..	..	..
20.1	20.1	..	20.1	20.1	..	20.1	20.1	..	20.1	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	22.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24.1	24.1	..	24.1	24.1	..	..	..	..	24.1	..	..	..	..	..
28.1	28.1	..	28.1	28.1	..	28.1	28.1	..	28.1	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	29.1	29.1	..	29.1	29.1	..	29.1	..	..	..	..	..
31.1	31.1	..	31.1	31.1	..	31.1	31.1	..	31.1	..	..	..	..	..
3.2	3.2	..	3.2	3.2	..	..	..	..	3.2	3.2	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.2	..	..	..	..	..
6.2	6.2	..	6.2	..	..	6.2	..	..	6.2	..	..	..	..	..
11.2	11.2	..	11.2	11.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12.2	12.2	..	12.2	12.2	..	12.2	12.2	..	12.2	..	..	12.2	12.2	..
14.2	14.2	..	14.2	14.2	..	14.2	14.2	..	14.2	..	..	..	..	..
18.2	18.2	..	..	..	..	18.2	18.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21.2	21.2	..	..	..	..	21.2	21.2	..	21.2	21.2	..	..	..	..
24.2	24.2	..	..	..	..	24.2	24.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

CROSS'S ROAD, TRARALGON—MARCH 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1976

Nitrogen Oxides			Ozone			Carbon Monoxide			Sulphur Dioxide			Nephelometer		
Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD
5.3	5.3	..	5.3	5.3	..	5.3	5.3	..	5.3	5.3	..	5.3	5.3	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	7.3	7.3	..	7.3	..	..	..	..	..
11.3	11.3	..	11.3	11.3	..	..	..	..	11.3	..	..	..	..	..
13.3	13.3	..	13.3	13.3	..	..	..	..	13.3	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.4	..	..	..	..	..
21.3	21.3	..	21.3	21.3	..	21.3	21.3	..	21.3	..	..	..	..	..
24.3	24.3	..	24.3	24.3	..	24.3	24.3	..	24.3	..	..	..	..	..
25.3	25.3	..	26.3	26.3	..	26.3	26.3	..	26.3	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	30.3	30.3	..	..	..	..	30.3	..	..	..	..	..
1.4	1.4	..	1.4	1.4	..	1.4	1.4	..	1.4	..	..	..	..	..
3.4	3.4	..	3.4	3.4	..	3.4	3.4	..	3.4	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	4.4	4.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	11.4	11.4	..	11.4	11.4	..	14.4	..	..	..	..	..
17.4	17.4	..	17.4	17.4	..	17.4	17.4	..	17.4	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	18.4	18.4	..	..	..	..	18.4	..	..	..	..	..
22.4	22.4	..	22.4	22.4	..	22.4	..	..	22.4	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	24.4	..	..	24.4	24.4	..	24.4	..	..	..	..	..
1.5	1.5	..	..	..	..	1.5	1.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2.5	2.5	..	..	..	..	2.5	2.5	..	2.5	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	5.5	5.5	..	5.5	5.5	..	..	..	..
9.5	9.5	..	9.5	9.5	..	9.5	9.5	..	9.5	..	..	..	..	..
12.5	12.5	..	12.5	12.5	..	12.5	12.5	..	12.5	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	13.5	13.5	..	13.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	15.5	15.5	..	..	..	..	15.5	..	..	..	..	..
19.5	19.5	..	19.5	19.5	..	19.5	19.5	..	19.5	..	..	..	..	..
22.5	22.5	..	22.5	22.5	..	22.5	22.5	..	22.5	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.5	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.5	..	..	..	..	..
30.5	30.5	..	30.5	30.5	..	30.5	30.5	..	30.5	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	2.6	2.6	..	2.6	2.6	..	..	..	..

Nitrogen Oxides			Ozone			Carbon Monoxide			Sulphur Dioxide			Nephelometer		
Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD
..	..	..	..	..	..	5.6	5.6	..	5.6	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	6.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	10.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	13.6	13.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18.6	18.6	..	18.6	18.6	..	18.6	18.6	..	18.6	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	19.6	19.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	23.6	23.6	..	23.6	..	..	..	..	..
27.6	27.6	..	..	..	..	27.6	27.6	..	27.6	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1.7	1.7	..	1.7	..	..	..	..	..
4.7	4.7	..	..	..	..	4.7	..	..	4.7	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	10.7	10.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.7	11.7	..	..	..	..	11.7	11.7	..	11.7	..	..	11.7	1.7	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.7	..	..	..	..	..
17.7	17.7	..	..	..	..	17.7	17.7	..	17.77	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	18.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	22.7	22.7	..	22.7	..	..	..	..	..
25.7	25.7	..	..	..	..	25.7	25.7	..	25.7	25.7	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.7	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1.8	1.8	..	1.8	1.8	..	..	..	..
8.8	8.8	..	..	..	..	8.8	8.8	..	8.8	..	..	..	..	..
12.8	12.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.8	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15/8	..	..	..	..	..
18.8	18.8	..	..	..	..	18.8	18.8	..	18.8	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.8	..	..	21.8	21.8	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	26.8	26.8	..	26.8	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.8	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.8	29.8	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.9	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	12/9	12/9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	16.9	16.9	..	16.9	16.9	..	16.9	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.9	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	19.9	19.9	..	..	..	..	19.9	..	..	19.9	19.9	..
..	..	..	23.9	23.9	..	23.9	23.9	..	23.9	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	29.9	..	..	29.9	29.9	..	29.9	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	30.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	1.10	1.10	..	1.10	1.10	..	1.10	1.10	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.10	6.10	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	8.10	8.10	..	..	..	..	8.10	..	..	8.10	8.10	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	10.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	15.10	15.10	..	15.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	17.10	17.10	..	17.10	..	..	17.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	20.10	..	..	20.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	21.10	21.10	..	..	..	..	21.10	21.10	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	23.10	23.10	..	..	..	..	23.10	23.10	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	24.10	24.10	..	..	..	..	24.10	24.10	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	28.10	28.10	..	28.10	28.10	..	28.10	28.10	..	28.10	28.10	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	31.10	31.10	..	31.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	5.11	5.11	..	5.11	5.11	..	5.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	10.11	10.11	..	10.11	10.11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.11	12.11	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	13.11	13.11	13.11	..	..	..	13.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	14.11	14.11	14.11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	18.11	18.11	(cal. by K.F.)	18.11	18.11	..	18.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	21.11	21.11	..	21.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.12	1.12	..	1.12	1.12	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	5.12	5.12	..	5.12	5.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	8.12	8.12	..	8.12	8.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.12	9.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.12	11.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	12.12	12.12	..	12.12	12.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.12	16.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.12	18.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	22.12	22.12	..	22.12	22.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.12	23.12	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	24.12	24.12	..	24.12	24.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	30.12	30.12	..	30.12	30.12	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31.12	31.12	..	..	..	..
							1976							
..	..	..	..	..	..	1.1	1.1	..	1.1	1.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	3.1	3.1	..	3.1	3.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	7.1	7.1	..	7.1	7.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	9.1	9.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1	12.1	..	12.1	12.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	14.1	14.1	..	14.1	14.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.1	16.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	20.1	20.1	..	20.1	20.1	..	21.1	21.1	21.1

BARR'S LANE, FLYNN—JUNE 1976 TO NOVEMBER 1977

Nitrogen Oxides			Ozone			Carbon Monoxide			Sulphur Dioxide			Nephelometer		
Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.1	23.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.1	28.1	..	..	..	..
30.1	..	..	30.1	30.1	..	30.1	30.1	..	30.1	30.1	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	4.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2.6	2.6	..	2.6	2.6	..	2.6	2.6	..	2.6	2.6	..	2.6	2.6	..
4.6	4.6	..	4.6	4.6	..	4.6	4.6	..	4.6	4.6	4.6	..	..	..
9.6	9.6	..	9.6	9.6	..	8.6	8.6	..	9.6	9.6	..	..	..	..
11.6	11.6	..	15.6	15.6	..	25.6	25.6	..	11.6	..	..	..	..	..
15.6	15.6	..	25.6	25.6	..	29.6	29.6	..	15.6	..	..	..	..	..
17.6	..	..	28.6	..	..	..	..	..	18.6	..	..	..	..	..
25.6	25.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.6	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	1.7	5.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2.7	2.7	..	2.7	2.7	..	16.7	16.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7.7	7.7	..	5.7	5.7	..	23.7	23.7	..	9.7	..	..	..	..	..
9.7	9.7	..	7.7	7.7	..	27.7	27.7	..	10.7	16.7	..	..	..	..
13.7	13.7	..	23.7	23.7	..	..	..	..	20.7	20.7	..	..	..	..
16.7	16.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.7	23.7	..	..	..	..
20.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.8	1.8	..	..	..	..
23.7	..	..	1.8	1.8	..	1.8	1.8	..	6.8	..	..	1.8	1.8	..
27.7	..	..	3.8	3.8	..	6.8	6.8	..	10.8	..	..	..	..	..
29.7	..	..	6.8	6.8	..	10.8	10.8	..	13.8	..	..	..	..	..
1.8	..	..	10.8	10.8	..	13.8	13.8	..	17.8	17.8	..	..	..	..
3.8	..	..	13.8	13.8	..	17.8	17.8	..	20.8	20.8	..	..	..	..
6.8	..	..	17.8	17.8	..	20.8	20.8	..	24.8	..	..	..	..	..
13.8	..	..	24.8	..	..	24.8	24.8	..	27.8	..	..	..	..	..
17.8	..	..	..	..	..	27.8	27.8	..	30.8	30.8	30.8	..	..	..
20.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
27.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.9	1.9	..	1.9	1.9	..	1.9	1.9	..	1.9	1.9	..	1.9	1.9	..
3.9	3.9	..	10.9	10.9	..	10.9	10.9	..	7.9	7.9	..	..	..	..
7.9	7.9	..	21.9	21.9	..	14.9	14.9	..	10.9	10.9	..	..	..	..
10.9	10.9	..	..	..	..	21.9	21.9	..	14.9	..	..	..	..	..
14.9	14.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.9	21.9	..	..	..	..
24.9	24.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.9	24.9	..	..	..	..
1.10	1.10	..	1.10	1.10	..	1.10	1.10	..	1.10	1.10	..	1.10	1.10	..
6.10	6.10	..	4.10	4.10	..	4.10	..	..	4.10	4.10	..	..	..	..
11.10	11.10	..	11.10	11.10	..	6.10	6.10	..	6.10	6.10	..	..	..	..
15.10	15.10	..	20.10	20.10	..	11.10	11.10	..	11.10	11.10	..	..	..	..
20.10	20.10	..	22.10	22.10	..	20.10	..	..	15.10	15.10	..	20.10	20.10	..
22.10	22.10	..	..	..	..	22.10	22.10	..	20.10	20.10	..	22.10	22.10	..
27.10	27.10	..	..	..	..	27.10	27.10	..	22.10	22.10	..	..	..	..
28.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.10	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.10	..	..	..	..	..
1.11	1.11	..	1.11	1.11	..	1.11	1.11	..	5.11	5.11	..	1.11	1.11	1.11
3.11	3.11	..	5.11	5.11	..	3.11	3.11	..	8.11	..	..	26.11	26.11	26.11
5.11	5.11	..	11.11	11.11	..	11.11	11.11	..	11.11	11.11	..	..	..	..
8.11	8.11	..	16.11	16.11	..	16.11	16.11	..	16.11	..	..	..	..	..
11.11	..	..	19.11	19.11	..	19.11	19.11	..	23.11	..	..	..	..	..
16.11	16.11	..	26.11	26.11	..	26.11	26.11	..	26.11	..	..	..	..	..
19.11	19.11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30.11	..	..	..	..	..
23.11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26.11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.12	1.12	..	1.12	1.12	..	1.12	1.12	..	1.12	..	..	1.12	1.12	1.12
7.12	7.12	..	10.12	10.12	..	9.12	9.12*	..	3.12	..	..	1.12	1.12	..
10.12	10.12	..	24.12	24.12	..	10.12	10.12	..	7.12	..	..	..	..	..
17.12	..	..	..	..	..	24.12	24.12	..	10.12	..	..	..	..	..
24.12	..	..	..	..	..	28.12	28.12	..	24.12	..	..	..	..	..
28.12	28.12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.12	..	..	..	..	..

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1.1	1.1	..	1.1	1.1	..	1.1	1.1	..	14.1	..	..	1.1	1.1	..
5.1	5.1	..	10.1	10.1	..	5.1	5.1	..	25.1	..	..	10.1	10.1	..
10.1	10.1	..	14.1	14.1	..	10.1	..	..	..	..	..	14.1	14.1	..
14.1	14.1	..	25.1	25.1	..	14/1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25.1	25.1	..	..	..	..	25.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
						*Daily auto zero and cal commenced.								
3.2	3.2	..	2.2	2.2	..	3.2	..	..	2.2	..	..	3.2	3.2	..
17.2	..	..	3.2	3.2	..	17.2	..	..	3.2	..	..	..	..	..
25.2	25.2	..	..	..	..	25.2	..	..	17.2	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	28.2	..	..	25.2	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.2	..	..	..	..	..
1.3	1.3	..	1.3	1.3	..	1.3	..	..	..	..	..	2.3	2.3	2.3
2.3	2.3	..	10.3	10.3	..	2.3	..	..	8.3	..	..	10.3	10.3	..
10.3	10.3	..	18.3	18.3	..	3.3	3.3	..	10.3	..	..	18.3	18.3	..
18.3	18.3	..	25.3	25.3	..	8.3	8.3	..	18.3	..	..	22.3	22.3	..
22.3	22.3	..	..	..	..	10.3	10.3	..	26.3	..	..	25.3	25.3	..
24.3	24.3	..	..	..	..	18.3	18.3	..	..	..	..	29.3	29.3	..
29.3	29.3	..	..	..	..	24.3	24.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.4	1.4	..	1.4	1.4	..	5.4	..	..	5.4	..	..	1.4	1.4	..
4.4	4.4	..	4.4	4.4	..	13.4	13.4	..	13.4	..	..	..	..	..
5.4	5.4	..	5.4	5.4	..	22.4	22.4	..	18.4	..	..	..	..	..
13.4	13.4	..	13.4	13.4	..	26.4	26.4	..	20.4	..	..	..	..	..
20.4	20.4	..	..	..	..	29.4	29.4	..	22.4	..	..	..	..	..

Nitrogen Oxides			Ozone			Carbon Monoxide			Sulphur Dioxide			Nephelometer		
Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD
26.4	26.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.4	..	..	..	..	..
29.4	29.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.4	..	..	..	..	..
2.5	2.5	..	2.5	2.5	..	2.5	2.5	..	2.5	..	..	2.5	2.5	2.5
3.5	3.5	..	5.5	5.5	..	3.5	3.5	..	3.5	..	..	..	..	..
5.5	5.5	..	13.5	13.5	..	5.5	5.5	..	5.5	..	..	..	..	..
6.5	6.5	..	23.5	23.5	..	9.5	9.5	..	9.5	9.5	..	..	..	..
9.5	9.5	..	25.5	25.5	..	13.5	13.5	..	13.5	13.5	..	..	..	..
11.5	11.5	..	27.5	27.5	..	16.5	16.5	..	16.5	..	..	..	..	..
13.5	13.5	..	30.5	30.5	..	18.5	18.5	..	18.5	..	..	..	..	..
16.5	16.5	..	..	..	..	23.5	23.5	..	23.5	..	..	..	..	..
18.5	18.5	..	..	..	..	25.5	25.5	..	25.5	25.5	..	..	..	..
20.5	20.5	..	..	..	..	27.5	27.5	..	27.5	27.5	..	..	..	..
23.5	23.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
27.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

*Daily auto zero and cal commenced.

1.6	1.6	..	1.6	1.6	..	1.6	1.6	..	1.6	..	..	3.6	3.6	..
3.6	3.6	..	3.6	3.6	..	3.6	3.6	..	3.6	3.6	..	..	..	..
6.6	6.6	..	6.6	6.6	..	6.6	6.6	..	6.6	6.6	..	..	..	..
8.6	8.6	..	24.6	24.6	..	8.6	8.6	..	8.6	8.6	..	..	..	..
10.6	10.6	..	..	..	..	10.6	10.6	..	10.6	..	..	..	..	..
14.6	14.6	..	..	..	..	14.6	14.6	..	14.6	..	..	..	..	..
17.6	17.6	..	..	..	..	17.6	17.6	..	17.6	..	..	..	..	..
24.6	24.6	..	..	..	..	27.6	27.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28.6	28.6	..	..	..	..	28.6	28.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30.6	30.6	..	..	..	..	30.6	30.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.7	1.7	..	1.7	1.7	..	1.7	1.7	..	..	..	..	1.7	1.7	1.7
5.7	5.7	..	8.7	8.7	..	5.7	5.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8.7	8.7	..	11.7	11.7	..	8.7	8.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.7	11.7	..	18.7	17.7	..	11.7	11.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13.7	13.7	..	20.7	20.7	..	15.7	15.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15.7	15.7	..	26.7	26.7	..	18.7	18.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18.7	18.7	..	..	..	..	20.7	20.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20.7	20.7	..	..	..	..	21.7	21.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21.7	21.7	..	..	..	..	26.7	26.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26.7	26.7	..	..	..	..	29.7	29.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
29.7	29.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.8	1.8	..	1.8	1.8	..	1.8	1.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3.8	3.8	..	8.8	8.8	..	3.8	3.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5.8	5.8	..	23.8	23.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8.8	8.8	..	29.8	29.8	..	8.8	8.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10.8	10.8	..	..	..	..	10.8	10.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12.8	12.8	..	..	..	..	12.8	12.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15.8	15.8	..	..	..	..	15.8	15.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19.8	19.8	..	..	..	..	19.8	19.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23.8	..	..	..	..	..	23.8	23.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24.8	..	..	..	..	..	24.8	24.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
29.8	..	..	..	..	..	29.8	29.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	30.8	30.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.9	1.9	..	1.9	1.9	..	1.9	1.9	..	..	..	..	1.9	1.9	..
5.9	..	..	19.9	19.9	..	5.9	5.9	..	..	..	..	7.9	7.9	..
7.9	..	..	23.9	23.9	..	7.9	7.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12.9	..	..	26.9	26.9	..	12.9	12.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16.9	..	..	28.9	28.9	..	16.9	16.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19.9	..	..	30.9	30.9	..	19.9	19.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21.9	..	..	..	..	..	21.9	21.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23.9	..	..	..	..	..	23.9	23.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26.9	..	..	..	..	..	26.9	26.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28.9	..	..	..	..	..	28.9	28.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30.9	..	..	..	..	..	30.9	30.9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3.10	..	..	3.10	3.10	..	3.10	3.10	..	..	..	..	3.10	3.10	3.10
5.10	..	..	5.10	5.10	..	5.10	5.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7.10	..	..	7.10	7.10	..	7.10	7.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10.10	..	..	10.10	10.10	..	10.10	10.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.10	..	..	13.10	13.10	..	13.10	13.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13.10	..	..	17.10	17.10	..	17.10	17.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17.10	..	..	..	..	..	19.10	19.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19.10	..	..	..	..	..	21.10	21.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21.10	..	..	..	..	..	25.10	25.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25.10	..	..	..	..	..	28.10	28.10	..	28.10	28.10	..	..	..	..
27.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1.11	..	..	14.11	14.11	..	1.11	1.11	..	1.11	1.11	..	14.11	14.11	..
4.11	..	..	17.11	17.11	..	4.11	4.11	..	4.11	4.11	..	..	..	..
8.11	..	..	..	..	..	8.11	..	..	8.11	8.11	..	off 22.11	..	..
11.11	..	..	off 22.11	..	..	11.11	..	..	11.11	11.11	..	..	..	..
14.11	..	..	..	..	..	14.11	..	..	14.11	14.11	..	..	..	..
17.11	..	..	..	..	..	17.11	..	..	17.11	17.11	..	..	..	..
off 22.11	..	..	..	..	..	off 22.11	..	..	off 22.11	..	..	..	..	..

WILLING ROAD, ROSEDALE—DECEMBER 1977 TO 16TH MAY, 1978.

Nitrogen Oxides			Ozone			Carbon Monoxide			Sulphur Dioxide			Nephelometer		
Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD	Zero	CAL	STD
16.12	16.12	..	16.12	16.12	..	16.12	16.12	..	16.12	16.12	..	16.12	16.12	..
19.12	19.12	..	19.12	19.12	..	19.12	19.12	..	19.12	..	..	19.12	19.12	..
23.12	23.12	..	23.12	23.12	..	23.12	23.12	..	29.12	29.12	..	..	..	..
29.12	29.12	..	..	..	..	29.12	28.12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
						1978								
4.1	4.1	..	6.1	6.1	..	4.1	4.1	..	4.1	4.1	..	4.1	4.1	..
6.1	6.1	..	9.1	9.1	..	6.1	6.1	..	6.1	6.1	..	..	..	..
9.1	9.1	..	12.1	12.1	..	9.1	9.1	..	9.1	9.1	..	..	..	..
12.1	12.1	..	20.1	20.1	..	12.1	12.1	..	12.1	12.1	..	..	..	..
20.1	20.1	..	..	..	..	20.1	20.1	..	20.1	20.1	..	..	..	..
27.1	27.1	..	..	..	..	Off	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
						27.1								
1.2	1.2	..	1.2	1.2	..	..	..	..	1.2	1.2	..	1.2	1.2	..
3.2	3.2	..	13.2	13.2	..	3.2	3.2	..	3.2	3.2	..	..	..	..
6.2	..	..	..	..	..	13.2	13.2	..	6.2	6.2—instrument changed				..
13.2	13.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.2	7.2	..	..	..	..
16.2	16.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.2	9.2	..	..	..	..
20.2	20.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.2	16.2	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.2	20.2	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.2	27.2	..	..	..	..
6.3	6.3	..	1.3	1.3	..	6.3	6.3	..	1.3	1.3	..	9.3	9.3	9.3
14.3	14.3	..	6.3	6.3	..	14.3	14.3	..	6.3	6.3	..	14.3	14.3	14.3
21.3	21.3	..	14.3	14.3	..	..	..	..	14.3	14.3	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.3	21.3	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.3	23.3	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.3	29.3	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30.3	30.3	..	..	..	..
3.4	3.4	..	..	..	..	7.4	7.4	..	3.4	3.4	..	..	..	..
17.4	17.4	..	..	..	..	17.4	17.4	..	10.4	10.4	..	..	..	..
20.4	20.4	..	..	..	..	20.4	20.4	..	17.4	17.4	..	..	..	..
24.4	24.4	..	..	..	..	24.4	24.4	..	20.4	20.4	..	..	..	..
27.4	27.4	..	..	..	..	27.4	27.4	..	24.4	24.4	..	..	..	..
1.5	1.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.4	27.4	..	..	..	..
5.5	5.5	..	5.5	5.5	..	1.5	1.5	..	1.5	1.5	..	11.5	11.5	..
8.5	8.5	..	8.5	8.5	..	5.5	5.5	..	5.5	5.5	..	..	..	..
11.5	11.5	..	11.5	11.5	..	8.5	8.5	..	8.5	8.5	..	..	..	..
15.5	15.5	..	15.5	15.5	..	11.5	11.5	..	11.5	11.5	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	15.5	15.5	..	15.5	15.5	..	..	..	..

AIR QUALITY MONITORING EQUIPMENT IN LATROBE VALLEY.

(Question No. 985)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

1. On how many occasions and at what frequency the air quality monitoring equipment under the control of the Ministry in the Latrobe Valley has been calibrated and standardized since 1973?

2. What methods have been used to calibrate the air quality monitoring installations?

3. On what dates calibration and standardization has taken place?

4. What is the recommended time between calibration?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

Air quality monitoring is conducted in the Latrobe Valley by the State Electricity Commission and the scope of this activity has widened during the period identified by Mr. Cathie so that the requirements for calibration have changed.

At the beginning of 1973 the major air quality monitoring activity was concentrated on dust gauge and lead dioxide candle surveys to monitor dust fall-out and ambient sulphur dioxide levels. These are standard methods that do not require calibration.

In August, 1973, a survey in the vicinity of the Loy Yang project was initiated using a mobile laboratory. Oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates were measured and instrument calibrations were carried out monthly, using approved techniques employing permeation tubes or standard gases, unless instrument malfunction indicated a need for additional checks.

In February, 1975, some high volume dust samplers were installed; these do not require calibration.

In May, 1975, a continuous air quality monitoring station was brought into operation at Minniedale Road, 5 kilometres east of Traralgon. Oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, ozone and suspended particulates are monitored. Up to July, 1976, calibration was carried out manually on a monthly basis using a Monitor Laboratories calibrator. In July, 1976, the system was automated so that, since then, it has been possible to carry out daily calibrations.

The recommended time between calibrations depends on the pollutant concerned and the particular instrument under consideration. In this respect the commission normally follows the advice of the instrument manufacturer.

Short-term air quality surveys have been carried out in the vicinity of Latrobe Valley sites under urgent consideration for proposed generating plant. Mobile laboratories have been used for this work and essentially similar calibration procedures have applied.

Standardization of the field calibration systems is carried out periodically at the Herman Research Laboratory using standard permeation tubes in a constant temperature bath with gravimetric determination of pollutant gas flow quantities.

COAL.

(Question No. 986)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Premier—

1. Whether any agreements have been or are being made or investigated between the Victorian Government and a Japanese firm or firms concerning solvent refined coal; if so, what company or companies, and with what commitment of Victorian Government funds?

2. Whether any agreements have been or are being made or investigated between the Victorian Government and Conzinc Riotinto of Australia Ltd., concerning solvent refined coal; if so, with what commitment of Victorian Government funds?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

1. The Victorian Government through its Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee is conducting continuing discussions with two Japanese consortia concerning solvent refined coal. These are the KOMINIC Consortium consisting of Kobe Steel Ltd., Mitsubishi Chemical Industries Ltd., and Nissho-Iwai Co. Ltd., and the Mitsui Consortium consisting of a group of Mitsui companies with interests in coal mining and metallurgical coke manufacture together with the trading company.

No commitment of Victorian Government funds has been made in respect of either of these consortia.

2. No.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

(Question No. 987)

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party) asked the Premier—

Whether, in view of the proposed Commonwealth legislation on freedom of information, the Victorian Government has any plans to introduce similar legislation?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

The Government is awaiting the outcome of an inquiry being carried out by the Statute Law Revision Committee. When its report comes to hand, the Government will decide what action, if any, it will take.

EXPENDITURE ON ROADS.

(Question No. 988)

Mr. CRABB (Knox) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. What was the expenditure on freeways within the Melbourne metropolitan area for the years 1975–76 and 1976–77 and what are the estimates for 1977–78 and 1978–79?

2. In respect of the moneys provided by the Commonwealth Government under the Roads Grants Act 1974, the States Grants (Roads Interim Assistance) Act 1977 and the States Grants (Roads) Act 1977 for the category "Urban Arterials", what amounts of money were spent on main roads, State highways, freeways and unclassified roads for the years 1975–76, and 1976–77, and what are the estimates for 1977–78?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

1. Expenditure on freeways in the Melbourne metropolitan planning area is as listed below—

1975–76	$31,339,999	
1976–77	34,267,000	
1977–78	32,364,000	(estimated)
1978–79	33,396,000	(estimated)

	1975–76	1976–77	1977–78 (estimated)
Main roads	3,272,693	5,002,479	4,885,000
State highways	6,944,136	6,728,214	6,000,000
Freeways	18,836,931	16,500,000	5,885,000
Unclassified roads..	5,252,744	6,473,535	7,530,000

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

(Question No. 996)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the State's Occupational Health Service, whether the Minister received a letter from the member for Brunswick dated 2nd February, 1978, in which a request was made for a discussion between the member and the occupational health officer of the Department of Health; if so, what is the reason for the delay in acknowledging this letter, and whether it is the Minister's intention to—(*a*) acknowledge the letter; (*b*) agree to the holding of discussions; or (*c*) not agree to the discussions and, if so, why?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Yes. The letter has been acknowledged and a meeting arranged.

REPORT ON KNOX EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX.

(Question No. 997)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of the evaluation of the Knox Early Childhood Development Complex, when Ms. Wadsworth submitted a report on the subject, indicating—(*a*) what action has been taken to publish the report and what is the reason for the delay; (*b*) when it will be published; and (*c*) whether the member for Brunswick can obtain a copy immediately?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

The draft of an evaluation of the Knox Early Childhood Development Complex by Miss Yoland Wadsworth was submitted in January, 1978, and is presently being reviewed with other reports on the project.

A copy of the report will be made available immediately to the member for Brunswick.

QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MODEL.

(Question No. 998)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the model of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital at Clayton, which was placed on public exhibition in August, 1975, what was—(*a*) the name of the person or authority who first commissioned the model; (*b*) the date of construction; (*c*) the cost; and (*d*) the design actually depicted?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

(*a*) Hospitals and Charities Commission.

(*b*) Construction was a period of approximately three weeks, commencing on 16th July, 1975.

(*c*) $6,085.

(*d*) The design was as visualized by the then Chief Architect of the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES.

(Question No. 1000)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of the development of family planning services in the south western region, whether there have been further developments since the proposal was rejected by the City of Warrnambool; if so, what developments and what family planning services are now available, or will be made available, in the region?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

No. Family planning services available in the region are those provided by private medical practitioners. The policy of the Department of Health has been to develop family planning services in association with municipalities at the request of the latter on the basis of the department providing staff for a clinic and the municipality supplying establishment costs and accommodation.

Family planning clinics are also provided in some community health centres and by some hospitals.

PREGNANCY TESTING KITS.

(Question No. 1001)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of recent press publicity concerning pregnancy testing kits—

1. Whether officers of the Department of Health have examined these kits; if so, when; if not, why?

2. Whether the officers have ascertained that such kits are effective and can be used safely and reliably by members of the public?

3. Whether any action is proposed to control the sale and use of such kits?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Yes; January 1978.

2. The officers have reported that the kits can be used safely by the public. Factors affecting reliability are explained in the leaflets which accompany the kits.

3. Officers of the Department of Health are at present considering the most appropriate method by which these kits can be subject to control under the Health Act.

COMMITTEE ON COST CONTAINMENT IN HOSPITALS.

(Question No. 1002)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the Committee on Cost Containment set up in 1977—

1. On how many occasions the committee has met?

2. What reports the committee has sent to the Minister or Departmental officers, and whether copies of such reports will be made available to the member for Brunswick?

3. What recommendations of the committee have been accepted by the Minister and departmental officers?

4. Whether the Minister will agree to the member for Brunswick being briefed by the committee as to their functions and ideas for cost containment in hospitals?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Eight.

2 and 3. Reports and recommendations arising out of the deliberations of the committee will not be available until the committee has completed its work.

4. No.

ROAD TRAUMA AND CASUALTY SERVICES REPORT.

(Question No. 1003)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the report of the Committee on Road Trauma and Casualty Services—

1. Whether the report was submitted to the Minister on 22nd August, 1977?

2. Whether the Minister received a letter from the member for Brunswick dated 2nd December, 1977 requesting a copy of the report; if so, why there has been neither acknowledgement nor response to the letter?

3. When the report will be made public?

4. Whether a copy of the report will be immediately made available to the member for Brunswick?

5. What action the Government has taken on the report?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. No decision has been made.

4. No.

5. The recommendation of the report will be taken account of over a long period of time.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES.

(Question No. 1004)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the proposal for the charging of fees by doctors at community health centres—

1. Whether a decision to introduce fees has yet been made; if so, on what basis and when such fees will be introduced?

2. Whether community health centres will receive additional administrative personnel in order that fees can be collected?

3. Whether such charging of fees will alter the centres exemption from pay-roll tax?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. A decision in principle has been made. This has not been implemented because of the need for Commonwealth legislation in respect of health insurance requirements. The proposed basis is that the common fee for each service be charged and that the centre be registered with the health insurance funds as a service provider to enable the fees to be recovered under bulk billing procedures.

2. Until the financial situation for the current year in regard to community health centres is known, it is not possible to indicate whether additional administrative personnel will be appointed.

3. Not to the knowledge of the Department of Health.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE LEGISLATION.

(Question No. 1005)

Mr. JASPER (Murray Valley) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

Because of the inadequacies found in the Volunteer Civil Defence Workers Compensation Act 1972 under which the State Emergency Service operates, whether the Government intends introducing legislation covering the operation of the State Emergency Service; if so, when; if not, why?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

The State Emergency Service does not operate under the provisions of the Volunteer Civil Defence Workers Compensation Act 1972. This Act provides for the payment of compensation to volunteer personnel who suffer injury or damage to their property whilst engaged in State Emergency Service activities. The question of the desirability of enacting legislation relating to the establishment, role, and functions of the service is under consideration.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY FILES.

(Question No. 1006)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Conservation—

If he will lay on the table of the Library, Environment Protection Authority files 77/195, 77/1372, and 78/191?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): The answer is—

File 77/00195 deals with legislation and thus Government policy. Accordingly I am not prepared to lay this file on the table of the Library.

However, files 77/1372 and 78/191 will be laid on the table.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION SUBSIDIES.

(Question No. 1007)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

1. What subsidies and financial inducements have previously been made available by the State Electricity Commission?

2. What subsidies and/or financial inducements the commission has withdrawn from its marketing and distribution organizations, indicating on what dates they were withdrawn?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

Subject	Details	Date of notification of withdrawal
Uniform tariffs	Cross subsidy from other electricity customers to rural customers of over $10 million per annum.	Still current
Community service tariffs ..	Cross subsidisation from other electricity customers to Charitable Service Organizations—over $0·6 million per annum.	Still current
Traction tariffs	Special rates to Victorian Railways and Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board—over $1·0 million per annum.	Still current
Public lighting	Cross subsidy from other electricity customers of over $2 million per annum.	Still current
Highway lighting	The one-third annual charge paid to municipalities in 1976–77 was $212,700.	Still current
Profits to eleven metropolitan councils with electricity supply undertakings	$1·35 million paid to eleven councils in 1976–77	Still current
Off-peak storage floor heating ..	Domestic residences including HCV $10/kilowatt (15 kw limit)	10th May, 1977*
Off-peak hot water	1 $10 per changeover switch (to public) ..	10th May, 1977*
	2 Up to $30 per installation (to builder)	10th May, 1977*
	3 $20 per installation for HCV	10th May, 1977*
Heat banks, midi banks, ducted units	Single separate residences $10 per/kilowatt (15 kilowatt limit) (builder).	10th May, 1977*
Off-peak storage space heating and air conditioning	Free electricty for all approved display homes (builder)	10th May, 1977

Subject	Details	Date of notification of withdrawal
Heat banks, midi banks ..	Retailers—$3 per week where working model on display	10th May, 1977*
Contracted gold medallion builders	1 $50 wiring subsidy for each completed gold medallion home	10th May, 1977*
	2 Deferred payment scheme for appliances supplied for display homes.	10th May, 1977*
	3 $15 per kilowatt for heat banks–midi banks–ducted unit–off–peak storage floor heating	10th May, 1977*
Wired-in rotary clothes dryers..	$20 per installation payable to builders and private developers of all-electric dwellings	1975
Continuous water heating in flats	$30 per installation where reticulated gas available (payable to builders).	1st July, 1976
Range	$40 per installation payable to public. Some country regions only	1974
Staff appliance purchase discounts	State Electricity Commission buying price plus a small margin	Still current
Appliance servicing	Provided at less than cost	Still current

NOTE: * A period of three to nine months was allowed for customers to adjust to the changes.

In addition to the above, the commission is required to make contributions to the Consolidated Fund of Victoria on the basis of 4 per cent of revenue and a royalty of 2·46 cents per tonne of brown coal mined. The contributions for 1976–77 were $18·72 million and $0·73 million, respectively, a total of $19·45 million.

The commission is also required to meet a levy imposed by the Commonwealth Government under the Coal Research Assistance Act at the rate of 5 cents per tonne on 30 per cent of coal produced in its open cuts, which for 1977–78 (10·5 months of operation) will amount to an estimated $375,000.

The provision of capital loan funds for distribution works is reduced or waived where the customer will achieve a greater than average utilisation of the assets constructed. This arrangement applies to housing developments, some industrial and commercial customers and to the Housing Commission of Victoria in relation to their low rental dwelling units.

FUNDING OF DAY CARE CENTRES.

(Question No. 1009)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of submissions received on the funding of existing day care centres—

1. Whether he or a standing committee met with representatives in November, 1977; if so, with what result?

2. Whether a submission for additional funds was made to the Treasury; if so, when, on what basis and with what result?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. A report was received from the Standing Committee on Pre-school Child Development on State-subsidized day-care services in November, 1977. The standing committee set up a sub-committee which included representatives of certain day care centres to fully investigate and report upon conditions and requirements within day care centres, having particular regard to staff ratios and funding arrangements. I subsequently met with members of the Standing Committee on Pre-school Child Development and the sub-committee for discussions on the report.

2. Yes. A recommendation to increase the level of current subsidies to day nurseries was made to the Treasury on the 10th January, 1978. The matter is still under consideration.

FUNDING OF DAY NURSERIES.

(Question No. 1010)

Mr. LIND (Dandenong) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

In respect of the funding of day nurseries—

1. What progress, if any, has been made by State and Commonwealth officers towards reaching agreement on the funding of those nurseries which were established with Commonwealth capital grants?

2. Whether the Dandenong Day Nursery is to receive recurrent funding; if so, when this funding will commence, and at what rate per annum?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. Despite protracted discussions and the offer of the Victorian Government to share funding of all children's service programmes

(including day care) with the Commonwealth on a shared basis, no finality has been reached. The discussions have included the question of a block grant to the State for all children's services.

Accordingly, the Victorian Government is only prepared to make recurrent subsidies available to those day care centres where a State capital grant has been made towards establishment costs. In view of the uncertain future funding of Commonwealth sponsored day care projects, Victoria is not prepared to offer recurrent assistance to those centres which have been established with Commonwealth funds.

2. The Dandenong Day Nursery receives direct Commonwealth Government recurrent funding under the provisions of the Child Care Act. No State funds are involved.

FRANKSTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL.

(Question No. 1011)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether the Minister or his officers are aware of reports that patients are being turned away from the Frankston Community Hospital because of lack of space; if so, how many patients have been so affected in the past three months and what proposals the Hospitals and Charities Commission has to overcome the difficulty?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The Minister is aware of the situation at the Frankston Community Hospital. Records show that for the three months from February to April, 1978, 80 patients could not be admitted for elective surgery because beds were not available and that 85 patients were transferred from casualty to other hospitals.

The proposal is to erect a 30-bed temporary ward, if funds are available. It is envisaged that this could take some six months to construct.

PROPOSED QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, CLAYTON.

(Question No. 1012)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect to the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital at Clayton, what are the dates on which—(*a*) town planning permits have been—(i) sought; and (ii) granted; (*b*) plans—(i) have been commissioned; and (ii) are to be completed; (*c*) tenders for construction are to be—(i) opened; and (ii) closed; (*d*) construction is to—(i) commence; and (ii) be completed; and (*e*) patients are to be admitted for the first time?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

(*a*) (i) A town planning permit was sought on 4th May, 1976.

(ii) Notice of determination was dated 18th August, 1976, (subject to an appeal which was subsequently withdrawn).

(*b*) (i) 5th December, 1977.

(ii) Due to restricted funding, documents will not be completed beyond schematic stage, approximately March, 1979.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*). Due to the uncertainty of future funding, these questions cannot be answered at the present time.

McCULLOCH HOUSE PROJECT, BURWOOD.

(Question No. 1013)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of the McCulloch House project in Warrigal Road, Burwood, what are the dates on which—(*a*) town planning permits have been—(i) sought; and (ii) granted; (*b*) plans—(i) have been commissioned; and (ii) are to be completed; (*c*) tenders for construction are to be—(i) opened; and (ii) closed; (*d*) construction is to—(i) commence; and (ii) be completed; and (*e*) patients are to be admitted for the first time?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

(*a*) (i) and (ii). No town planning permit has yet been sought.

(*b*) (i) and (ii). Architects were appointed on 8th May, 1978, but documentation has been withheld until the allocation of funds in the State Budget is known. Sketch plans could be completed in approximately twelve months

(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*). Due to the uncertainty of future funding, these questions cannot be answered at the present time.

LICENSED DENTAL TECHNICIANS COURSE.

(Question No. 1014)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Whether a course of training for licensed dental technicians has been set up as contemplated under the provisions of section

21 of the Dental Technicians Act 1972; if not —(a) when it is expected that the course will be established; (b) how many licensed dental technicians will be able to attend the course each year following establishment; and (c) what provisions will be made for those persons who have all the qualifications required under section 21, but are to be excluded from the course following establishment because of limitations in numbers?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

No. The clearance of funds for the establishment of a training course for advanced dental technicians is listed for consideration in conjunction with the preparation of the 1978-79 Budget.

CRIMINAL HISTORIES.

(Question No. 1015)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether information concerning criminal histories is furnished by the Police Department to any persons other than members of the Police Force; if so—(a) to which members of what Government departments or public authorities; (b) to which private organizations; and (c) to which private individuals?

2. What conditions, if any, apply to the supply of such information?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. (a), (b) and (c) Information in relation to the criminal histories of persons is made available by the Police Department to nominated officers of other police forces and Government law enforcement agencies which are responsible for the initiation of action against persons who are alleged to have committed breaches of laws administered by such organizations.

In addition information is provided to nominated officers of certain Government agencies and private organizations, where there is a particular need for security in respect of applicants for employment.

I do not consider that it is appropriate to name the organizations concerned or the officers nominated to receive such information.

Information is also provided in relation to applicants for the issue of licences of various types. The requests for the information usually emanate from Magistrates' Courts which are dealing with the applications for the issue of particular licences. The information is provided to the clerk of the court concerned.

2. With respect to the information concerning criminal histories provided to other police forces and Government law enforcement agencies, it is a prerequisite that such organizations demonstrate that the information sought is essential to the effective performance of their respective functions. Where information is provided in relation to an applicant for employment, the Government agency or private organization concerned is, in most instances, required to furnish, as a prerequisite, a written authority from the applicant, authorizing the supply of the information to a nominated officer of the agency or organization.

ESTATE AGENTS ACT.

(Question No. 1016)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Minister of Special Education, for the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether the Minister is aware that the definition of "small business" in the Estate Agents Act 1958 is related to the sale price of a business not exceeding $30,000?

2. Whether the Minister will take steps to amend the definition to ensure that categories of businesses which fall within the 1958 definition continue to fall within the provisions of the Act, and, in particular, section 34 of the Act?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

1. Yes.

2. The provisions of the Act are currently under review. This matter will be considered as part of the review.

MEAT INSPECTORS.

(Question No. 1017)

Mr. HANN (Rodney) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

In relation to premises licensed under the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry Export Meat Regulations—

1. How many meat inspectors and veterinary officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture are stationed at these premises?

2. What duties these meat inspectors and veterinary officers perform?

3. How much overtime, in both hours and amount of money paid, was worked by these meat inspectors and veterinary officers in supervising the slaughtering of diseased animals outside normal working hours?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): The answer is—

1. The number of Victorian State meat inspectors stationed at the nineteen licensed export works totals 44. There are no veter-

inary officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture stationed at export meatworks.

2. The Victorian State meat Inspectors duties include—

(i) Inspection at primary meat inspection positions;

(ii) offal room inspection duties;

(iii) final inspection positions on sheep rails;

(iv) inspection and branding of export meat transferred to the local market;

(v) responsibility for compensation claims and collection of laboratory specimens;

(vi) responsibility for the supervision of monitoring systems;

(vii) responsibility for the registration and cleanliness of meat transport vehicles;

(viii) supervising emergency slaughter of animals.

3. Separate statistics are not kept in relation to overtime worked for purposes of emergency slaughter by State meat inspectors in export works. An analysis of the period January–April 1978 shows that the number of hours worked overtime in emergency killing in these works totalled 80·94 hours. The amount of overtime paid to inspectors was $1,690.28. Overtime fees, as prescribed in the abattoir and meat inspection regulations, are charged to operators for this service.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

(Question No. 1018)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of—(*a*) medical officers and related medical positions; and (*b*) dental officers and related dentist positions in the Department of Health—

1. How many positions exist, specifying their designation, whether they are permanent or temporary, and whether they are currently filled?

2. Whether applications have been made to the—(*a*) Treasury; and (*b*) Public Service Board, for additional staff; if so, what staff, and with what result?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1A. Department of Health

(*a*) Medical officers and related medical positions.

FIRST DIVISION

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
1	Chief Health Officer	1	..
1	Deputy Chief Health Officer	1	..
1	Assistant Chief Health Officer (Community Services)	1	..
1	Assistant Chief Health Officer (Public Health)	1	..
1	Chief Industrial Hygiene Officer	1	..
1	Health Officer (Venereal Diseases)	1	..
2	Senior District Health Officer	1	1
6	District Health Officer, Grade I.	5	1
1	Industrial Hygiene Medical Officer, Grade I.	1	..
1	Medical Officer, Poliomyelitis	..	1
1	Supervising Medical Officer, Special Health Services	1	..
1	Supervising Medical Officer, Prisons Medical Service	1	..
1	Co-ordinator, Community Health Projects	1	..
2	Senior Medical Officer	2	..
1	Government Medical Officer	1	..
1	Chief Health Education Officer	1	..
*1	Medical Research Officer (Road Safety)	..	1*
1	Deputy Director of Tuberculosis	..	1
5	Clinical Tuberculosis Officer	5	..
3	Tuberculosis Officer	2	1
2	Medical Superintendent, Sanatoria	1	1
1	Director of Child Health (Medical)	..	1
2	Superintending School Medical Inspector	2	..
1	Director of Maternal and Infant Health	1	..
1	Assistant Chief Health Officer (Child Health)	1	..
40		32	8

* In vacancy of Medical Research Officer (Road Safety) two sessions per week are currently worked.

SECOND DIVISION

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
67	Medical Officer, Class " MO–1 "	31 full-time 24 part-time	12 ..
1	Senior Medical Officer, Venereal Diseases Clinic	1	..
1	Industrial Hygiene Medical Officer, Class " MO–2 " ..	1	..
1	Senior Medical Officer, Thoracic Unit, Class " MO–2 " ..	1	..
5	Assistant Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, Class " MO–2 " ..	5	..
1	Senior Medical Officer (Pathology), Class " MO–2 " ..	1	..
1	Senior Medical Officer (Heatherton), Class " MO–2 " ..	1	..
6	Senior Medical Officer, Class " MO–2 "	5	1
1	Senior Health Education Officer, Class " MO–2 "	1	..
84		47 full-time *24 part-time	13

* Of the 24 positions " filled " by part-timers total amount of employment is equivalent of 19 three-fifths medical officers full-time, and 4 two-fifths vacancies.

TEMPORARY POSITIONS

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
8	Consultant Physician	6	2
1	Consultant Paediatrician	1	..
1	Consultant Laryngologist	..	1
1	Consultant Radiologist	1	..
9	Visiting Physician	6	3
1	Health Officer	..	1
1	Medical Officer, Allambie	1	..
22		15	7

Note: All temporary positions are authorized for less than full-time use.

EXEMPT POSITIONS

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
2	Consultant Paediatrician (4 sessions per week)	1	1
1	Opthalmologist (4 sessions per week)	..	1
1	Consultant Paediatrician (3 sessions per week)	..	1
1	Consultant Paediatrician (2 sessions per week)	..	1
4	Medical Officer (full-time)	$\frac{1}{10}$	$3\frac{9}{10}$
1	Medical Consultant (up to 150 sessions per annum) ..	1	..
1	Consultant Surgeon (5 sessions per week)	1	..
1	Director of Tuberculosis	1	..
1	Tuberculosis Officer (half-time)	1	..
1	Medical Officer (three-fifths' time)	1	..
*14			

Note: Positions are authorized only to the extent detailed above and filled accordingly.

(*b*) Dental officers and related dentist positions

FIRST DIVISION

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
1	Director of Child Health (Dental)..	1	..
2	Senior Superintending Dental Officer	2	..
3		3	..

SECOND DIVISION

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
1	Principal, Dental Therapy Training School, Class "DO–3"	1	..
1	Vice Principal, Dental Therapy Training School, Class "DO–2"	1	..
2	Superintending Dental Officer, Class "DO–3"	2	..
9	Senior Dental Officer, Class "DO–2"	3	6
1	Orthodontist, Class "DO–2"	1	..
7	Area Dental Officer, Class "DO–2"	2	5
1	Senior Dental Officer, Class "DO–2"	..	1
48	Dental Officer, Class "DO–1"	32	16
70		42	28

EXEMPT POSITIONS

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
1	Dental Officer (4 sessions per week)	2 sessions	2 sessions
1	Dental Officer (4 sessions per week)	..	1
2		..	..

1B. Mental Health Authority
Medical officers and related medical positions.

PERMANENT

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
1	Chief Medical Officer	1	..
1	Chief Clinical Officer	1	..
1	Inspector	1	..
1	Deputy Chief Medical Officer	1	..
1	Director of Mental Retardation Services	1	..
30	Psychiatrist Superintendents	27	3
1	Director of Postgraduate Studies	1	..
1	Director of Research	1	..
1	Director of Surgical Services	1	..
1	Pathologist to the Authority	1	..
1	Deputy Director of Postgraduate Studies	1	..

PERMANENT (continued)

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
1	Co-ordinator of Psychogeriatrics	1	..
1	Superintendent (Medical) Janefield Training Centre	1	..
81	Consultant Psychiatrists	58	23
2	Consultant Pathologists	2	..
1	Consultant Neuro-Pathologist	..	1
2	Consultant Physicians	..	2
2	Consultant Geriatricians	1	1
1	Consultant Surgeon	..	1
4	Consultant Paediatricians	3	1
1	Consultant Neuro-Surgeon	1	..
41	Psychiatrists	32	9
2	Paediatricians	2	..
1	Neurologist	1	..
1	Medical Officer-in-Charge Surgical Unit	1	..
1	Medical Officer Paediatrician	..	1
8	Senior Medical Officers	5	3
114	Junior Medical Officers	112	2
1	Surgical Registrar	..	1
305		257	48

TEMPORARY

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
1	Psychiatrist Superintendent	..	1
1	Consultant Psychiatrist	1	..
2	Psychiatrists	2	..
4		3	1
Total 309		Total 260	Total 49

Dental officers and related dental positions.

PERMANENT

Number	Designation	Filled	Unfilled
5	Dental Officer, Class "DO–2"	5	..
3	Dental Officer, Class "DO–1"	3	..

2A. Department of Health Medical Staff.

Treasury clearance has been granted for the creation of a position of senior district health officer. Creation is now being sought from the Public Service Board.

In respect of dental officers positions, two clearances are held for Dental Officer, Class "DO-1". The duties of these two posititons are those of demonstrator to dental therapy students and Public Service Board recommendation of creation will not be necessary unless the number of second year students reach 55 (first position) or 60 (second position).

2B. Mental Health Authority Medical Staff.

Treasury clearances for the undermentioned positions for community mental health services have been received, and Ministerial approval is now being sought for the creation of these positions—

3 x consultant psychiatrists
1 x psychiatrist
2 x medical officers.

SCREENING OF REFUGEES.

(Question No. 1019)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of refugee screening—

1. How many doctors and nurses have been taken off other duties to attend to refugees, specifying which activities have been affected?

2. Whether doctors have had to be taken off the school medical service; if so, how many and for what period of time?

3. Whether his submissions to the conference of State Ministers of Immigration has had any positive result; if so, what result?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. During the period from October, 1977, the screening and medical care of refugees by officers of the Department of Health has required the equivalent of one-third of a medical officer's time, nine-tenths of a visiting public health nurse's time (plus 190 hours of overtime) and one-third of one visiting tuberculosis nurse's time.

2. Doctors employed in the School Medical Service have been involved to a total of five medical officer days during the current year in screening refugees.

3. No positive result to this stage.

HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

(Question No. 1021)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Further to the answer to question No. 8 given on 9th May, 1978, which works were funded at each hospital?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Principal works funded during 1976–77 were as under—

Hospital/Works

Bethlehem Public Hospital—Alterations and extensions.
Caulfield Hospital—Physiotherapy Department renovations; Rehabilitation Centre, Ward 5 alterations; P.A.B.X. system; Hostel block.
Mercy Maternity Hospital—St. Francis Nurses Home.
Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne—Minor works; equipment.
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital—Stage 6; stage 7.
Royal Women's Hospital—West wing; Kathleen Syme Education Centre.
Alfred Hospital—New ward block; roadworks; emergency power; minor works.
Austin Hospital—Kitchen and tray service; kitchen contract stage 2; Hospital stage 2; minor works.
Box Hill and District Hospital—Sparks Block 5th floor, pathology and physiotherapy.
Dandenong and District Hospital—South block, stage 3; central boiler plant.
Essendon and District Memorial Hospital—West Wing Ward; new hospital.
Fairfield Hospital—Covered way and solarium; nurse training unit.
Maroondah Hospital—Stage 1; stage 2.
Moorabbin Hospital—Stage 1; stage 2.
Mordialloc–Cheltenham Community Hospital—Operating theatre, kitchen and boiler house.
Preston and Northcote Community Hospital—Radiology department extensions; intensive care ward extensions.
Prince Henry's Hospital—Renovations ward 10w; fire precautions; lift alterations; pharmacy alterations; out-patients; boiler flues; ward renovations fourth floor.
The Queen Victoria Medical Centre—J Block; casualty and out-patients extensions; Clayton–Burwood project.
The Royal Melbourne Hospital—Out-patients department, 5th, 6th, 7th floors; remodelling ground floor out-patients; medical records.
Southern Memorial Hospital (Caulfield)—New ward block; diet kitchen and kosher kitchen.
Sunshine and District Community Hospital—New hospital; 40-bed ward alterations—existing hospital.
St. George's Hospital—John Heale Wing; central services block.
St. Vincent's Hospital—Bolte Rehabilitation Centre; open heart surgery; extensions and alterations to X-ray department.
Western General Hospital (Footscray)—New out-patients department; hospital extensions and master plan; radiology department; refrigeration plant.
The Williamstown Hospital—Berkburn Nurses' Hostel.

Ballarat and District Base Hospital—Services block and intensive therapy unit; medical services block; minor works.
Bendigo and Northern District Base Hospital—Operating theatre and ward block Stage 1.
The Geelong Hospital—West wing; Baxter House air-conditioning; nurse education centre; hospital development; psychiatric unit.
Hamilton Base Hospital—South east wing.
Mildura Base Hospital—Children's ward; electrical sub-station.
Gippsland Base Hospital (Sale)—Medical services wing.
Mooroopna and District Base Hospital (Goulburn Valley)—Stage 3, pathology department.
Wangaratta District Base Hospital—Obstetric-paediatric wing; minor works.
Warrnambool and District Base Hospital—Marcus Saltan House; minor works.
Wimmera Base Hospital—Pathology Department; day hospital stage 2; minor works.
Central Gippsland Hospital—Day hospital; re-roofing nurses home.
Colac District Hospital—Boiler house building; boiler house installation.
Echuca District Hospital—Camray Ward remodelling; day hospital.
Maryborough and District Hospital—Day hospital.
Frankston Community Hospital—Major extensions stage 1; temporary ward unit; minor works.
Numurkah and District Hospital—Stage 1 development; midwifery air-conditioning.
Portland and District Hospital—Food services and casualty entrance.
Swan Hill District Hospital—Stage 1 building development; day hospital.
Werribee District Hospital—Midwifery and stores addition.
West Gippsland Hospital—South wing; nursing home ward.
William Angliss Hospital—Redevelopment stage 1.
Manangatang and District Hospital—Hospital extensions.
Robinvale District Hospital—Alterations and extensions.
Alexander (Castlemaine)—North wing covered way; north wing.
Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged—North wing six floors above day hospital; kitchen extensions and equipment; staff amenities.
Bundoora Geriatric Complex—Establishment costs; minor works *re* new hospital.
Grace McKeller House—Percy Baxter Rehabilitation Block.
Kingston Centre—Stage 1.
Mount Royal—Fire protection.
Ovens and Murray Hospital for the Aged—New kitchen; new boiler plant; Ingram and Lawford wards.
Queen Elizabeth Geriatric Centre—Group laundry; fire precautions.
Royal Children's Hospital—South building extensions; school of nursing.
Wodonga District Hospital—Medical wing; kitchen and casualty.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES.

(Question No. 1022)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

Further to the answer to question No. 723, given on 4th May, 1978, on what basis the School Dental Therapy Scheme will be established in the Geelong and Bellarine areas in 1979, indicating—(*a*) what services will be provided during 1979 and in what locations; and (*b*) from which schools pupils will be treated during 1979?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

The development of the School Dental Therapy Scheme in the Geelong and Bellarine areas in 1979 will depend on progress in the construction of dental clinics and platforms for mobile clinics.

It is proposed that static dental clinics will be established in the following schools—

Corio South
Geelong East
Newcomb
Corio
Corio West
Northshore
Grovedale West
Bellaire

and platforms in the following schools for mobile dental clinics—

Bell Park North
Anglesea
Barwon Heads
Geelong North
Grovedale
Bell Post Hill
Herne Hill
Lara
Lara Lake
Norlane
Norlane West
Torquay
Belmont
Chilwell
Fyans Park
Geelong
Geelong West
Highton
Leopold
Manifold Heights
Newtown
Oberon
Oberon South
Montpellier
Point Lonsdale
Queenscliffe
Roslyn
Portarlington
Newcomb South
Rollins

It is not possible to indicate at this time which of these schools will be fully serviced in 1979.

COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGNS.

(Question No. 1023)

Mr. ROPER (Brunswick) asked the Assistant Minister of Health, for the Minister of Health—

Further to the answer to question No. 43 given on 2nd May, 1978—

1. Who are the members of the committee appointed to investigate and report on the current level of Government subsidy to municipal councils in respect of immunization campaigns?

2. What are the terms of reference of the committee?

3. When the committee was set up and when the first meeting was held?

4. When it is expected that the committee will report to the Commission of Public Health?

5. Whether a copy of the report, when available, will be made available to the member for Brunswick?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

1. Dr. G. Rouch—Assistant Chief Health Officer, Department of Health. Mr. A. McVeigh—Executive Officer, Department of Health. Mr. J. Busuttil—Assistant Accountant, Department of Health. Mr. R. Curley—Administrative Officer, Department of Health.

2. To review the subsidies payable to municipal councils in respect of infectious diseases and immunization programmes and report to the Commission of Public Health.

3. 18th October, 1977. 28th April, 1978.

4. It is anticipated that the committee will be in a position to report to the Commission of Public Health by the end of July, 1978.

5. Following presentation of the report to the Commission of Public Health a copy will be made available to the member for Brunswick.

SCHOOL STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT.

(Question No. 1026)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

In view of the widespread concern expressed by schools at the unsatisfactory staff establishment figures determined for 1978, whether he will seek the advice of individual school councils on establishment levels for 1979, based on need?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 11th September, 1978 as follows—

"First, I cannot accept your contention that there is widespread concern expressed by schools at the unsatisfactory staff establishment figures determined for 1978. Independent advice received from many school principals by the personnel areas of this department suggests that schools were better staffed than in previous years, and staffing arrangements to ensure that schools enjoyed a good start at the commencement of the school year were much improved on procedures used in the past. One of the main objectives of the 1978 staffing establishment scheme was to ensure that schools in greatest need received appointments through the staffing office of all staff to which they were entitled. In large measure this objective was achieved.

Under current staffing arrangements and planning, school principals are invited by all staffing officers to submit a case for special staff, based on need. For 1979, school councils who wish to provide information which would suggest that the school requires special staffing, are invited to provide this information to the school principal, who would take it into account when compiling the school's general staffing submission to the department. All staffing submissions from individual schools will continue to be independently assessed within the staffing office and staff will be apportioned to the respective schools according to the predetermined criteria for assessing special needs."

EDUCATION STAFF.

(Question No. 1028)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether he will ensure that staff absent from schools due to illness can be replaced by emergency staff irrespective of staff establishment levels?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 3rd August, 1978, that the revised emergency teacher regulations which have been in operation since 14th May are aimed at ensuring that the instruction and supervision of students can be fully maintained during the temporary absence of a teacher through illness. Where a school has teachers on staff in excess of the establishment these reserve teachers must be available to take the class of the absent teacher. In cases where reserve teachers do not possess similar teaching subjects to the absent teacher, the emergency employment of a particular subject specialist will be approved.

IN-SERVICE EDUCATION.

(Question No. 1031)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

1. What is the extent of funds provided by the Commonwealth Government for in-service education?

2. Whether he will give an undertaking that all schools will be able to employ replacement emergency staff for staff involvement in in-service education, irrespective of staff establishment?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

I advised the honorable member by letter dated the 11th September, 1978, as follows—

"1. During the 1976 calendar year $4,195,000 is available.

2. The emergency teacher regulations allow for teacher replacement for all staff within the school establishment who are involved in in-service education during normal instructional time. Where reserve teachers in excess of the establishment who satisfy the subject needs for the replacement are already available within the school they will be expected to take the classes of the absent teacher. In all other cases, emergency teachers can be employed to replace a teacher on an in-service activity."

TELEPHONE SURVEY OF LATROBE VALLEY RESIDENTS.

(Question No. 1038)

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

1. Whether his attention has been drawn to complaints made by many Latrobe Valley residents who claim that they have received telephone calls from persons identifying themselves as members of a survey team, and who ask questions about industrial relations and their attitude to the State Electricity Commission?

2. Whether the commission has been involved in a recent telephone survey of Latrobe Valley residents; if so—(*a*) why; and (*b*) whether he will lay a copy of the questions used by the telephone callers on the table of the Library?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

To my knowledge, and from inquiries I have made of the State Electricity Commission there have been no complaints about the public opinion survey in Gippsland.

The recent survey in Gippsland was carried out by Spectrum Research, 29 Drummond Street, Carlton. The State Electricity Commission commissioned Spectrum on 29th November, 1977, and the project was carried out in two phases—

(i) Group discussions, followed by

(ii) Telephone interviews.

The survey was completed in May, 1978.

The State Electricity Commission is currently undertaking a number of major activities in the Latrobe Valley and within the next few years will embark upon a series of new and major projects in that region.

The activities of the State Electricity Commission sometimes have far reaching effects on the population of Gippsland in general and of the Latrobe Valley in particular.

Because of current and planned activities, changing social attitudes and increased social awareness, it is inevitable that the population of Gippsland will be increasingly aware of, and concerned about the State Electricity Commission's activities.

The questionnaire used by Spectrum Research in their telephone interviews is available and will be laid on the table of the library.

URANIUM EXPLORATION.

(Question No. 1039)

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

Whether any permits have been given to companies to explore for uranium in the Wannon district; if so, whether he will provide a list of all property owners covered by the exploration permits and the name or names of the company or companies involved?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

There are no mineral exploration licences current for the Wannon district.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS.

(Question No. 1041)

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

Whether, in view of the State Electricity Commission's attitude and tactics, no formal financial arrangement concerning electricity supply has existed between municipal councils and the commission for nearly two years, despite the fact that the councils are the commission's best customers and last year purchased $92·265 million worth of electricity?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The answer is—

The financial arrangements between the State Electricity Commission and members of the AMEA are continuing on a provisional basis of which the councils have been kept fully informed.

VICTORIAN CHESS ASSOCIATION.

(Question No. 1043)

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough) asked the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation—

Whether he has considered a submission from the Victorian Chess Association for a grant to assist junior chess players to travel interstate and overseas for chess tournaments; if so, what consideration has been given to such submission?

Mr. DIXON (Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation): The answer is—

The Victorian Chess Association did not request any assistance in their 1977–78 application to the department for a grant to assist junior chess players to travel interstate and overseas to chess tournaments.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

(Question No. 1045)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Assistant Minister of Health—

With regard to the School Medical Service—

1. What is the current staffing establishment, by categories of staff?

2. What are the actual number of personnel appointed to each category?

3. What additional appointments are needed in order to provide a desirable level of service?

4. To what extent present staff were diverted to other responsibilities in the Department of Health during the current financial year and what was the impact on the service?

5. To what extent doctors and other personnel outside the service were requested to undertake duties on behalf of the service?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The answer is—

1. and 2.

	Establishment	Positions filled
Administrative–Clerical staff	7	(7)
(*a*) Administrative Officers		
viz. 1 x Class 'B'		
1 x Class 'C1'		
2 x Class 'C'		
3 x Class 'E'		
(*b*) Clerical assistants	8	(8)
viz. 1 x Grade II.		
7 x Grade I.		
(*c*) Stenographers	4	(4)
(*d*) Typists	3	(3)
(*e*) Messenger	1	(1)
Medical Officers		
Director of Child Health (Medical)	1	(—)
Superintending school medical Inspectors	2	(2)
Senior medical officers	5	(4)
Medical officers	54	*(40 4/5)
Medical officers—Early Childhood Development Complexes	4	1/10
Consultants	5	4

*This figure represents equivalent full-time medical officers.

	Establishment	Appointed
Nursing staff as at 6th June, 1978.		
State-funded—		
Permanent officers		
Sister in charge	1	1
Deputy sister in charge	1	1
Senior school nurse	3	3
School nurses	49	47½
Exempt—School nurse	5	5
Community Health-funded—		
Permanent officers—		
Senior school nurse	1	1
School nurse	9	9
Exempt—School nurse	72	46

3. To implement fully a vision-testing programme as recommended by the Consultative Council on Maternal and Child Health sixteen additional school nurses would be required and this matter is under consideration in the budgetary context. Similar consideration is being given to the appointment of an additional administrative officer at class "C1" level and a senior school medical officer to assist with the training of medical staff in developmental paediatrics, child health promotion activities and health education.

4. Most of the medical staff formerly occupied on pre-school and other duties under the direction of the Director of Maternal and Infant Health are now attached to the School Medical Service. Medical staff time still allotted for duty under the Director of Maternal and Infant Health represents the equivalent of 4·6 officers and one further half-time officer is engaged on duties with the Government Medical Officer.

During the financial year there was some diversion of staff for immunization and other duties associated with the arrival of refugees.

These other duties are all necessary and staff deployment must be determined by relative priorities. There was no major impact on the service provided to schools, although the availability of additional school medical officers through the ability to recruit suitable staff to existing vacancies would enable the School Medical Service to provide a more comprehensive coverage of the State.

5. One local medical practitioner provides a pre-school and school medical service under contract in the south-west region and one practitioner is engaged on a sessional fee basis in the north-east region. Nurses at Sunbury and Lakes Entrance community health centres are performing some school duties and similar arrangements have been made with centres serving St. Albans, Collingwood, Richmond and Caulfield if it is found that nursing staff from the School Medical Service cannot provide a full screening programme in those areas.

INTERNATIONAL FILM CENTRE.

(Question No. 1046)

Mr. SIMPSON (Niddrie) asked the Minister of the Arts—

Whether it is the intention of the Government to assist in the establishment of an international film centre at Port Melbourne; if so, whether any assurances of assistance have been given to any company involved in establishing this centre and, in that event, what is the name of the company and what was the nature of the assurances?

Mr. HAMER (Minister of the Arts): The answer is—

No.

FUNDS FOR DECENTRALIZATION PURPOSES.

(Question No. 1047)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Premier—

What amount was recently provided by the Commonwealth Government for allocation to areas of Victoria for decentralization purposes, indicating—(*a*) what areas; (*b*) what the respective allocations were for each area; (*c*) whether selection was restricted to such areas being able to cope with interest repayments due; (*d*) what interest charges were imposed; and (*e*) whether the Government has any proposal to assist such areas to meet such interest charges?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

In addition to its ongoing commitment of at least $5 million per annum to the Albury–Wodonga project, the Commonwealth Government, through the Decentralization Advisory Board, has recently provided finance for the following projects in Victoria—

(1) Morwell Industrial Estate—Shire of Morwell.

A loan of $270,000 at 9·5 per cent interest over five years (secured on the council's revenues) was made available to the Shire of Morwell for the industrial estate.

(2) Geelong Industrial Estates—Geelong Regional Commission.

(*a*) A loan of $738,000 at 9·7 per cent per annum for a term of ten years has been made available for the development costs of industrial estates; and

(*b*) A loan of $306,000 at 9·7 per cent has also been made available for a term of fifteen years for the construction of modular factories.

The Decentralization Advisory Board in its guidelines for the provision of assistance has laid down that projects will be assessed individually to determine the appropriate terms, and conditions of support including the amount of loan or grant, repayment period, effective interest rate. Commercial undertakings must be able to demonstrate prospects of long-term viability. The Government has no proposal to assist in meeting interest charges.

LINK FROM EASTERN FREEWAY TO TULLAMARINE FREEWAY.

(Question No. 1048)

Mr. REMINGTON (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. Whether a study is currently being carried out by the Country Roads Board into a proposed arterial link from the Eastern Freeway to the Tullamarine Freeway through North Fitzroy and along Park Street or Brunswick Road, Brunswick?

2. Whether he will give an assurance that such a road will not be approved without consultation and the consent of the municipal councils and residents concerned?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer is—

1. No.

2. Consultation will continue with local government where appropriate.

HOUSING COMMISSION LAND PURCHASE, WANGARATTA.

(Question No. 1049)

Mr. SIMPSON (Niddrie) asked the Minister of Housing—

Whether he will make available as soon as possible, at his office, the file pertaining to the Housing Commission purchase of 175 acres of land at Wangaratta during 1976?

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): The answer is—

Yes. The file will be available for inspection at my office, at a mutually convenient time.

ROAD ACCIDENT HOSPITAL ACCOUNTS.

(Question No. 1050)

Mr. REMINGTON (Melbourne) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What was the basis of charging hospital accounts for road accident victims prior to the establishment of the Road Accident Hospital Accounts Committee?

2. How much the committee and the Motor Accidents Board has paid in respect of hospital accounts since its inception in March, 1971?

3. What is the difference in total amount between the actual charges to the board and the committee and the normal medibank private or similar fund rate and what effect the latter formula would have had in the reduction in third-party insurance premiums to Victorian motorists?

4. Why Victorian motorists are called upon to make a higher contribution for hospital and medical services than other sections of the community, thus subsidizing the Commonwealth Government's reimbursement of hospital expenses?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): The answer is—

1. I am advised that, prior to the establishment of the Road Accident Hospital Accounts Committee, the committees of management of hospitals, in which persons injured in road accidents received treatment, were required to determine whether such persons were entitled to recover compensation or damages as the result of the accident. If such an entitlement existed the patients were charged fees as determined annually by the Hospital and Charities Commission. In general, such fees exceeded those which were applicable to patients who were not receiving treatment as the result of road accidents and who were obliged to pay their own hospital costs. If an accident occurred in circumstances which indicated that the injured person could not recover compensation or damages that person was required to pay the fees appropriate to public, intermediate or private inpatients. In cases where indigent persons were injured and unable to recover compensation or damages, the hospital accounts were usually written off or significantly reduced.

2. The Road Accident Hospital Accounts Committee commenced making payments to hospitals in relation to fees or costs associated with the treatment of persons who sustained injuries arising out of the use of a motor car, on 1st March, 1971. The liability of the Motor Accidents Board to make payments in respect of such persons commenced on 12th February, 1974. The total amount paid by the committee and board in respect of hospital accounts since their respective operations commenced, is $43,255,822.

3. Information which would enable accurate details to be provided is not readily available. However, based on a sample check of payments recently made to hospitals by the Motor Accidents Board, which are based on 80 per cent of the daily bed cost as determined for 1975–76, it has been estimated that an annual reduction in payments of $5,440,000 could result if the payments were based on 100 per cent of the fees which are applicable to public, intermediate or private patients.

In relation to compulsory third-party motor vehicle insurance premiums, based on the number of motor vehicles registered as at 31st December, 1977, the reduction of $5,440,000 would represent a saving of $2.86 per registered vehicle.

4. It is considered that in order to be equitable, when a person avails himself of a particular service that person should pay a fair and reasonable price for the service. It follows, therefore, that when a person is part of a particular section of the community, namely, motor car owners, he should be prepared to share in paying for the fair and reasonable collective cost of the provision of hospital and medical services to persons who are injured as the result of the use of motor cars by fellow motorists. If such costs are not met by the motoring community, the shortfall in the recoupment of expenditure on such persons by hospitals would have to be funded from general taxation. Such funding would be inequitable to the section of the community who do not own or drive motor cars and who, therefore, do not cause accidents which result in the hospitalization of other persons.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, September 13, 1978.

The SPEAKER **(Sir Kenneth Wheeler)** took the chair at 2.37 p.m. and read the prayer.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): Is the Premier aware of the grave charges levelled against him, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Planning, the Minister of Housing, the honorable member representing Nunawading Province and an honorable member representing Monash Province in another place, and other members of the Liberal Party by the honorable member for Westernport, in the document that was circulated and, indeed, tabled in this Chamber last evening? If the Premier is aware of those charges, will he cause an investigation to be made into them?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): A document was placed on the table by the honorable member for Westernport, but, in the true sense of Parliamentary procedure, it was not tabled.

Mr. WILKES: I wish to correct my statement, Mr. Speaker. The document was placed on the table by the honorable member for Westernport and removed by the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I have not seen the document. It is in the hands of the Leader of the Opposition and I now invite him to hand me a copy of it.

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! Yesterday, during question time, the standard of the conduct in this House fell to a low level. I appeal to honorable members to uphold the traditions of this House and treat question time as it should be treated.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): Can the Premier advise the House whether he has been able to arrange a date for a top-level conference about youth unemployment and, if so, what the date will be?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I have not yet received a reply from the Prime Minister to my proposal. I have indicated since then that Victoria is prepared to hold a conference anyway, to which all parties who can contribute something to this important topic will be invited. I am now awaiting a reply. If the reply is in the negative and the proposed conference is not possible, I have said that Victoria will conduct its own conference.

APPRENTICESHIPS.

Mr. BILLING (Springvale): Is the Minister of Labour and Industry able to provide the House with any details concerning the Victorian apprenticeship programme and the Government's intention of increasing the numbers of apprentices in this State?

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): I will be pleased to make available to the honorable member detailed figures regarding present apprenticeship numbers in Victoria. Victoria has been well ahead of any other State in the Commonwealth in employing apprentices, and record figures have been achieved at 30th June, 1978. It will be difficult to maintain that position, but the honorable member may rest assured that the Government, through the Industrial Training Commission, will do everything in its power to ensure that the maximum number of apprentices are maintained across the field, and particularly in those occupations that can be clearly identified as being in the greatest need of skilled tradesmen in the future.

ACCOMMODATION FOR COUNTRY STUDENTS.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura): Has the Minister of Education been able to arrange suitable accommodation for country students who wish to come to the metropolitan area for experience programmes or for any other purpose?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): Following discussions, a decision has been made to run a pilot scheme for accommodation on a rental basis rather than acquiring and equipping a property to provide the necessary accommodation with Education Department staff running it. Comparisons have been made between the two methods of providing accommodation and a recommendation has been made in favour of a pilot scheme, making use of existing boarding house and hotel facilities that can be obtained at a reasonably low cost. I hope to announce further details of the scheme shortly. Hopefully it will not be too long before the first batch of students from country schools will participate in a work experience scheme in an industrial undertaking in Melbourne.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

Mr. SIMPSON (Niddrie): Following the answer that the Minister of Housing gave me yesterday pertaining to the sale of houses by Oxford Homes Pty. Ltd. to the Housing Commission in Geelong and following the conversation I have had today with the Managing Director of Oxford Homes Pty. Ltd. I seek the indulgence of the House to ask the same question again in case the Minister did not fully understand the question that I put to him yesterday. The question was whether the Housing Commission has purchased or is in the process of negotiating purchase of homes in the Geelong area from a company called Oxford Homes Pty. Ltd. If so, will the Minister make available to honorable members in the Parliamentary Library the files on this matter?

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): Following yesterday's question I checked the Housing Commission records. The Housing Commission has purchased homes from Oxford Homes Pty. Ltd. That is not unusual knowledge. The commission is not presently negotiating with that company. Later today I will be seeking leave to add to these comments.

AMPLIFICATION FACILITIES IN CHAMBER.

Mr. REESE (Heatherton): I address a question to you, Mr. Speaker. What progress has been made with plans to improve the amplification, recording and broadcasting facilities in this Chamber?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): The first part of the honorable member's question refers to amplification of this Chamber. The wiring underneath the carpets and benches where honorable members are seated has been completed and possibly early in the New Year the speakers will be placed around the benches. I do not mean honorable members when I say "speakers". Hopefully this will be completed in time for the autumn session.

From time to time questions have been posed to me about broadcasting of Parliamentary sessions. I am not in favour of broadcasting all the sessions, but I am in favour of broadcasting question time. I must say that I was very much in favour of it until yesterday, and now I have grave doubts about it. However, I have replied to the first part of the honorable member's question in detail. In answer to the second part, I am in favour of broadcasting of the proceedings and I will be talking to the Leaders of the respective parties and hopefully a decision will be made in the New Year.

ACCOMMODATION FOR COUNTRY STUDENTS.

Mr. McINNES (Gippsland South): I address a question to the Minister of Labour and Industry following

his reply to the question asked by my colleague, the Deputy Leader of the National Party, of the Minister of Education regarding hostel accommodation for children from country areas. What efforts has the Minister taken to ensure that hostel accommodation is available to country people who are willing and able to take the apprenticeships that are available in the city but who are presently being denied that opportunity simply because no accommodation is available close to their work?

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): I do not have that particular information available at the moment but I will take steps to obtain it and make it available to the honorable member.

HOUSING COMMISSIONER.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale): The Minister of Housing will recall his meeting with Commissioner Vaughan on 31st May. Can the Minister, therefore, inform the House whether he prepared a letter of resignation for Mr. Vaughan's signature prior to or at that meeting? If so, why was this action taken by the Minister?

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): I recall a meeting on 31st May with Commissioner Vaughan. I prepared a letter which I invited him to sign. He did so. As to the latter part of the question, I thought I made it plain yesterday that there is a difference of opinion between us which is at present before the Supreme Court. Leave has been given by counsel acting for Mr. Vaughan for the case to be defended by myself and by the other parties concerned and I am not prepared to enter further into that matter.

BANKSIA STREET–BELL STREET LINK ROAD.

Mr. SKEGGS (Ivanhoe): Is the Minister of Transport in a position to indicate when the environment effect statement relating to the proposed Banksia Street–Bell Street link road will be available?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer to the honorable member's question is, "No", but I will obtain the information and ascertain when it can be made available.

BUTTERFAT.

Mr. JASPER (Murray Valley): I direct a question to the Premier. Because it is now three months into the dairy season, does the Government still intend meeting its previously announced commitment of guaranteeing the dairy farmers from 75 cents a pound butterfat to 80 cents a pound butterfat? How does the Government intend to comply with this commitment, and when will the details be announced?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The Government adheres to its announced policy. The exact details of the scheme depend in part on a further indication from the Commonwealth as to quotas for various factories. As soon as they are available, it will be possible to announce the details of the scheme.

GEELONG PUBLIC OFFICES.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North): I ask the Minister of Public Works: Is it a fact that car-parking facilities at the Geelong Public Offices do not meet the requirements of the Geelong City Council and that the Public Works Department now proposes to spend approximately $250,000 to buy additional parking space? If that is so, will the Minister advise what stage has been reached in the proceedings, where the land that it is contemplated purchasing is situated and when a decision will finally be made?

Mr. AUSTIN (Minister of Public Works): I have made arrangements to visit Geelong at a date to be fixed shortly. At that time I will look at

the matters raised by the honorable member and will be pleased to pass on the information.

SOUTH MELBOURNE ABATTOIR.

Mr. HANN (Rodney): Does the Minister of Agriculture recall advising the House during the autumn sessional period of Parliament that the South Melbourne abattoir was to be closed? Is it a fact that the licence was cancelled on or about 1st July this year, and is it further a fact that the Minister revoked that cancellation within a matter of days? If so, can the Minister advise why, and will he lay the files on the table of the Library?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture): I do not recall advising the House in the terms of the question. The South Melbourne abattoir is very old, and conditions are imposed on the licence issued to it. I have visited the abattoir to discuss with the operator how those conditions can best be implemented and how quickly. He has furnished the Abattoir and Meat Inspection Authority with plans of how he proposes to meet the conditions of the licence. I have no intention of placing the files in the Library.

HOUSING COMMISSION PROPERTY.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): I ask the Minister of Public Works: What price was received for the Housing Commission building situated at 179 Queen Street, Melbourne, and what is the rental of the new commission offices in Myer House? Further, has the Government leased back office space in the former Housing Commission building, and if so at what cost?

Mr. AUSTIN (Minister of Public Works): Because an answer to the question requires a considerable amount of detail, I ask the honorable member to place the question on notice.

PUBLIC LAND FOR GARDENS.

Mr. COX (Mitcham): In view of the award on Monday night by the Garden State Committee to the Nunawading City Council for its Garden Day, will the Premier bring this concept to the attention of appropriate Ministers, with a view to encouraging community groups to make use of public land for garden projects where such land is presently not required by Government bodies?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): This was a highly innovative idea by the City of Nunawading. It has worked extremely well and involved a considerable number of people, including children. I will do my best to make sure this is brought to the attention not just of Ministers but of local government because there is a great deal of available land which could be used for similar purposes.

BOOKS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg): Is the Minister of Education aware that many parents are objecting to certain types of books being introduced into secondary schools? One such book is *The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith*. If the Minister is aware that this type of literature is being introduced into schools, what action is the Education Department taking to supervise the matter?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): At various times I have received several complaints from parents about books that have been prescribed. However, as yet I have not had a complaint about that one. I have always taken care to ensure that the complaints are investigated carefully by senior officers of the department. In most cases I considered the complaints were not justified. In one or two cases I considered they were, and appropriate action has been taken.

WORLD TRADE CENTRE.

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora): I ask the Minister of Public Works if tenders have been called for the World Trade

Centre to be constructed by the Melbourne Harbor Trust. If they have been called, have they now been closed, and if they have been closed, who was the successful tenderer and at what price?

Mr. AUSTIN (Minister of Public Works): The answer to the first part of the question is that tenders have been called. The answer to the second part of the question is that no further decision has been made yet on those tenders.

DINGOES.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East): I ask the Minister of Lands: Is consideration being given to the protection of the dingo in Victoria? If so, with whom are discussions being carried out in respect of this proposal? What steps are being taken to seek the opinion of people most likely to be affected by such a degree of protection? Further, how does the Minister propose that a distinction is to be made between dingoes, dingo-crosses and other wild dogs?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): I shall deal with the latter part of the question first. There is no proposal to distinguish between them at all. It is true that two different groups within the community in Victoria—one of whom is the Dingo Foundation of Victoria, and I cannot recall the other—have been showing a great deal of interest in the question of, shall I say, the classification of the dingo—whether it is a dog or a species in its own right. People have expressed concern about the possibility of an alleged species of dingo known as the alpine dingo being placed in danger of extinction. I have had meetings in the honorable member's own electorate with doggers; it was not a public meeting, but one with officers of my department.

At Bairnsdale recently I called together all the doggers of the Lands Department and I had a fruitful discussion with them. From the point of view of their own experience and knowledge of the species and of the wild dog problem throughout the Alps, there has been an ongoing discussion between the Fisheries and Wildlife Division and the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board, purely to see that any suggestions that were being put forward were practicable, and certainly practicable from the point of view of protection for the grazing community. Those questions have not yet been resolved. There has been no decision to protect the dingo in this State. It is purely a matter of investigation.

POLICE STATION FOR CRAIGIEBURN.

Mr. PLOWMAN (Evelyn): I direct my question to the Chief Secretary. Having regard to the continued growth in the township of Craigieburn and having regard also to the increase in petty crime in that township and the difficulty involved in police administration to cover Craigieburn from the Broadmeadows district, can the Minister give the House any indication whether Craigieburn is being considered for a new police station, and would he give me details of the programme as proposed?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Would the Minister like the question repeated?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. PLOWMAN (Evelyn): My question is: Having regard to the continued growth of population in the township of Craigieburn, the increased rate of petty crime in the township and the difficulty of obtaining police coverage for the area from the Broadmeadows district, can the Chief Secretary advise me whether a police station is to be built at Craigieburn and, if it is not to be built at this stage, can the Chief Secretary let me know, either now or in writing at a later date, what programme is envisaged for the provision of a police station to cover the Craigieburn area?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): I am unable now to inform the honorable member whether a police station is contemplated in the area. I shall make inquiries and advise him of the situation. I am surprised to learn that there has been an increased incidence of crime in the area which requires urgent police assistance. I reiterate, I will examine the matter and advise the honorable member.

WORLD TRADE CENTRE.

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum): Can the Minister of Public Works advise the House whether tenders have been called for a computer at the World Trade Centre and, if so, can he give the name of the successful tenderer and the price of that tender and can the honorable gentleman advise whether any enabling legislation for the World Trade Centre has been introduced and passed by this Parliament?

Mr. AUSTIN (Minister of Public Works): As that question also requires a detailed answer, I ask the honorable member to put it on notice.

REGULATIONS UNDER THE LIQUEFIED GASES ACT.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell): Can the Minister for Minerals and Energy inform the House why the recommendation of the Ombudsman made in 1975 concerning the recruitment of staff to the then Mines Department for the drafting of regulations under the Liquefied Gases Act was not carried out by the Government and whether the draft regulations have now been completed?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): As I have indicated on previous occasions, the obtaining of staff to do the necessary drafting of regulations has been extremely difficult.

Mr. AMOS: For ten years?

Mr. BALFOUR: Yes, even over that period. As I have said before, one cannot just bring people in off the streets. Some of the officers of my department have been busily engaged in assisting in the drafting of regulations on a Commonwealth-wide basis.

I am pleased to advise the honorable member for Morwell that, hopefully, it will all be completed this month. The Premier has been rather generous to the department, which has been able to obtain some competent people, although one or two of the older employees—Mr. Buckley, in particular—have retired. However, the position is now rectifying itself and I hope that the entire matter will be cleared up by the end of this month.

SPEED LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong West): I direct a question to the Minister of Transport concerning the desire of members of the transport industry to have the speed limits for commercial transport upgraded to a level comparable with that in other States. The Victorian speed limits are considerably below the limits now operating in other States. I ask the honorable gentleman whether the opinions of the members of the inter-departmental committee examining this matter can be sought so that some finality can be reached.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): I should like to be able to assist the honorable member, but I believe the matter to which he refers should be dealt with by my colleague, the Chief Secretary. As honorable members will no doubt appreciate, as the Chief Secretary has had considerable experience in the transport portfolio, I am sure he will give sympathetic consideration to the matter.

EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I direct a question to the Minister of Special Education and refer to the undertaking given by his predecessor, the previous Assistant Minister of

Education, that the Government would take full responsibility for the education of all handicapped children by the end of 1978. This undertaking was given some years ago.

I ask the Minister whether this earlier financial commitment will be kept by the Government or whether a revised time-table has been set down, and if so, what it is.

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): I am aware of certain statements made by my predecessor which have been drawn to my attention from time to time. The question relates to one's interpretation of the words "full responsibility". It should be clearly stated that the oldest "child" currently undertaking special education is in his 60s. A number of persons in their 40s and 50s are also being given special education. There is a wide range of age levels amongst the pupils who are receiving education, both formal and continuing, and the Government is meeting its responsibilities wherever it can.

The Government, being aware of its responsibility to provide continuing education for those who have passed the end of their sixteenth year in formal education in special schools, has established a Special Education Authority under the chairmanship of Mr. Arnold Kopp, O.B.E., D.F.C., and that authority is to provide work education for the handicapped.

It has brought together representatives of the Trades Hall Council, the Commonwealth, industry, the Technical Schools Division and the Special Services Division of the Education Department, and has been entrusted with that responsibility.

A number of continuing education centres and evening classes for the handicapped are in existence in Victoria and indeed, the operation has attracted the attention of the Polish and United Kingdom Governments which have received information about it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): The honorable member for Westernport wishes to make a personal explanation, and that has been cleared by me. The honorable member discussed it with me in my chambers before the House sat. I call the honorable member for Westernport, and ask him to speak within the guidelines laid down in this discussion.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): Unfortunately, on the ABC news this morning it was stated that last night the document that I tabled in the House was later handed by me personally to the Leader of the Opposition. This was not so.

Mr. WILKES: That is true.

Mr. JENNINGS: Last night I placed that document on the table and returned to my seat, after which, some minutes later, the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs took it into his head to take control of the Chamber and returned that document to this bench. It lay on the bench for some minutes. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition came over and said, "As far as the Labor Party is concerned, that document was tabled", and took the document.

At no time after I had tabled that document did I touch it physically.

PETITIONS.

MERBEIN–YELTA RAILWAY LINE.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that the House ensure that the Merbein to Yelta railway line be preserved to service the grain handling facilities planned by the Australian Wheat Board, grower co-operatives and the Grain Elevators Board. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 73 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

MOTOR VEHICLE CHARGES FOR PENSIONERS.

Mr. GINIFER (Keilor) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that action be taken to reduce car registration, insurance and licence fees payable by pensioners. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 350 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

On the motion of Mr. GINIFER (Keilor), it was ordered that the petition be taken into consideration next day.

NORADJUHA–BALMORAL–HAMILTON RAILWAY LINE.

Mr. McCABE (Lowan) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that the House do ensure the continuation, maintenance, and upgrading of the Noradjuha–Balmoral–Hamilton railway line as the direct route to the port of Portland. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 3,193 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

LIQUOR PERMITS.

Mr. McCABE (Lowan) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that liquor facilities be not extended to universities and other tertiary institutions, theatres and cinemas, licensed restaurants, retail bottled liquor outlets, hotel and club bars and bottle departments on Sundays and that legislation be introduced to curtail the availability of alcoholic liquor. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 29 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

HEALTH CARE.

Mr. EBERY (Midlands) presented a petition from certain citizens of the State of Victoria praying that, in view of the Commonwealth Government changes in health care, the House will ensure that the Government will—

1. Make strong representations to the Commonwealth Government for the retention of bulk billing for all patients who desire it.

2. Make strong representations to the Commonwealth Government for sufficient funding to enable the satisfactory continuation and development of health care.

3. Take no action in this State to disrupt the successful existing system of health care.

4. Acknowledge the need in our community for the preventative medicine and ancillary services provided and planned for the future, by the Golden Square–Kangaroo Flat Community Health Centre.

5. Guarantee that the range, quantity and quality of medical and supportive services provided by the centre be maintained and expanded according to need.

6. Guarantee that no charges be levied for health care checks, such as diabetes, hypertension, glaucoma and ancillary services.

He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 215 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

PAPERS.

The following papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid on the table by the Clerk—

Parliamentary Officers Act 1975—Department of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly House Committee—Statement of Appointments and Alterations of Classifications. Statement of persons temporarily employed.

Town and Country Planning Act 1961—

City of Horsham Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 35.

Club Terrace Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 3.

Eildon Reservoir Planning Scheme 1959, (Shire of Mansfield), Amendment No. 19, 1976.
Shire of Korumburra Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 12, 1977.
Shire of Lillydale Planning Scheme 1958, Amendment No. 110.

TABLING OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): In view of the interest of the Premier on the subject, I should like to move, by leave—

That the document entitled "Personal explanation to the Parliament of Victoria" by Mr. D. B. Jennings, honorable member for Westernport, do lie on the table of the Parliament.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I ask the honorable member who is in possession of the document to now lay it on the table.

Mr. FORDHAM: I certainly do not have a copy of the document. I should think that the honorable member who endeavoured to take this very action yesterday would be only too willing to produce the document for the House, and he obviously should be asked to do so.

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballarat South): On a point of order, how can the honorable member ask leave of this House to lay on the table a document that he does not have?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): I would like to know who is in possession of the document. The motion has been agreed to by the House. If the document is not produced by the person who has it, that person is in breach of the order of the House.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): I am quite prepared to lay an exact copy of the document on the table.

The SPEAKER: Is the document that the honorable member is now prepared to lay on the table the one that was produced yesterday?

Mr. JENNINGS: I have a copy of the same document that was placed on the table of the House last night. In fact, I have a number of copies which I can make available to any member of the Liberal Party desirous of having one.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): On a point of order, this motion asks for the tabling of a document, namely, the one which lay on the table briefly yesterday, and honorable members have already heard from the honorable member for Westernport that that document was taken by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. WILKES: And photostated.

Mr. HAMER: And photostated, too. The motion must relate to that document which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition now says he does not have and I call on him to find it and table it in this House.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): The Government members are a little sensitive on this subject.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): It does not matter who is sensitive. In this particular situation I am a little sensitive. I have given a ruling that the document referred to should and must be the document that was laid on the table for the convenience of members yesterday and that is the ruling of the House. I intend to call on the next business of the House and leave the tabling of that document to the good sense of the honorable member in whose possession it is, but it must be the document that was laid on the table yesterday.

APPROPRIATION (1978–79, No. 1) BILL.

Budget Debate.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of the Appropriation (1978–79, No. 1) Bill and transmitting Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1978–79.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer), pursuant to Standing Order No. 169, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to appropriate certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year 1978–79 and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this session of Parliament and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I bring before the House today the Budget for the financial year 1978–79.

For the seventh successive year it is my privilege to place before Honorable Members the detailed Estimates of the Consolidated Fund and to outline the Government's financial programme for the coming year.

The highlights of the 1978–79 Budget are—

Substantial reductions in land tax.
Further reductions in pay-roll tax through increased exemptions.
Maximum effort to maintain Government works programmes.
Strict economy in departmental spending.
Further improvements to the public transport system.
Special provision for energy research and development.

The documents in the hands of Honorable Members indicate that the Consolidated Fund will be in balance overall for 1978–79, as it must be with the legislative framework for our accounting system.

In presenting the Budget for last year I estimated that there would be a deficit of $468,000 on the current account. In fact, as I announced recently, the result was a small surplus of $364,000. There were inevitably variations between the estimated and actual results on individual items but overall the Government has maintained close control over the budgetary situation. I will be dealing with the Railways position in some detail shortly but it is worth noting at this point that the Railways Board was successful in achieving an operating result slightly better than that predicted this time last year.

The preparation of the 1978–79 Budget has presented the Government with a particularly difficult task, and in framing it we have necessarily had regard to present conditions in the national economy and to the policies being pursued by the Commonwealth.

The Victorian Government fully supports the aim of the Federal Government to defeat inflation as a first priority, and commends the achievement of a much-reduced inflation rate of 7·9 per cent over last financial year. We accept that a high rate of inflation is itself a prime cause of economic stagnation and unemployment; it generates uncertainty and lack of confidence, and creates immense difficulty for fixed income-earners, small business, farmers and home-buyers. The reduction of inflationary expectations is a first essential step to economic revival, restored confidence and investment, and in this the Federal Government has had substantial success.

We also support a firm hold on expenditure in the government sector, the reduction of interest rates and the transfer of resources to the private sector, which provides three-quarters of the jobs. There is a widespread reaction in many parts of the world against Big Government and an increasing recognition of the limits which should, and must, be placed on government intervention in the lives of ordinary citizens

Under the previous Labor administration in Canberra the proportion of total Gross Domestic Product spent by government in Australia reached a totally unacceptable level. We welcome the efforts being made under the present administration to reduce this level, and the prospect of further limitation in future.

In successive Victorian Budges we have held tight control over Government expenditures and strictly limited the growth of Government employees. Last year I was able to report that the numbers on the departmental pay-roll had increased by only 0·3 per cent, well under the population growth rate. This year I am able to report that the numbers on the departmental pay-roll have actually declined from 121,150 last year to 120,950 this year.

Similar constraints have been imposed on other Government outlays, and will be even more strictly applied in this Budget.

We have at the same time in successive Budgets moved to reduce State taxation—for instance, by increasing the exemptions for pay-roll tax and gift duty, and by totally abolishing probate duty on assets passing within the immediate family. In this Budget we turn particular attention to the vexed question of land tax.

It is vital, however, that in imposing constraints on government spending, and in seeking to transfer resources to the private sector, it should not be overlooked that an important share of private sector economic activity in fact depends upon government contracts. This is particularly true of the building and construction industry, the largest and most pervasive secondary industry, representing 8 per cent of G.D.P., with wide ramifications through sub-contractors, suppliers, architects, transport operators and consultants. Some 30 per cent of this industry would normally look to Government as a source of its activity, and cutbacks in Government loan allocations and works programmes in real terms are therefore counter-productive as a means of stimulating the private sector. It is our firm view that the building and construction industry at this time needs the maximum stimulus that we can give it, and we shall direct our efforts, and marshal all our resources, towards maintaining the highest achievable works programmes and employment levels.

The three major objectives in this Budget are—

1. To restrain departmental expenditure, and to insist on strict economy and efficiency in all Government departments and authorities.
2. To reduce taxation, and limit increases in Government fees and charges, as far as possible.
3. To maintain a maximum works effort and to stimulate economic activity and employment in the private sector.

Constraint on expenditure has special significance for a State Government where, because of the nature of its responsibilities, a high proportion of its expenditure involves the provision of personal services. Some 60 per cent of our current account budget goes on direct wage and salary payments. In addition, the State supports local government and many organizations in the provision of important community services which have a higher labour content. Thus for a State Government fiscal restraint necessarily involves restraint on the size of the public pay-roll.

In the light of the developing budgetary situation for 1978–79, the Government, in May last, imposed staff ceilings on each department, and these will be maintained during the current financial year, save in urgent

and exceptional cases. However, it must be remembered that we are in the business of providing services which must be adequately staffed for the well being of the whole community. I assure the House that while there will be a tight control on numbers, there will also be a responsible approach to meeting essential needs in such basic areas as law and order, health, welfare and education.

We are insisting on the strictest economy in Government administration generally and tight restraints have been imposed on the operating costs of departments.

The total estimated expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in 1978–79 is $3,554·3 million, or 7·9 per cent over last year.

The Federal Treasurer in his Budget Speech last month placed great emphasis on the fact that Commonwealth outlays this year would increase by only 7·7 per cent. However, it must be made clear that nearly 40 per cent of what the Commonwealth defines as its outlays, which incidentally include the borrowings for the States under Loan Council programmes, are payments to the States, and these outlays will increase by only 5·2 per cent in 1978–79. Expenditure on Commonwealth outlays proper are to increase by 9·3 per cent and it is against this figure that the increased expenditure of 7·9 per cent from our Consolidated Fund should be judged.

For 1978–79 the total receipts of the Consolidated Fund are estimated at $3,554·3 million, or $259·4 million more than last financial year. The elements of this increase are as follows—

		$'Million
State sources—		
State taxes	79·1	
Other State sources	66·6	
		145·7
Commonwealth payments—		
Income Tax Sharing Entitlement	105.5	
Other Commonwealth payments	8·2	
		113·7
Loan Council allocation		Unchanged
A total increase of		259·4

Victoria's income tax-sharing entitlement for 1978–79 is estimated at $1,090·2 million. Under the income tax-sharing arrangements, each State is entitled to a specified share of an amount equal to 39·87 per cent of actual personal income tax collections in the preceding financial year. However, this is subject to the guarantee provision that a State will not receive less than it received in the previous financial year, nor will it receive less than it would have received if the previous Financial Assistance Grants formula still applied.

Total personal income tax collections in 1977–78 amounted to $11,804 million, which was $753 million less than the Commonwealth originally estimated for the year. Because of this shortfall the guarantee provisions apply and the tax-sharing entitlement for Victoria is $1,090·2 million in 1978–79. Thus for the second time under the New Federalism, each State's share of actual income tax collections, except for Queensland, is less than the guaranteed entitlement. Details of the calculations relating to income tax-sharing entitlements are set out at page 12 of the Budget Papers.

Other Commonwealth payments accounted for through the Consolidated Fund, apart from the works grant element of the Loan Council programme, are estimated to be only $8·2 million higher than in 1977–78. This reflects the Commonwealth Government's policy of maximum restraint on public spending. I will be referring to a number of specific purpose payments later. In order to assist Honorable Members with their assessment of the overall position in relation to Commonwealth payments to the State I have circulated a supplementary document which gives background information relating to the various amounts which will be paid to Victoria during the year and also provides references as to how these receipts are treated in the accounts of the State.

Total State taxation is estimated to increase by $79·1 million, or 7·1 per cent, to $1,193 million. This estimate reflects the full-year effect of the important concessions which were given in the last Budget in the State tax fields of probate duty, pay-roll tax and gift duty. If concessions in these areas had not been given our estimated taxation revenue would have been more than $70 million higher than we now expect for 1978–79. However, these concessions, which were made in accordance with the Government's policy of reducing tax burdens on the community as far as possible, are proving to be of material assistance to many individuals and small businesses.

The Government has given careful consideration to areas where further taxation concessions might be possible, consistent with the over-riding objectives of budgetary responsibility and with sound management of the State's financial resources.

LAND TAX.

The Government has had the matter of land tax very much before it during the past two years.

The new municipal valuations returned under the four year cycle in 1976 were available for land tax purposes in 1977, in respect of land held at 31st December, 1976. However, because of the magnitude of the increases in valuations, averaging 120 per cent, the Government decided to defer their introduction for a period of twelve months as part of its policy of reducing taxation as far as possible. Thus for three successive years from 1975 to 1977, there was no increase in land tax, because the same valuations were used, and the same tax rates applied. In view of the rapid inflation of those years the result was that in real terms land tax was effectively reduced.

In the last Budget the Government announced three further steps to mitigate the effects of the new higher property valuations. They were—

1. To increase the exemption level for residential properties from $15,000 to $27,500.
2. To index the land tax scales to compensate for the average movement in land values so as to remove the effect of progression in tax rates.
3. To apply an over-all rebate of 15 per cent.

The Government accepts that land tax has undesirable features, but it is part of the very limited tax structure of every Australian State and it is difficult to replace, particularly in current conditions.

However, the Government has thoroughly reviewed the whole land tax situation, and has decided that in accordance with its aim of reducing taxation, and in order to relieve some of the burden of land tax, it can responsibly make the following additional concessions which will benefit all taxpayers.

A completely new form of residential exemption will be introduced into the Land Tax Act effective from 1st January, 1978.

The present residential exemption is $27,500, reducing by $5 for every $1 of unimproved value over $27,500 so that it disappears at $33,000. Under this arrangement any land otherwise qualifying as residential land gets no exemption if the value exceeds $33,000.

The Government will now provide a complete exemption for the ordinary home block up to an unimproved value of $33,000. In all cases where the unimproved value of the residential land exceeds $33,000, there will be a straight-out deduction from tax of the amount applicable to $33,000. To qualify for this concession the land must be used exclusively by the owner as his principal place of residence. However, the existing requirement that the residential land be less than half a hectare in area will be removed, so that size will no longer be a disqualifying factor.

It is estimated that some 40,000 existing taxpayers will benefit from this exemption in respect of their 1978 assessments and that many will actually pay less than in 1977. In addition, some 50,000 residential landowners who may otherwise have been liable to pay land tax for the first time will either be wholly exempted or, where the value of the land exceeds $33,000, pay very small amounts of tax on the excess value over $33,000.

The cost to the Budget of this concession is estimated at $8 million in a full year. Because its operation will be retrospective to 1st January, 1978, the whole of this cost will fall on the 1978–79 Budget.

The Government has also completely revised the land tax rates scale itself with effect from 1st January, 1979. The 15 per cent discount operating in 1978 will be incorporated in the scale and the maximum rate of tax has been reduced from 4 cents to 3 cents in the $1, a reduction of 25 per cent, with consequential reductions in the tax scale.

The estimated cost to the Budget of these land tax concessions is $13 million this year and $21 million in a full year.

The ultimate overall aim of the Government is to abolish altogether Land Tax on land used as the principal residence of the owner.

PAY-ROLL TAX.

The Government proposes to increase the exemption from pay-roll tax again this year—by 10 per cent, which is greater than the rate of inflation. The new exemption level to apply from 1st January, 1979, will be $66,000 and that will reduce by $2 for each $3 increase in total pay-roll above that figure to a flat exemption of $29,700 at pay-rolls of $120,450 and above.

This is the fourth successive Budget in which the exemption from pay-roll tax has been increased. Over this period the exemption from pay-roll tax has more than trebled from $20,800 to $66,000 and some 10,500 small businesses have been freed of pay-roll tax, while the tax for all other employers has been reduced.

The estimated cost to the Budget will be 1·2 million this year and $2·9 million in a full year.

INSURANCE DUTY.

The Government proposes to amend the provisions of the Stamps Act which relate to the payment of stamp duty on certain classes of non-life insurance business but the rate of duty will remain unchanged.

The present provisions of the Act require companies to obtain an annual licence, operative from 1st January in each year. To obtain a licence a company is required to pay stamp duty at the rate of 7 per cent of the amount of premiums collected during the preceding calendar year. This payment is normally made in a lump sum during the month of May of the year to which the licence relates.

The present annual licence system has unsatisfactory features. For example, if a person paid a premium in January, 1978, he is making a contribution towards the insurance company's liability for stamp duty in respect of its licence for the 1979 calendar year and which would not become payable to the Government for a period of some 16 months. Also, if a company goes out of business it is not required to pay to the Government the contributions it has collected from its customers towards the duty which would otherwise be paid for the following year's licence.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: Why is that?

Mr. HAMER: They collect the stamp duty in one calendar year and pay that for the licence for the following year. That is how the system works and, as the honorable member has been alert to see, it had some unsatisfactory features.

The Government has therefore decided to abolish the licence system. Insurance companies will be required to register with the Comptroller of Stamps, to submit monthly returns and to pay duty at the present rate of 7 per cent on the amount of premiums collected in the preceding month. This will bring the collection system into line with the returns system already adopted in other stamp duty areas such as credit and rental business and hire purchase transactions.

Details of the new system will be explained when the necessary Bill is introduced into the House but the transition provisions will provide that the initial return under the new legislation will cover the period since the last annual licence fee was paid.

After taking the new land tax and pay-roll tax concessions into account, the estimated receipts of the current account sector of the Budget will be $5·5 million less than the estimated payments.

There are a number of ways in which the total Budget picture can be analysed and presented. In addition to the usual material included in the Budget Papers I am circulating a supplementary document for the information of Honorable Members which presents the Consolidated Fund transactions in National Accounts form consistent with the information published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Against the background of the over-all financial position which I have outlined, and the documents which have been circulated to Honorable Members, I turn to a consideration of the Works and Services Program and other important items which call for detailed treatment.

WORKS AND SERVICES PROGRAM.

As I indicated earlier the level of Government Works Programs for 1978–79 was held by the Loan Council at exactly the same level in money terms as for last year. This followed two successive years in which the Commonwealth Government was prepared to support only a 5 per cent increase in programs. These decisions have inevitably meant a serious reduction in the level of real works effort when increased costs are taken into account. However, the problem of framing the over-all works

program for the current financial year has been made even more difficult by the withdrawal of Commonwealth funds under the Hospitals Development Program and the reduction in the Commonwealth commitment in several other programs, such as Community Health and the School Dental Scheme.

Commonwealth payments for capital purposes in the education and urban public transport fields, which are taken into the Consolidated Fund and transferred to the Works and Services Account, are estimated at $64·6 million, an increase of $4·6 million over last year.

Taking all these factors into account, as well as the need to cover the expected shortfall of $5·5 million on the current account, the estimated appropriation from the Consolidated Fund to the Works and Services Account in 1978–79 pursuant to the provisions of the Public Account Act is $432·5 million.

In accordance with our policy objectives, these funds have been carefully allocated to provide the maximum level of work and employment in those sections of the building and construction industry which are heavily dependent on public sector contracts. The Government has also reviewed the level of the other public funds which may be applied to support works activity in the private sector to supplement our works program. Last financial year we committed $25 million of Treasury funds on a long term basis for on-lending through the banks to co-operative housing societies. The Government also provided interest subsidies to borrowers in lower income brackets to assist them in the initial years of home ownership. I recently announced a further long-term commitment of $30 million of available Government balances through co-operative housing societies with the twin objectives of assisting first home buyers to buy or erect new dwellings, and of stimulating the home building industry.

The new money borrowing approved by the Loan Council for semi-government and local government authorities each proposing to borrow over $1 million during 1978–79 is $382·6 million. The detailed allocation of this amount is given at page 26 of the Budget Papers, together with information on the out-turn of actual borrowings in 1977–78 by both semi-government and local government authorities.

EDUCATION.

The Budget provides a record total of $1,280·2 million for education, an increase of $82·5 million.

From State sources we will provide $1,139 million, an increase of $73 million. On the other hand, Commonwealth funds will increase by $9·5 million to $141·2 million, including $3·4 million of earmarked capital funds from last year. The reduction in the rate of Commonwealth funding this year has imposed extra burdens on State resources to maintain the necessary emphasis on education at a time when there is great pressure on all areas of State funding.

The Budget provides for expenditure of $799 million on education salaries. This covers the appointment of specialist teachers in particular areas of need and the staffing of new schools, within the over-all objective of maintaining our excellent pupil-teacher ratios. Education is by its very nature a labour-intensive activity and salaries account for 72 per cent of the total amount provided in the current account budget for Education. We have taken action to stabilise teacher numbers in relation to the over-all teaching task, particularly given the greater relative burden now being borne by the State.

There are now 52,000 teachers employed, a record number, and the current over-all pupil-teacher ratio in Government schools is now better than 13·5 to 1. The marked improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio over recent years has been an outstanding achievement. We have now reached a level where, faced with the prospect of further reductions in pupil numbers, the Government has had to give careful consideration to teacher training and recruitment. In 1977 the number of pupils in State Government schools was some 637,000. This year the figure is 633,000, a reduction of 4,000. For 1979 total pupil enrolments are expected to decline again. Accordingly, we have decided that complementary to the action that has been taken to stabilise schools, staffing standards, no new teaching studentships or scholarships will be made available in 1979.

The Education Department last year introduced a series of educational television programs entitled *You, Me and Education*, which is aimed at presenting in an informative and interesting way various aspects of education in Victoria. The Education Department is joined in sponsorship by the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority. The Government acknowledges the co-operation of the television stations GTV9 in Melbourne, BTV6 in Ballarat, where the series originated last year, and all country stations which are carrying the program. This year an additional $100,000 has been provided for the extension of these programs.

One area of special concern to the Government is the unemployment situation, especially amongst the young.

In today's world where the skills demanded of those entering the workforce are greater than ever before and job opportunities are tighter than at any time in the last thirty years, it is essential that the education system provides the basic training to equip young persons for their entry into the workforce. In Victoria we now have some 36,000 apprentices in training, the highest in our history and far ahead of other States. The education system has played a vital role by directing resources to the improvement of facilities for apprentice education and training. Also through our schools we have pioneered work experience programs and these will continue. Last year, through the co-operation of 226 schools and more than 5,500 employers, almost 11,500 students gained work experience. This year more are benefiting because additional technical and high schools are participating in the program. The estimated cost to the Budget in 1978–79 is $93,000.

To assist young people in the transition from school to the workforce the State has participated from the beginning with the Commonwealth Government in the Special Youth Employment Training Program. Last year positions were made available in State Government departments and authorities to train young people. This program was building up last year and the cost was $1·35 million. For 1978–79 2,000 young people will be trained and the cost is estimated at $2·6 million. Under the program young people who have been unemployed for four months or more will be eligible for four months of training in State Government departments and authorities, which will give them a better chance of obtaining a permanent job at the end of the training period.

Assistance to the independent schools system includes provision for increased *per capita* grants calculated on the basis of 20 per cent of the equivalent cost of educating a child in a Government school. For 1979 the grants will be $197 per primary pupil and $326 per secondary pupil. The total cost of these grants in 1978–79 is estimated to be $50·6 million.

Last year a scheme of Government guarantees for borrowings by independent schools for the provision of school buildings was instituted. To date 8 schools have received guarantees, or their applications are in course, involving total borrowings of $2·2 million.

As in previous years, funds have also been provided for interest subsidies on borrowings for school class-rooms by registered schools, and, following the Government's decision last year, borrowings by government schools for school purposes will also receive an interest subsidy. The total provision of funds for interest subsidies in 1978–79 covering both classes of borrowings is $890,000.

$107·2 million of State funds have been allocated from the Works and Services Account in 1978–79 for the education works program. The amount available from the Commonwealth will be $57·3 million, so that the total capital program will be $164·5 million.

This program is $6·8 million greater than last year and it necessarily reflects the very tight constraints operating on the capital resources available to the State in 1978–79. Nevertheless it does represent a substantial building effort. Major school building projects, each costing $500,000 or more, are due for completion this financial year at more than 50 schools. Included in this total are 30 projects each costing more than $1 million. Approval has already been given for 13 major school building projects to commence this financial year and tenders will be called on other projects as soon as possible. Under the T.A.F.E. scheme, major works are proceeding or planned for colleges or technical schools at Richmond, Box Hill, Newport, Preston, Collingwood and Dandenong.

Studies are under way of means of reducing the cost of school buildings, particularly by design innovations, which are also aimed to relate the provision of school facilities more closely to the longer term needs of the community.

In line with the Government's policy of giving increased responsibility to school councils the provision for direct grants to schools during 1978–79 has been increased to $38·4 million and a special provision of $1 million has been made in the works program to enable school councils to undertake minor projects on their own behalf.

Provision of $700,000 has been made for the Victorian Institute of Secondary Education, which is actively establishing its organisation in order to undertake its role following the cessation of the Victorian Universities and Schools Examination Board which is planned for 31st March, 1979.

The Government has legislated to establish the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission in accordance with the recommendations of the Partridge Committee of Inquiry. The Committee found that co-ordination, rationalisation and student enrolments in certain courses were major problem areas in post-secondary education. The new Commission has an important role in dealing with problems of this nature.

In the area of tertiary education the Commonwealth Government recently announced a change in policy whereby it would continue to accept financial responsibility for funding tertiary institutions but would not fund the bodies controlling those institutions. As a result the financing of the Victoria Institute of Colleges and the State College of Victoria from the beginning of the 1979 academic year has to be picked up by the State. The estimated cost in 1978–79 is $716,000 and arrangements are in hand for the amalgamation of the two bodies to achieve the maximum efficiency of operation.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The allocation from the Consolidated Fund for health services for 1978–79 is $562 million. Allowing for the use of funds available from the Hospitals and Charities Fund this provides for total expenditure on health services of $601 million. This is a substantial budgetary commitment and represents an increase of $58·5 million over last year's actual expenditure.

HEALTH COMMISSION.

The Health Commission of Victoria has been constituted and is expected to become fully functional before the end of the 1978 calendar year. The Government is confident that the Commission will exercise a close over-sight of all health activities and provide improved planning and co-ordination in those areas presently administered by the Hospitals and Charities Commission, the Mental Health Authority and the Department of Health.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

Payment from the Hospitals and Charities Fund towards the running costs of public hospitals, hospitals for the aged and other institutions are estimated at $290·6 million for 1978–79, an increase of $25·4 million over 1977–78. The major element of expenditure is the State's contribution towards the net operating costs of recognised hospitals and central services under the Commonwealth–State cost sharing arrangements. For Victoria, the Commonwealth and State Ministers of Health have approved a net operating cost budget for 1978–79 of $518·4 million, including an allowance for expected cost escalation. The State is required to contribute one half of this amount. The bulk of this contribution is to be paid through the Hospitals and Charities Fund but part is also provided by separate allocations to the Cancer Institute, to Heatherton and Fairfield (Exotic Diseases) hospitals, and by certain maintenance and equipment allocations met directly from the Works and Services Account.

Last year there was an emphasis on firm cost containment measures being undertaken by public hospitals. There has been a very good response by the hospitals to the need for operating economically and, by and large, they were able to achieve what was expected of them and live within their allocations. This was the result of tight expenditure control, close examination of all proposals to expand services, and the implementation of strict ceilings on hospital staffs.

The agreed budget for 1978-79 has been based on a continuation of cost containment efforts and further economies, together with rationalisation of hospital services. Staff ceilings will continue and close examination of all expansion proposals will be maintained. The Commonwealth is also concerned in these matters and is not prepared to fund operating expenditure on new or expanded hospital facilities or services until existing facilities and services have been reviewed. That review will occur in the course of Commonwealth–State discussions, which have already commenced, on a range of matters affecting hospital costs.

Expenditure through the Hospitals and Charities Fund also includes the State contribution towards the hospital arm of the community health program, subsidies to nursing homes and many other charitable bodies, the operating costs of which are not cost shared with the Commonwealth. These payments are estimated at $55·8 million, an increase of $9·1 million on last year. The payments include grants to a number of nursing homes

towards the cost of new services, including 154 new beds now opening or about to be opened at 8 country centres. Provision has also been made for grants to the Australian Red Cross Society to meet the cost of an evening shift which has been introduced at the Blood Transfusion Service, and $70,000 for " Operation Lifesaver " which has been strongly promoted by the *Age* newspaper for the replacement of blood plasma supplies lost in the recent fire at South Melbourne.

The Budget provides for capital allocations for the Hospitals and Charities Commission of $48·5 million for 1978–79—an increase of more than 30 per cent over last year. This has not been easy to achieve within the constraints applying on the Works Program but it has been necessitated by the Commonwealth's decision to terminate payments to the State under the Hospitals Development Program. The Commonwealth provided grants under that program of $27 million in 1975–76 and in 1976–77 but halved the figure in 1977–78 and completely withdrew from the program in 1978–79. Despite the fact that there was no increase in Loan Council programs, the State has made a special effort to maintain the level of hospital building activity and meet all commitments, and this will be recognized as a major achievement.

The approved hospital building program this year includes provision for continuation of major works in progress at the Austin Hospital, the Goulburn Valley Base Hospital, the Frankston Community Hospital, the William Angliss Hospital at Ferntree Gully, the Ballarat Base Hospital and the Sunshine Hospital and Health Services Complex. Work will also commence on the new Essendon and District Memorial Hospital for which the contract has now been let. Planning is proceeding for a new geriatric complex at Bundoora and construction will commence later in 1978–79.

MENTAL HEALTH.

The total provision for mental health services this year is $137·6 million, an increase of $11·4 million. This includes $13·2 million for the Works and Services program. The major new mental health facility to be brought into operation this year is the 60-bed psychiatric unit under construction at the Geelong Hospital, which is estimated to cost $7 million. Funds have been provided for the appointment of 115 staff to enable the unit to commence operations this financial year. Provision has also been made for the appointment of essential personnel at Warrnambool and Footscray Psychiatric Hospitals to permit new facilities completed at these hospitals to be brought more fully into service in 1978–79.

Approval has been given for the funding of a pilot course in Nursing Aide Training. This course will be established at Kew Mental Hospital and will enable an assessment to be made of the need for such courses on a larger scale.

The financial requirements of the increasing numbers of subsidised day training centres in Victoria continue to grow steadily. There are now 52 such centres and support towards their operating costs is provided through the Mental Hospitals Fund. The Fund also provides substantial transport subsidies for the conveyance of children to and from centres. The total provision for this support in 1978–79 is $7·5 million. This includes provision for staffing and transport for new centres at Nunawading, Broadmeadows, Moorabbin, Reservoir, Keilor/Essendon, Bacchus Marsh, Springvale and Werribee. An amount of $1·6 million has been provided in the Works and Services Program for capital grants on the established $4 to $1 basis to local groups who are prepared to marshal community resources to build facilities for new day training centres.

The Works and Services Program also includes provision for expenditure on the construction of new food service facilities at the Beechworth Mental Hospital and on the new 20 bed Acute Psychiatric Centre at Mildura, estimated to cost $1·5 million. Work is planned to commence later in the year on a new admission and early treatment unit at Royal Park.

Planning is well under way for the redevelopment of the Travancore Developmental Centre, in line with present day concepts of care and attention for mentally disturbed children at an estimated cost of $3 million.

SCHOOL DENTAL SCHEME.

Since 1973 the Victorian Government has participated with the Commonwealth Government in a scheme whereby all school children under the age of 15 years would be eligible to receive free dental treatment.

A Dental Therapy School building to train dental therapists for the scheme was commenced in 1974 and the first intake of 60 students occurred in February, 1976. The first graduates commenced work at the start of the 1978 school year in dental clinics at schools or, where the school enrolment does not justify a clinic, in mobile dental surgery caravans.

The Commonwealth initially provided all approved capital and operating costs other than dental clinic operating costs, which it funded to a level of 75 per cent. However, since 1975–76 the Commonwealth Government has progressively reduced its levels of commitment to the program and for 1978–79 it has undertaken to provide only 50 per cent of all new works and operating costs to a total contribution of $3·9 million. As a result the cost to the State has escalated from $320,000 in 1975–76 to some $3·1 million in 1978–79. It has not been possible for the State to compensate to the full extent of the Commonwealth withdrawal and accordingly it was necessary to reduce student enrolment at the Dental Therapy School in February, 1978 from 60 to 50 students per year, and it will now be necessary to further limit the student intake in 1979 to 40 students.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM.

Since this very worth-while program was introduced in 1974–75 two separate and distinct features concerning its development have emerged.

The first is the growth in the number of projects and the coverage provided under the program. During 1977–78, 176 projects were funded, providing a wide range of hospital related services, community mental health services and early childhood services. For 1978–79 the total estimated expenditure on the program is $28·3 million, an increase of $5·5 million on 1977–78. The medical and paramedical components of early childhood development complexes funded under the program provide health screening of young children as well as health promotion programs. The community mental health program provides for an expansion of early consultation, community and home visiting and assessment services.

A noteworthy aspect of the program has been the establishment of Women's Refuges in various parts of the State. Currently ten refuges have been established and provision has been made for their development in 1978–79.

The second feature of the development of the program has been, once again, the progressive transfer of responsibility for funding from the Commonwealth to the State. For 1978–79 a further withdrawal of

Commonwealth funding has occurred leaving the State to finance increased expenditure due both to the expansion of the service and the reduced Commonwealth contribution. When the State was invited to participate in the program the arrangement was that it would have to meet 10 per cent of running costs and 25 per cent of capital costs. From 1978–79 Victoria must now meet 50 per cent of costs. Accordingly the cost to the Budget this year will be $14 million, an increase of $7·9 million over 1977–78. The Government will fully match the Commonwealth funds which have been made available.

HOME-HELP SERVICES.

The Government has increased the subsidy ceiling on home-help housekeeper salaries to the current award rate.

Home-help services are provided directly by municipalities for the aged and the sick and for the physically and mentally handicapped. For the physically and mentally handicapped the home-help program is totally funded by the State. At the Premiers' Conference in June the Commonwealth announced that it was reducing its subsidy for home-care services for the aged in 1978–79, from a $2 for $1 basis to a $1 for $1 basis, As a consequence the basis of State funding has been changed from $4 for $1 to $2 for $1.

However, this change will not bring about any reduction of the State's share of the cost of home-help services and the resulting reductions in home-help subsidies relate only to the reduced level of Commonwealth support. The State will maintain in full its support for home-help services and is actually increasing its commitment. Within the established arrangements for subsidy payments based on net expenditure, and subject to the approved award rate ceiling, the State will meet $43.30 of every $100 of net Council expenditure under the new arrangements compared with $42.70 before the Commonwealth policy changed.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD.

The United Nations has declared 1979 the International Year of the Child and the State Government is sponsoring an International Year of the Child Committee to co-ordinate activities at the State and National level relevant to this program. This Committee, which will report to the Minister co-ordinating these activities, is widely representative of both government and non-government interests and an initial sum of $100,000 has been provided in the Budget towards the cost of the work of the co-ordinating committee.

The Budget provides for an increase in the grant to the National Safety Council from $24,000 to $45,000 to extend the Council's work on child safety.

SOCIAL WELFARE.

For 1978–79 funds available for the Social Welfare Department will exceed $100 million for the first time. An amount of $98·4 million has been allocated through the current account, an increase of $11·6 million, and the allocation from the Works and Services Account will be $10·1 million, an increase of $4·3 million. In a period of restraint on government expenditures at both Commonwealth and State levels, increased provisions of this magnitude reflect the continuing high priority being given to the services provided in the social welfare area.

Major social welfare programs were introduced during 1977–78 and a substantial increase in funds was also provided in last year's Budget. The most important new initiative was the Family and Community Services Program which commenced in January, 1978. This program has been highly successful and has been an important step forward in involving local communities in the provision of welfare services. 1978–79 will be the program's first full year of operation and this is reflected in the allocation of funds for this purpose which amount in all to $3·1 million. This program also includes the continuing support by the Government of voluntary welfare agencies.

The problem of maltreated children has been of considerable concern to the Government and the community generally, and a pilot program to deal with this difficult problem will be introduced this year. The Children's Protection Society and health and welfare services in the Barwon Region will be reinforced to enable close consideration of families involved with the problem. An expansion in other communities will be considered by the Government after the initial experience in the Barwon Region has been assessed.

Family assistance payments to supporting mothers will be increased to the amount now payable by the Commonwealth. For example, for a mother with one child paying rent the payment will be $69.95 per week. The net cost to the Budget this year is $300,000.

The Government has been encouraged by the results of its policy of providing family support facilities in the community, rather than placing children in an institutional environment, and payments to foster parents will be indexed to increase by $1.50 per week in line with cost rises to $20 per week. This will cost an additional $100,000 in 1978–79.

I indicated last year that special priority was being given to the capital needs of the Correctional Services Division and that policy is clearly indicated in the substantial increase in the works program for 1978–79. A major program of new works and improvements to Victorian prison facilities is now underway. For the current year, a sum of $7·2 million has been allocated from the Works and Services Account for this purpose. A new high security unit is now under construction at Pentridge at a cost of $7·5 million, and expenditure on other works at that prison will total some $1·5 million. In addition to funds allocated for the Social Welfare Department the new hospital at Pentridge is being completed under the Health program at a cost of $2·2 million. A secure surgical unit also being funded through the Hospitals program will soon be available at St. Vincent's Hospital. Expenditure on the project this year is estimated at $500,000. This new prison hospital and surgical unit will provide greater prisoner care and security and will avoid the difficult problem of officers accompanying and supervising prisoners requiring surgery or hospitalization. Longer term projects for prisons include the construction of a high security unit at Castlemaine, and planning for the proposed new remand facility.

Improved prison security measures have led to a significant decrease in prisoner escapes and this will be further enhanced during the current year by the introduction of a dog squad.

The Government has been concerned about the wooden main dormitory at Fairlea Prison with its associated fire risk and is planning the replacement of the dormitory at an estimated cost of $400,000. Work will proceed this year on the most urgent fire prevention measures at the prison.

The financial provision for social welfare this year includes $20·45 million for the pensioner rate concession scheme, an increase of nearly $4 million, and $6 million for fare concessions to pensioners travelling on public transport, including privately owned bus services.

POLICE.

Total funds allocated for the Victoria Police amount to $176·1 million —an increase of $16·9 million or 10·6 per cent over last year. That increase, when viewed against the over-all position of the Consolidated Fund, reflects the special priority which has again been given to the needs of the Police.

Within the total Budget allocation $11·4 million will be available for expenditure on the works program. This represents an increase of 15·9 per cent over actual expenditure on Police works last year. When it is remembered that no increase at all was provided by the Loan Council in the State's Works and Services funds this year, the increase in the Police allocation has special significance.

Police strength is an all-time record, and for the first time has passed 7,000. The actual increase last year was 338.

Provision has been made in this Budget for a further increase in the strength of the Force by 350. In addition, despite the staff ceilings operating throughout the Public Service, special provision has been made to employ an additional 60 civilian employees. This is part of the Government's continuing policy over recent years of relieving members of the Victoria Police of administrative and clerical duties to free them for regular police duty and a more visible presence.

To further assist the mobility of the Force provision has been made for the purchase of 80 additional motor vehicles which will expand the fleet to 1,500.

Funds have been provided for the expansion of the Police Air-Wing and two aircraft will be leased this year. In addition, it is proposed that a Police helicopter will be in service before the end of the year. The availability of a Police-owned helicopter, combined with the two leased aircraft, will add a justifiable new dimension to the operation of the Air-Wing.

Last year, expenditure on radio, photographic, scientific and training equipment for the Force was $1·02 million. Provision in the Budget for those items has been increased by 12·6 per cent to $1·15 million.

Major capital expenditure estimated at $2·8 million will be incurred at the Glen Waverley Police Academy with further work being done on the physical education block and residential blocks. $1·9 million has been allocated for expenditure on the 24-hour Police Stations at Horsham and Altona North. Each of these stations is expected to cost $1·3 million and to be completed next year. Funds have been provided to complete works at Police Stations at Colac, Doncaster East, Drouin, Mallacoota, and Pyalong, and work on new Police Stations or extensions and renovations will commence this year at Ringwood, Richmond, Cranbourne, Nagambie, Tungamah, Moonee Ponds and Dookie.

An allocation of $175,000 has been provided this year for the Patrol Computer System, taking the total expenditure on Police computers to $800,000. The new system will give mobile Police immediate access to Motor Registration Branch records which will be a major advance in

detection methods involving motor vehicles. Funds have also been provided for the upgrading of the communications system at Russell Street at an estimated ultimate cost of $2·5 million. Work will also commence on the upgrading of the communications system in Ballarat at a total cost of $140,000.

STATE DEVELOPMENT DECENTRALIZATION AND TOURISM.

$40·5 million has been provided this year for the Department of State Development Decentralization and Tourism. This compares with $35·7 million last year.

The Government recently announced its intention to give a preference to Victorian manufacturing industry tendering for government and semi-government contracts.

This decision was necessary because of the advantages enjoyed by interstate manufacturers who have the benefit of State preferences in their own States and who were in a position to undercut Victorian manufacturers when applying for Victorian Government contracts.

I have indicated to other State Premiers that if they are prepared to abolish their own State preferences when Victorian manufacturers are tendering for their contracts, Victoria will reciprocate. The Government's clear policy is that the whole system of State preferences, other than for decentralized industries, should be abolished and that all industry should compete on an equal footing.

The Government's decentralization initiatives, including its policy of direct financial assistance to Approved Decentralized Industries, have been successful in arresting the drift of population to the metropolitan area. It is a matter of record that the population growth rate in the country is now higher than that of the metropolis.

The Department last year established two additional country offices, bringing the total number to seven. This year it proposes to increase its staffing of country offices by further decentralizing its administration from the Melbourne office and opening new offices at Warrnambool and Wangaratta. More senior representation in regions is intended to achieve improved understanding and liaison with country areas.

Expenditure this year under the Decentralized Industries Incentatives Program, including rebates of land tax, pay-roll tax, freight and other concessions is estimated at $26·4 million.

By the end of last financial year the Victorian Development Corporation had approved loans totalling $35·7 million to assist manufacturing industry and the provision of tourist facilities in the country. A further advance of $5 million will be made available to the Corporation this year from the Works and Services Account.

Last year, in its first full year of operation, the Small Business Development Corporation had a budget of $260,000. This year the Government has increased its allocation to $315,000. The volume of enquiries received by the Corporation, and the use made of information centres established, indicate that the Corporation is meeting the very real needs of a most important sector of the business community.

The program of small business seminars conducted by the Department, in conjunction with the Small Business Development Corporation, is another initiative meeting with great success, and country centres can continue to look forward to seminars on a regular basis.

Our commitment to the Albury–Wodonga Growth Centre remains firm and the Victorian Government will continue to support the provision of basic infrastructure and services. In addition the Government has undertaken to provide the necessary funds to enable the acquisition of the remaining properties in Victoria considered to be crucial to the success of the Growth Centre.

The Geelong Regional Commission has now completed its first year of operations and has been successful in creating real interest in the future development of the Geelong Region. Three new industrial estates are in the early stages of planning and development and fully serviced industrial lots will be available during 1978–79. A sum of $630,000 has been allocated in the Budget towards the cost of the Commission's administration expenses and the Commission will be able to borrow up to $1 million for further expansion of its industrial estates and for planning of and research into the physical and economic development of the Geelong Region.

The recent establishment of the Melbourne Tourism Authority has made a marked impact on tourism development in Victoria and a better image for Victorian tourism in other States. There are now eleven regional tourist authorities operating throughout the State and total Government grants to these tourist authorities this year are estimated at $615,000.

With the establishment of the Victorian Government Travel Authority on 1st July last, whose main function is to market and promote travel to and within Victoria, and the establishment of the network of Regional Tourist Authorities to promote their own areas, the industry as a whole is being encouraged to adopt a much more aggressive approach.

The Victorian Government Travel Authority has been allocated a grant of $1·9 million to supplement its operating receipts in its initial year of operation and the Government looks forward to the initiatives the Authority will undertake this financial year. The Authority is expected to be most active in promoting travel and in creating tour packages which it will sell direct to the public and also through travel agents.

An allocation of $916,000 has been made from the Consolidated Fund for major historical and tourist projects.

" Victoria, the Garden State " has become a phrase of affirmation for many and a goal for others. Victorians from one end of the State to the other have contributed ideas and energy in support of the Garden State concept. The Government will provide $350,000 in 1978–79 to continue successful projects such as the new home owners' trees and shrubs voucher scheme, the *Herald* Garden State Festival, support for the Secretariat for the Royal Horticultural Society and the Innovative Garden State Projects Scheme.

A major new undertaking in 1978–79 will be the preparation of guidelines to show how basic landscaping principles can be incorporated into urban management. Another significant project will be to highlight the best examples of landscaping in manufacturing industry by a State-wide landscape competition.

MINERALS AND ENERGY.

The allocation for the Department of Minerals and Energy, which will have its first full year of operation this year, will be $8·4 million. That allocation includes a provision of $1·3 million from the Works and Services Account.

In my Budget Speech last year I said that the Government was committed to a policy for the sound development of new energy resources and techniques, and for the conservation and efficient use of the valuable energy resources which we have in brown coal, gas, oil, water and the sun. The steps that we have taken and for which provision is made in this Budget give evidence of the strength of that commitment.

The Budget this year provides for gross revenue receipts from petroleum royalties of $86·5 million, 24·5 per cent greater than last year, and for a payment to the Commonwealth of its share of those royalties of $27·4 million.

On current estimates the crude oil reserves in the Bass Strait oilfields will be largely exhausted in 15 years unless substantial new discoveries are made. The Esso–BHP partnership is currently engaged in a six-well exploratory drilling program in the offshore Gippsland Basin in an attempt to increase our available resources of oil and gas. In addition, other exploration permits are also current in the onshore Gippsland and Otway Basins. An exploration permit in the Gippsland Basin has been issued to the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria which will be entering into a joint arrangement with companies such as Beach Petroleum Pty. Ltd.

The proposed contribution to the Brown Coal Research Committee Trust Account is $865,000, an increase of $389,000 over last year. In addition, funds will be available in the account from industry contributions.

The current three year program being supervised by the Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee will be continued to determine the quantity, quality and location of brown coal in Victoria suitable for conversion to synthetic liquid fuels. The Committee is sponsoring research projects at Melbourne and Monash universities and at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education. The negotiations with Japanese companies and local companies for experimentation and development of Solvent Refined Coal are to be finalised and agreement has been reached with twelve leading corporations, including three from Japan, to contribute $1·8 million over the next three years towards these research projects. Negotiations are virtually finalised with the Federal Republic of Germany and a group of major German companies regarding an agreement for a $3·5 million joint feasibility study of a brown coal-oil conversion process.

Mr. WILKES: What about the Japanese?

Mr. HAMER: They are interested in something else.

The Government is encouraging research by commercial and research establishments in Victoria to explore the contribution that solar energy can make to our future energy requirements. A contribution of $150,000 will be made to solar energy research in 1978–79. The Victorian Solar Energy Research Committee was set up last year to advise the Government on this matter. The Committee will review all solar energy research being carried out in Australia and overseas, and will advise the Government on any research projects which are worthy of financial support. It will maintain liaison with similar Committees throughout Australia and will act as the official Government body for promoting the use of solar energy by the public and industry and also keep the public advised on new techniques and appliances.

At the request of the Government the Committee will be organizing an International Solar Energy Conference at the University of Melbourne in February 1979. The theme of the Conference will be " Solar Energy

Today" and the main thrust will be to advise the community how solar energy can be economically used with the available technology. It is expected that this Conference will attract international experts and that an extensive range of solar equipment will be on display.

The mineral discoveries in north-east Victoria by the Western Mining Corporation, with the real prospect of a viable mining operation, has stimulated the search for base metal deposits. The Government is encouraging regulated exploration by established mining companies and the Department is undertaking detailed geological studies aimed at providing information on the distribution and structural relationships of the host rocks.

RURAL MATTERS.

The rapidly changing national and international scene of the last decade has imposed heavy burdens in their turn on various sectors of the rural community. Few sectors have escaped pressures peculiar to their industry and all have been squeezed by inflationary pressures within Australia making conditions particularly difficult for exporters.

Rural industry in general, and Victorian farmers in particular, have demonstrated a remarkable ability to cope with both short-term and long-term problems and it is pleasing to note at the time of presenting this year's Budget a more confident seasonal and marketing outlook with price rises for some products, notably beef, milk, mutton, lamb and wool.

The Government, through its various agencies, has provided a wide-ranging program of assistance to the rural community and has encouraged more efficient production and improved processing and marketing arrangements.

Following representations by the Government, the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority and other groups in the industry in Victoria, the proposed Stage II of the national dairy marketing arrangements has been replaced by a Commonwealth scheme for selective underwriting in 1978–79 for butter, skim milk powder, casein, cheese and wholemilk powder.

Under the scheme the Commonwealth will meet the cost of underwriting products to the equivalent of 75 cents a pound butter fat at the farm gate. The Victorian Government has decided to provide further financial assistance to Victorian dairyfarmers so that they can receive underwriting equivalent to 80 cents a pound butter fat.

The new Victorian Dairy Industry Authority has proved to be a highly successful and innovative addition to the industry. The phasing out of the contracts system has proceeded smoothly and by 30th June, 1978, over $29 million had been distributed to dairyfarmers as compensation on contracts surrendered. The Authority has established a new pooling system to enable all dairyfarmers to participate equitably in returns from the liquid milk market and a winter milk incentive payment of 4 cents per litre was initiated to sustain winter milk supplies. The new system of price determination that has been introduced has proved to be sound and equitable and milk quality standards and control have been improved. The Authority's milk marketing campaigns are proving most successful.

The Rural Finance Commission provided $24 million to rural industry in 1977–78, which included $4·7 million for natural disaster and carry-on finance. $436,000 was made available within the fishing industry under the new scheme introduced last year of loans to commercial fishermen to finance the purchase of boats and equipment.

The Commission's lending program for 1978–79 will be maintained at last year's level of $24 million, plus such further sums as may be necessary for natural disasters, carry-on finance and the like. In line with the Government's policy of reducing interest rates wherever possible, farmers who now pay 10½ per cent interest on their longer-term accommodation from the Commission will have their rates reduced to 9½ per cent per annum. The change will be effective from 1st November, 1978.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

The Government is committed to the improvement of the public transport system and to making it as attractive as possible through the provision of faster, more frequent and more comfortable services as well as keeping charges to a minimum. In recent years, increases in fares and freights have been kept well below the rate of increase in average wages.

A well-run efficient and reliable public transport system stands alone in its ability to handle the concentrated passenger movements of Melbourne. In today's world the train/tram system we have in Melbourne has the significant additional advantages of being pollution-free and powered by the one form of energy of which we have the fuel for an unlimited supply—electricity.

In this Budget the provision for Transport is clear evidence that the Government is actively pursuing its transport goals.

Apart from the operating subsidy for the Railways, to which I will refer in a moment, the allocation for transport, leaving aside debt charges, is $110·6 million, an increase of $16·1 million over last year. This increase is more than double the expected rate of inflation for 1978–79.

I have already made brief reference to the operating result of the Railways in 1977–78. The estimated subsidy from the Budget last year for railway operations was $152·6 million. In spite of wage awards and other cost increases during the course of the year the final result was a shortfall of $152·3 million, an improvement of $336,000. This was achieved by tight budgetary control and a determination by the Railways Board to operate within the financial target it had been given. The Board and its employees deserve to be congratulated on their success. In a very real sense 1977–78 has set the standard for the achievement of financial targets by the Railways in future years.

The estimated total subsidy required for railway operations in 1978–79 is $160·5 million. This is an increase of only 5·4 per cent over the last year, which is less than the rate of inflation and represents a real reduction in the level of subsidy required.

The allocation of funds for Railways from the Works and Services Account is $50·7 million, including Commonwealth funds provided under the States Grants (Urban Public Transport) Act, an increase of $6·3 million or 14·3 per cent.

Priority will be given in the expenditure of these capital funds to the replacement of passenger and freight rolling stock by modern equipment, to the reconstruction of bridges and to completion of the program to rationalize services by a network of regional freight centres. An allocation of 1·4 million has been made towards expenditure on the duplication of the Geelong line and its electrification to Werribee. An amount of $500,000 has been provided so that work can commence on the provision of 30 modern air-conditioned carriages for that line.

Forty-seven of the first order for 50 stainless-steel trains have been delivered and a further 50 new trains will be ordered for delivery at the rate of 10 per annum over a five-year period. $16·2 million has been allocated for the train replacement program this year—an increase of over 14 per cent on last year's expenditure.

Duplication of the Macleod–Greensborough section of the Hurstbridge line will be completed during the year. The installation of ticket vending machines on the "away from Melbourne" platforms at over one hundred suburban stations will increase efficiency and ensure that facilities are available to passengers to purchase tickets at all times.

In country areas regional freight centres are now in operation at 19 locations, and the remaining 16 locations, to provide a State-wide network, will be brought into operation during the current financial year. These centres, together with the replacement of a number of branch line rail car services by buses operating under contract to the Railways Board have assisted the Board to hold costs and improve standards of service.

The Budget provides for a direct subsidy of $39·9 million to passengers using the services provided by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board and those of private bus operators.

The capital works program for the Board for 1978–79 has been increased to $16·2 million. The Board now has 101 new trams in service out of the initial order of 115 trams. A new order has been placed for a further 100 trams which have been designed to provide improved performance over the trams now being delivered, and with reduced energy requirements. Delivery of 100 new buses under the current contract is now virtually complete and the Board is analysing tenders that have been received for the supply of up to a further 200 new buses.

The tramway extension along Burwood Highway between Warrigal Road and Middleborough Road has been opened for service and has provided a great improvement in public transport in the area. It is being well supported by local residents.

A revised subsidy scheme for private bus operators commenced on 1st July incorporated a number of modifications to overcome problems encountered in the previous arrangements.

1978–79 is the peak year for expenditure on the underground rail loop project and an allocation of $60 million has been made under the Semi-Government Borrowing Program—an increase of $9 million on last year.

Work scheduled for completion during the year includes the main tunnels and the overpass for additional elevated tracks from Spencer Street Station to Flinders Street Station. The main structures of the understreet sections of Museum and Flagstaff Stations and the platform tunnels and escalator tunnels for Parliament Station are all nearing completion. Installation of escalators in Museum Station is well advanced and work will continue on Museum Station finishes, booking halls and entrances, Parliament Station south booking hall, a ramp to complete the train entrance structures at North Melbourne and sections of box tunnels and ramps in the Spencer Street Station and Jolimont Railway Yard areas.

HOUSING.

The Housing industry, as indeed the building and construction industry as a whole, has been going through a difficult period. The industry is depressed and operating well below capacity at present, particularly in home-building.

Victoria has the highest rate of home-ownership in the world and to most of us home ownership represents the most important and precious investment of a lifetime.

The home-building industry is one where State Governments have an important role to play, and because of its concern about the housing situation, the Government acted last year to direct $25 million of its own funds through the banking system to provide additional housing finance for co-operative housing societies. Interest rates under the scheme were subsidized for lower income earners in the early years of the loan. The scheme was designed to assist first home buyers to obtain their own homes and it has proved a most successful operation.

In the light of that success the Government has decided to stimulate the industry this year with a further $30 million of Government funds, channelled through the State Savings Bank to the co-operative housing societies to assist first home buyers. Interest rates will again be subsidized under the new scheme for lower income earners, but its scope will be widened to enable loans under the scheme to be used to finance the construction of a new dwelling as well as the purchase of an existing home.

The total allocation by the Commonwealth of welfare housing loan funds to Victoria has been reduced from $101·8 million in 1977–78 to $82·5 million in 1978–79. Of this amount $33·9 million is only available if Victoria provides a matching amount from its own resources. This we will more than do. We intend to marshal our own financial resources in such a way as to more than make up the shortfall in Commonwealth support for this vital industry.

Co-operative housing finance is continuing to be an important avenue for home ownership. A record number of 170 co-operative housing societies were formed last year—an increase of 10 over the previous year. During 1977–78, loan accommodation amounting to $78 million was provided for home purchasers.

Since the co-operative housing scheme began, more than 94,500 Victorian families have been assisted in obtaining their own homes. It is essential that under present conditions in the home-building industry, last year's figures should be more than maintained, and I call on the banks and other financial institutions to follow Government policy in this area and make the maximum funds available for housing.

The long-term second mortgage scheme introduced through the Home Finance Trust early in 1977 to assist families in meeting the deposit gap for their first home has proved most successful. To date, $9 million has been provided under the scheme and more than 1,500 loans have been approved. The Government is subsidizing the interest rate in respect of these loans back to 10 per cent per annum. The scheme will be continued during the current year to the limits of available funds.

The Government will also continue this year with programmes to upgrade teacher housing, to provide housing finance for employees of decentralized industries and urban renewal. The Decentralized Industry Housing Authority has continued to provide housing loans to approved decentralized industries and their key personnel. Last year the Authority approved loans totalling $1·3 million from its own funds, enabling 48 key employees and 4 companies to acquire residential accommodation in the area in which they are working. The State Bank of Victoria, on the recommendation of the Authority, has granted loans to the value of $2·1

million to assist with the housing requirements of 73 employees of approved decentralized industries and 13 personnel employed in country public administration.

In recognition of the increasing demand for housing in the Latrobe Valley arising from public-sector developments including the construction of the Loy Yang Power Station, the Housing Commission will be letting additional contracts over and above its normal program for the construction of 300 houses in the Latrobe Valley.

THE ARTS.

The allocation for 1978–79 from the Consolidated Fund for the Ministry for the Arts and those activities coming within its administration is $46·3 million. As with other areas of Government expenditure constraint has been exercised. The provision for the Arts for 1978–79 is $2·5 million or 5·7 per cent greater than expenditure last year. We have reviewed the assistance being given in all areas and where the existing level has been judged to be adequate this has been retained. The overriding aim has been to make the best use of the funds we have been able to make available for assistance to and encouragement of the Arts.

Victoria is ahead of all other States in assistance to library services and we are concerned to ensure that this situation continues. Accordingly, the subsidy to municipalities for municipal free libraries which was increased last year to a ceiling of $2·75 *per capita* on a $2 : $1 basis will be increased this year to a ceiling of $3 *per capita* on the same basis at an annual cost of $800,000. An additional $39,000 has been provided for regional library grants and to introduce the Technilib system to country libraries. An amount of $785,000 has also been provided from the Works and Services Account for renovations and improvements at the State Library.

The National Gallery of Victoria, Stage One of the Victorian Arts Centre, is now celebrating its tenth anniversary. This outstanding complex, which when fully completed will be the focal point of Arts activity in Victoria, stands as a tribute to all those with the foresight to plan its concept and the energy to bring that concept into fruition.

Visible progress is being made on the construction of the Theatre Complex and the Concert Hall. The foundations have been completed and the shapes of the three theatres and the Concert Hall are now clear. Planning is under way on all technical aspects of this great project to ensure that it will provide for the most complete and up-to-date methods of production in all areas of the performing arts. Expenditure during 1978–79 is expected to exceed $20 million and this will be met from funds provided from the Works and Services Account and direct borrowings by the Building Committee.

Last year the Government announced that it had agreed to match contributions by the public to the Art Foundation of Victoria for the expansion of the collection of works of art in the National Gallery of Victoria on a $1 for $1 basis up to $2·5 million and $500,000 has been allocated for this purpose in 1978–79.

The provision of appropriate facilities in the form of libraries, galleries and centres for the performing arts is no less important in country areas. I have already indicated the increases that will be provided for library facilities and we will continue with the present basis of subsidy for regional galleries. The first of the Regional Arts Activity Workshops will be

completed this year and a base grant and Government matching of local contributions will be made on a basis similar to that for regional galleries.

$2 million has been allocated from the Works and Services Account for Regional Performing Arts Centres and these funds will be used for work on centres at Geelong, Echuca, Warburton and Ararat.

In the field of music the Government continues to support orchestral concerts, with a grant to the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra of $150,000 and grants to the Victorian Concert Orchestra and the "Music for the People" concerts for metropolitan and country areas. In Melbourne the now well-established "Free Entertainment in the Parks" program will commence in October and will continue as before through the spring, summer and autumn, in collaboration with the Melbourne City Council.

The Victorian Tapestry Workshop has had outstanding success in both the level of its artistic achievements, and in the growing number of commissions being obtained from all parts of Australia through State Governments, including those of Queensland and Western Australia, as well as private organizations who have now commissioned works.

Two important projects begun in the last financial year by the Government, the development of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Meat Market as a craft and printmaking centre, and the creation of a Youth Arts Centre in the St. Martin's Theatre complex are both under active planning.

The Victorian Film Corporation has now developed a fully professional program and has completed and invested in a number of major projects leading towards the establishment of a viable film industry in Victoria. The grant to the Corporation in this financial year will be $1·4 million.

The funds available for cultural grants which cover assistance to organizations ranging from the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust and the Australian Ballet Foundation to small societies in country towns will be increased from $2·5 million in 1977–78 to $3·2 million in 1978–79.

YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION.

The Budget provides for an allocation of $1·3 million for the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation. Coupled with $8·1 million of funds coming directly to the Department from Totalizator Agency Board turnover and Soccer Pools, this will provide $9·4 million for a balanced development of youth, sporting and recreational programs and facilities in the forthcoming year.

A total of $2·2 million has been allocated for the youth program. Special consideration has been given to the establishment of after-school and holiday programs for children and young people. An amount of $245,000 will be available for these programs and this will be supplemented by substantial grants from the Commonwealth Government. $272,000 will be provided for special outreach youth workers working with disadvantaged youth and $630,000 will go to youth organizations and youth clubs for training of youth leaders and the establishment of youth programs. These organizations will also receive $160,000 towards the extension and construction of youth facilities. A further $157,000 has been provided for the development and improvement of youth and family camps.

A special feature of the Department's assistance to sport for 1978–79 will be the commencement of work on a new State Swimming Centre on the site of the Beaurepaire Pool in Batman Avenue, the conversion of the

present Olympic Pool into a major indoor sports and entertainment centre and the commencement of the first stage of a State Equestrian Centre at Werribee Park.

As well as this special assistance, $725,000 will be allocated through the Department for sports assistance. Funds for the promotion and development of sport through State-wide sporting associations will be lifted to $520,000 with a further $20,000 going to the training of sports coaches. In addition, $185,000 will be made available to the Junior Football Council for the promotion of Australian football.

$1·7 million will be applied towards recreation programs. The National Fitness Council has been integrated with the Department and a sum of $700,000 has been allocated for the continuation and further development of the former Council's recreation programs and family camps. The main thrust of the Department's recreation program, apart from capital development of facilities, is through the "Life: Be in It" campaign for which an amount of $240,000 has been allocated. Other elements of the program are $130,000 for municipal recreation subsidies, $50,000 for recreation programs in State institutions, $20,000 for recreation for the handicapped, and an allocation of $560,000 for salary subsidies for municipal recreation officers.

An amount of $2·9 million has been allocated to meet this year's commitments for major leisure facilities to be developed by municipalities throughout Victoria. Since the establishment of the Department in 1973, the Government has contributed just on $20 million for municipal leisure facilities, which, together with local government funds, has achieved an over-all construction program of $60 million during the past five years.

The Budget also allows for special assistance of $2·45 million which the Government will make available to the racing industry following the investigations of the Working Party on Racing Industry Finances. This amount, coupled with the $750,000 additional distribution to be made available by the T.A.B. will lift the total of additional funds for the racing industry to $3·2 million in 1978–79.

When the racing industry first approached the Government in relation to its over-all financial position for 1978–79 it had expected to receive $15 million from the T.A.B. this year. That expectation, including the $750,000 additional distribution, is now $20·5 million and, coupled with the additional $2·45 million to be provided directly by the Government, will effectively provide a total of $22·5 million for this financial year.

The special assistance provided by the Government in 1978–79 will be ongoing and, in addition, the Government has given clear assurances to the racing industry on two other matters. First, the Government has made it clear to the industry that funds equivalent to ¼ per cent of T.A.B. turnover which now goes to the Government will be diverted to the Racecourses Development Fund as from the beginning of the racing season in 1979. These funds will be used by the Racecourse Licences Board, which administers the Fund, towards the capital cost and interest charges of such new on-course totalizator equipment as the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation approves. When the approved equipment has been installed and paid for, the diversion of funds to the Racecourses Development Fund will cease.

Second, the Government assured the racing industry that measures would be taken to ensure that the development of the T.A.B.'s telephone betting expansion and the new computerised cash betting system to replace

CRISP will be financed on a basis compatible with an appropriate distribution to the clubs at the time, having regard to earnings, costs and desirable stake levels in the industry.

The Government will be taking as its target a growth in distribution equal to the growth in T.A.B. turnover over a period which will guarantee a level of distribution of 3·525 per cent of turnover.

Legislation will be introduced during this Session to implement all the decisions which have been taken in regard to the racing industry, which mark a realistic and positive outcome from the most thorough-going investigation that the racing industry in this State has been subjected to for a very long time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Under the personal income tax sharing arrangements general revenue grants for local government in Victoria in 1978–79 will total $45·7 million, an increase of 8·53 per cent compared with last year. These grants represent Victoria's share of 1·52 per cent of personal income tax collections in 1977–78, earmarked by the Commonwealth for local government, which are being allocated on the recommendation of the Victoria Grants Commission. The level of increase is a reflection of the Commonwealth Government's tax indexation policies. Victoria stressed at the Premiers' Conference the need to offset the tax indexation effects on local government grants by having the 1·52 per cent share increased to 2 per cent this year but the Commonwealth Government's firm policy undertaking is to achieve this target by 1980–81.

The Government has given special attention to the needs of the City of Melbourne, which has a special role and special responsibilities in local government in Victoria. The Government recognises that there are areas where special assistance is required for Victoria's Capital City. Notwithstanding the very tight situation in relation to capital funds, an allocation of $2 million has been made from the Works and Services Account in the current financial year to provide special loans, with concessional terms, for the City Square and Plaza Development projects to supplement borrowings by the Council under the Semi-Government Program. Also, in recognition of the Council's responsibilities for major roads a special grant of $450,000 will be provided this year as a contribution towards high priority works in Rathdowne Street. Payments by the State Government from the Consolidated Fund this year to meet costs involved in the establishment and operation of the new Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, previously the Council's responsibility, are estimated at $635,000.

The Government now has the first two reports of the Building and Development Approvals Committee which was established in 1975 with the objective of streamlining and improving procedures for building and developmental controls, with consequential reduction in costs. A full-time project team is being assembled to implement the first report on Building Controls and provision has been made in the estimates of the Local Government Department to finance this operation, which will include the preparation of a completely new set of consolidated building regulations throughout Victoria.

CONSERVATION.

This year $22·9 million has been provided from the current account for the Ministry of Conservation, which is an increase of $1·9 million over 1977–78. The amount allocated from the Works and Services Account for Conservation is $7·4 million.

The next major capital project for the Ministry will be a new marine science complex to be established at Queenscliff. This will include facilities for the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences and the Marine Studies Division of the Ministry. The marine biology and marine chemistry laboratories at the Flinders Street Extension, and the marine fisheries facility at the Arthur Rylah Institute at Heidelberg will be transferred to the complex.

An initial payment in a $200,000 grant will be made to the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences to enable it to commence a study to establish the physical and biological resources of Bass Strait. The results of this study are required for future decisions on the proper use of Australia's marine resources.

The Environment Protection Authority has been allocated $6·2 million. The Altona Vehicle Emission Testing Station is now operational and funds have been provided this year for a new mobile emission testing unit for the eastern suburbs. The Authority is also involved in an air monitoring program with the State Electricity Commission for the Latrobe Valley. Under the program the Commission will establish 10 air monitoring stations in the Valley at an estimated cost of $1 million.

$5·1 million will be provided for the National Parks Service this year, an increase of $400,000. Since the Government began its program to strengthen the administration of the Service in 1973, the number of visitor-days for parks controlled by the Service has risen from approximately 700,000 in the financial year 1972–73 to over 3,400,000 in financial year 1977–78.

Funds available to the Soil Conservation Authority this financial year will be $4·1 million. This includes an additional $60,000 for grants to landholders and public authorities to assist in protecting land in water supply catchment areas. Some assistance will also be available to municipalities and water trusts to control roadside erosion.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Division has been allocated $4·1 million. The Division will accept increased responsibilities as a result of agreement reached at the June Premiers' Conference for joint Commonwealth/State management of the Exclusive Economic Zone, the new area of Australian fisheries following the declaration of the 200 mile limit. The new enforcement vessel which has been commissioned will have an important role in this task. An allocation of $120,000 has been made to cover initial expenditure on the Seven Creeks Native Fish Hatchery project at Euroa. This will be a pilot project in line with the Government's policy objective to conduct research into the breeding of native fish with the aim of establishing a full-scale native fish hatchery.

A further allocation of $1 million is available for the land purchase program in the Dandenong Ranges this year. The major proportion of the fire-prone west face of the Dandenongs is now public land under the control of the Forests Commission and the National Parks Service and further additions will be made to these lands this year. These funds are additional to the allocation to the Ministry for Planning of $600,000 this year. A further $1·1 million has been allocated in 1978–79 for land purchases for conservation purposes in other areas.

WATER RESOURCES.

The total funds provided from the current account this year for water supply and sewerage programs will be $51·3 million.

Despite the increased level of funds required for the operations of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission the Government has reached a firm decision that there will be no increases in water charges for irrigation this year.

The allocation of State funds to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission from the Works and Services Account is $37·8 million. The reduction from the record expenditure of $46·7 million in 1977–78 stems from a drop of $8·2 million in the allocation for expenditure on the Dartmouth Dam and from the completion of other major projects. The provision for the Dartmouth project of $853,000 in 1978–79 will cover the virtual completion of Australia's highest dam. Provision has also been made in the Commission's program for the commencement of construction of a tourist road to facilitate the use of the new reservoir for recreational purposes. Construction of the associated power station by the State Electricity Commission is well under way and a commencement has been made on the construction of a pondage weir downstream of the dam to regulate the discharge of flows resulting from power generation down the Mitta Mitta River. Following completion of the Dartmouth Dam in North-eastern Victoria, work will commence on the Mitchell River Dam in Gippsland. This year a beginning will be made with surveys, design and road construction.

An allocation of $300,000 has been provided for a commencement on the Sunraysia interception works to reduce River Murray salinity. The works are estimated to cost $800,000.

The Budget makes provision for drainage and salinity control works in irrigation districts generally and for a continuance of the program of improvements to the existing irrigation systems.

The Government is continuing to direct special attention to the problems of drainage and flood prone land. With the enactment of legislation in the last Session of Parliament to clarify the statutory powers on flood plain management, the Commission can implement a program of flood plain delineation on a co-ordinated basis. An allocation of $180,000 has been made for this purpose.

The allocation for the Mornington Peninsula system has been set at $5·8 million in order to continue the program for the provision of water supply to new urban development and for improvement to the system generally. An agreement between the Commission and the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to share the waters conserved in the Cardinia Reservoir will maximise the benefits from the use of this storage.

This year marks the first year of operation for the newly reconstructed Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The Board has approved a works program, excluding reticulation works funded by developers, of $173 million for the current financial year.

Excellent progress was made during last year on water, sewerage and drainage works in the metropolitan area. For the current year substantial advances will be made with the Sugarloaf Reservoir and Treatment Plant which is essential for the security of Melbourne's water supply. Eleven contracts have been let and the project is at its peak activity. The Thomson River Dam and Diversion Tunnel will proceed this year but the construction pace will increase in future years as the Sugarloaf project nears completion.

The Eumemmerring Creek and Hampton Park main sewers will be completed this year and further progress will be made on the Dandenong Valley trunk sewer and Corhanwarrabul Creek main sewer.

The policy approved by the Government in respect of the compulsory provision of services in new subdivisions has limited the problem of backlog sewerage and a further 23,000 properties were sewered last year, of which 15,000 were backlog properties. The Board spent an all-time record amount of $39 million last year on sewer reticulation. It is expected that the Board will sewer 19,000 properties this year, of which 11,000 will be backlog properties.

The Board has been active in establishing the metropolitan parks system, the first three of which are already open. Later this year it is anticipated that another 123 hectares at Templestowe in the Yarra Valley Park will be open to the public. It is noteworthy that more than 2 million people visited these parks and reservoir reserves last year.

Funds available to local water and sewerage authorities from private borrowings and from the Works and Services Account in the current year will amount to $47·7 million. Special emphasis is being given to sewerage works at bayside areas on the Mornington Peninsula. Allocations totalling $7·2 million have been made to the Frankston, Mornington and Dromana–Rosebud Sewerage Authorities—an increase of $2·8 million on last year.

The Government has supported country water authorities in their endeavour to improve the quality of water being supplied. There are now 48 towns receiving a fully treated supply.

Water treatment plants are under construction or will commence operation during the financial year at:—

Cobram
Hurstbridge
Maryborough
Traralgon
Warracknabeal

It is also the Government's objective to provide a fully treated water supply to the principal towns on the River Murray. Water supply works costing $600,000 to bring treated water to the township of Lake Boga from Swan Hill have been completed.

CONCLUSION.

The aim of the Budget has been to ensure that the many services provided by the Government should be efficiently maintained at minimum cost, and that the highest possible level of financial resources are left in the hands of the private sector. Accordingly, taxes have been reduced and the strictest economy has been applied on departmental spending. On the capital side we have been equally concerned to maintain the impetus of our works programs to support the building and construction industry and to assist economic recovery.

The Budget will achieve these objectives and I commend it to Honorable Members.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I move—

That the debate be now adjourned.

I suggest that the debate be resumed next Wednesday.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): I put to the Leader of the Opposition the suggestion that honorable members should have a little longer than until next Wednesday to consider the Bill, because members who represent country electorates will leave Melbourne tomorrow afternoon and will get back on Tuesday morning. If they want to consult Government departments, they already have commitments for Tuesday, and it makes it very difficult to prepare for the debate.

I should like this to be arranged in consensus with the Premier, and would like to have the debate adjourned until the following Tuesday.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): Because of the constraints that are placed on all members of Parliament due to an unforeseen event that is to take place on 29th September, in the opinion of the Opposition it would be better to get the Budget debate out of the way as quickly as possible. I believe that is reasonable; it does not mean that the Budget debate will be completed next Wednesday, but if it is not started for a fortnight, that is getting close to the by-election.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): In deference to the request of the Leader of the National Party, I point out that the usual period of adjournment is three weeks. Last year the Leader of the Opposition asked for three weeks, and the debate was adjourned for two weeks. I think that is a reasonable time for all members to become familiar with the Budget, which is not exactly complex, but is this year accompanied by a larger batch of papers than ever before, at the request of honorable members. I believe two weeks is a reasonable time.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): On the question of time, an extraordinary situation has arisen where the Premier is endeavouring to lengthen the time for the resumption of the debate on a measure of the significance of the Budget which is now before the House. The Leader of the Opposition indicated his willingness to make his contribution on behalf of the Labor Party, which represents over 40 per cent of the people of Victoria at least.

Exactly the same procedure is followed in the national Parliament, where the debate is adjourned for one week. Similarly, in the national Parliament other members do not necessarily have to follow after the Leader of the Opposition has replied. The debate could be adjourned until the following week to allow the Leader of the National Party, if he wishes, to speak next; that is a prerogative he ought to have in his relations with the Government, and I accept that.

It is fair enough that the Leader of the Opposition, if he will be ready, as he has indicated, should be able to give his reply to the most important Bill brought down by the Government in any single year, and the Government should not seek to defer consideration of its own Bill. I ask the Premier to seriously reconsider his attitude.

As I said, the debate does not have to finish next Wednesday; all the Opposition asks is that the Leader of the Opposition be able to make his contribution to the debate then.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate was agreed to, and it was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, September 20.

TABLING OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): I have to present a return to an order of the House of this day, and refer to

the document entitled "Personal Explanation to the Parliament of Victoria by D. B. Jennings, M.L.A., member for Westernport, September, 1978".

In so doing I state that the original document I had yesterday has been returned to me. It is in its original form except that a certain number of areas have been underlined. I will place it on the table with three copies for the Leader of the House, the Leader of the National Party and the Leader of the Labor Party.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Is the honorable member for Westernport satisfied that the document that was handed back to him is in its entirety?

Mr. JENNINGS: Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied of that. I checked every page off, and it complies with that requirement.

The SPEAKER: Order! The procedure is that the honorable member should not lay the document on the table; it is to be handed to the Clerk, and I ask the honorable member to do so. The question is—

That the return do lie on the table.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): A most unusual procedure has been adopted in this case, whereby the report that was placed on the table last night was commandeered by members of the Opposition.

Mr. EDMUNDS: You wanted to read it yourself. You rang us up!

Mr. THOMPSON: I am delighted at that interjection, because that is what I was going to say. During the whole of this morning I endeavoured to obtain a copy of the document because I read in the paper that it was going to be debated in the House this afternoon. I thought it not unreasonable that the same facilities should be made available to members of the Government as to members of the Opposition.

Despite telephone calls from the Secretary of the Cabinet and me, it was not possible to procure a copy—not even one of the photostat copies that the Opposition had—to read it before the matter was raised in the House this afternoon.

This is a matter of some importance. It is a complicated matter of legal and constitutional significance as to the degree of protection provided by the Standing Orders and the concept of privilege.

Despite all that and despite the fact that the Government was denied a copy of the document this morning, the Government is prepared to allow the report to be tabled in the interests of free perusal.

The Government does not want to withhold any statement. For that reason, having been denied a copy of the document, it is taking an unusual course.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): On a point of order, I question the situation regarding this motion. Honorable members have already resolved in the House that the document do lie on the table. The motion that I moved before and which was passed unanimously was that the document do lie on the table of the Parliament. The motion was agreed to. In those circumstances the motion before the House is out of order and unnecessary. I realize that the procedure I used under this heading was unusual, but it is proper and authorized within the Standing Orders. In no circumstances is there any need for the motion on which the Deputy Leader of the Government is speaking at present.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! Honorable members are confronted with an unusual situation and it takes a lot of thought and consideration to get it in the right perspective. I appreciate advice from honorable members, but there are times when a decision must be made from the Chair and not from outside. As I understand the position, the motion that is before the House and which has not been carried is that the return do lie on the table. That has not been decided.

Mr. FORDHAM: I have the *Hansard* record, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! The motion that has been moved in the past couple of moments was that the return do lie on the table. As I understand it, that question has not been put to the House.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): On a further point of order, the proceedings that occurred in the Parliament prior to this motion are in keeping with an extract from *Hansard* that the Opposition has been able to procure.

The SPEAKER: That was last night.

Mr. WILKES: No, this afternoon.

The *Hansard* record states—

TABLING OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): In view of the interest—

I cannot read the next few words as they are apparently in a type of shorthand—

I should like to move, by leave—

That the document entitled "Personal Explanation to the Parliament of Victoria" by Mr. D. B. Jennings, honorable member for Westernport, do lie on the table of the Parliament.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I ask the honorable member who is in possession of the document to now lay it on the table.

Mr. FORDHAM: I certainly do not have a copy of the document. I should think that the honorable member who endeavoured to take this very action yesterday would be only too willing to produce the document to the House, and he obviously should be asked to do so.

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballarat): On a point of order—

That is where the transcript finishes. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the motion that the document do lie on the table has already been put to the House earlier this day and on your instruction. All that remained was for the document to be produced. I think that is precisely what has happened, in compliance with your earlier instructions this afternoon. The motion is out of order because it is unnecessary.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): One matter that is apparent is that the document concerned is not a document pursuant to any Act of Parliament. At this stage it is and always has been a personal document. Standing Order No. 254 of the Legislative Assembly states—

Every account and paper not presented pursuant to any Act of the Legislature shall be ordered to lie upon the Table.

Mr. WILKES: That has already been done, passed and it is in the record.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): Further to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, while you, Sir, are considering the *Hansard* record that I obtained because I could see that this difficulty might arise, I specifically checked that the words, "do lie on the table" were included in the original motion. I do not think there is any doubt about it. I take up the comment of the Leader of the National Party, they are the words that are in the Standing Orders. The matter is clear, and as the *Hansard* record shows, the motion was agreed to and obviously unanimously. In those circumstances, this motion is simply not necessary.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Before giving my ruling I make this comment: When honorable members move motions they should be clear and precise so that everyone knows what they are about and there is not this confusion. As I understood it, the motion that was moved earlier today was that the honorable member for Westernport, Mr. Jennings, be required to table the document. Honorable members will know and remember that the document then was unavailable. That is where the confusion lies. However, I went on to say that I would have to leave it to the good sense of the person who held the document to table it in this House. I think they were almost precisely the words I used. For that reason, I must uphold the point of order.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport) On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, because of the public interest in this matter I think you, Sir, from

the Chair, should make it clear as to whether the document now has full Parliamentary privilege. Many people might be confused as to the status of the document and I think you, Sir, should make it clear, with the advice of the Clerk, whether the document now attracts full Parliamentary privilege.

We may have reached a situation in which a document which has been placed on the table by order of the House is of great danger to anybody outside this House who might care to publish some part of it. The Opposition may not fully appreciate that what the Government wanted to do was to move to the position where the document was fully privileged so that those who might publish it could do so without risk.

Mr. McCLURE (Bendigo): Mr. Speaker, in giving your ruling you said that your precise words were that you left it to the good sense of the honorable member who had the document to table it. This afternoon, the honorable member for Westernport denied that he had the document in his possession and said that he had not touched it since he placed it on the table of the Legislative Assembly yesterday. Therefore, your ruling and your decision that the honorable member who had the document should table it has not been complied with.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I do not uphold that point of order. It does not concern me where the honorable member got the document, provided that he got the original document and tabled it in accordance with my requirements.

On the point of order raised by the Minister of Transport, whether this document has complete privilege is a matter that the Chair should not have to decide. It should be a matter of law. If honorable members are concerned about the document being privileged the necessary motion that the document be printed should be moved. To put the matter beyond any doubt, I have to accept that the motion that the document do lie on the table has been carried and, if honorable members want to protect themselves completely, it is up to the House to take the required action.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): In keeping with the suggestion of the Deputy Premier, I move—

That the document be printed.

The motion was agreed to.

WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN PREMIER.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I move—

That the Premier no longer possesses the confidence of this House.

Because of the antiquated rules of this Parliament, the motion, which could quite easily have been levelled at the whole of the Government, has had to be levelled singularly at the Premier. This rule would not be tolerated in any other democratic country. Under the rules of the Victorian Parliament, if a motion of want of confidence in the Government has been moved by a member of the Opposition, the National Party or any individual honorable member is inhibited from moving a similar motion collectively incorporating every one of the incompetent Ministers. Common decency prevents me from naming those Ministers and for that reason, until after the election, the Ministers concerned are allowed to ravage the State in any way they like without the censure of this Parliament. Therefore, the motion has had to be confined to the Premier.

The Premier no longer deserves the confidence of the House because he has made a mockery of the commitments that he made in his 1976 election speech. He has allowed internal wrangling in his Government to produce chaos, disunity and instability, so that efficient Government has become almost impossible. He has failed to support his Ministers when they have had the courage to

speak the truth. He has allowed Ministers who are guilty of Ministerial neglect to continue in office until others have taken action to remove them. Finally, the honorable gentleman sought to deceive the Victorian public about the most basic area of Government responsibility—the raising and spending of taxes.

I listened intently to the Budget speech this afternoon, and I received no consolation from what the honorable gentleman proposed to do as set out in the voluminous document that he read to the House. He has failed to produce or provide sound economic planning strategy consistent with any worth-while government in times of economic stress.

Over the past six years he has broken a number of promises. Indeed, leafing through the policy speech that was read by the Premier at the last State elections, one can find many broken promises. In that speech, the Premier said—

> The immense task of completely sewering Melbourne and other urban areas of Victoria by 1982 is well under way. It will be done.

The Premier thought so much of that promise that he repeated it three times in his election speech. He was not satisfied with saying it once. In reality, Melbourne will not be sewered by 1982, nor even by 1992 if this Government remains in office. In the same speech, the Premier also said—

> We intend to mitigate the effects of inflation, especially of land values, on Victorian taxpayers.

The reality, of course, is that because of inflation Victorian taxpayers have faced the steepest increases yet in land tax. It has taken this Budget to correct that anomalous situation brought about by the actions of this Government over the past twelve months. In the same speech, the Premier said—

> We intend to increase still further the number of teachers of migrant English.

In reality, the Government has imposed severe retrictions on the employment of migrant English teachers in Victoria. Also in that speech, the Premier said—

> We intend to continue with a vigorous programme of hospital expansion.

Victorian hospitals are now faced with the most savage cutbacks in their history.

One promise that the Premier made in his speech was not merely broken, it was shattered. That promise was contained on the very last page of the proposed policy speech. It must have haunted the Premier ever since and will continue to haunt him and his colleagues. The promise was—

> We go into this election as a strong, united team. We can promise stability of Government without which all else is futile.

By day and by night, those words must seem bitter to the Premier. They are almost as bitter as the words that followed them, when he said—

> What we promise we perform.

Over the past two years, the Premier, the Liberal Party and the Liberal Party Government has been so preoccupied with internal wrangling that the business of Government has taken second place. I will deal with Westernport later on.

I concede that this once great party is reduced to dire straits. The former State President of the Liberal Party, Sir John Anderson, said that Victoria had the weakest Liberal Party branch in Australia. Sir John went on to say that a thorough review of the Victorian branch was now being carried out by officials and the process of rebuilding the party had already begun.

The responsibility for the weakness of the Liberal Party and of this Government lies at the door of the Premier. It is a product of his failure to heal the divisions in his party and to provide firm and strong leadership of that party. On 19th March, 1976, in response to statements about splits in the Westernport electorate, the Premier told the *Age*—

> No divisions exist between the Liberal Party candidate and the Party.

Mr. Jennings has a keen understanding of the problems of a very wide and diverse electorate.

He is totally supported by the Party and myself as the best person equipped to represent the electorate.

Now there is a call for nominations for his seat. Those comments were made during an election campaign while the Liberal Party and the Premier were desperately trying to paper over the huge cracks that were beginning to appear in the party, and I can understand why the Premier made them.

An *Age* editorial on 30th July, 1976, stated—

All the signs are that on many fundamental issues the Liberal Party is not one Party today but two. Mr. Hamer must take some of the blame for that.

The editorial went on to appeal to the Premier to sort out the mess. The honorable gentleman tried, but created an even greater mess. There is no need to retell the sorry saga. The honorable members for Westernport and Caulfield were expelled from the Parliamentary Liberal Party. Of course, the Premier offered to save the honorable member for Caulfield and in a statement to the Privileges Committee, at page 10, the honorable member for Caulfield was reported as having said—

There was then further conversation about my indicating my confidence in the Government and the transactions and I was told my attitude was creating a situation in which they would have to expel me. During this part of the conversation it was again indicated by the Premier that they were trying to help me.

He asked me whether I realized if I were expelled it would almost certainly mean the end of my political career.

I said I was well aware of that.

The Premier then went on to say that I must realize expulsion from the Parliamentary party would also damage my reputation as a barrister. I said I realized that could be the case.

I then said " if it's a case of indicating my confidence in the transactions or being expelled I can't do it, and you'll have to expel me."

I believe I also said at that stage in the conversation that I was prepared to undertake not to abstain in the future without informing either the Premier or the Deputy Premier or the Whip.

The Premier then indicated that in view of my attitude he thought there wasn't much they could do for me and it was likely I would be expelled but added that he still wanted to help me and if at any time I had any change of mind or wanted to discuss the matter further with them I should communicate with him.

With help like that, one hardly needs hindrance.

The Premier then sought to have them expelled from the Liberal Party also, only to find that the Liberal Party Executive would not do his bidding in the case of the honorable member for Westernport. The faceless men and women to whom the honorable gentleman is always adverting gave him his way because they were under threat from the many factions within the Liberal Party. They were under the same threat because of what was happening in Westernport.

Let us look again at the famous or infamous document—the 1976 policy speech. As well as making other disposable promises, the Premier stated—

Throughout our term, we have sustained the great Liberal tradition. We believe that it is the individual person who counts—his aims, his hopes, his freedom of choice. The role of Government is not to direct . . . these beliefs will continuously inform and enlighten our policies for the next Parliament.

Can the Premier in all honesty inform and enlighten the honorable members for Westernport and Caulfield on why they were exempted from that promise? The problems of Westernport continue in spite of the Premier.

Even last night in this House the problems of Westernport reappeared and a document was tabled and circulated in this House. It contained grave allegations which still have not been investigated. I commend to the Premier the proposition that in the interests of good Government and in the interests of the Parliament all the allegations ought to be investigated.

Let me now look at the light this document throws on the problems of internal wrangling in the Liberal

Party. The document was prepared by the honorable member for Westernport and relates to what he alleges.

AN HONORABLE MEMBER: Did it?

Mr. WILKES: The honorable member can refute that if he wishes. In these allegations the honorable member for Westernport refers to—

> The money that has been made by people with Parliamentary connections through questionable transactions and the blind loyalty to members of Parliament by so many well intentioned but misled members of the Liberal Party.

That is on page 2 of the document. The honorable member for Westernport obviously has no confidence in the Premier. That was demonstrated in this document on page 4 because he stated—

> The R. J. Hamer cover up technique is simple, basic and rotten. It revolves around the spreading of false rumours and smears, and the isolation of any party member who expresses a view which is likely to lead to any exposure of incompetence and/or corruption.

Is that the Liberal tradition that the honorable gentleman was speaking about in the part of his policy speech that I quoted, "Throughout our term we have sustained the great Liberal tradition"? Is that the great Liberal tradition that is being sustained?

The new Minister of Labour and Industry was anxious to know what was in the document, as were all his colleagues, but when he is told the allegations—and they are only allegations—which the Opposition asks to be investigated, he does not want to hear them. It is suggested that it is just a matter of the opinion of the honorable member for Westernport—it is a conclusion the honorable member for Westernport has drawn from a variety of incidents which he alleges have occurred within the Liberal Party.

Let me look at a few of them. The honorable member for Westernport recounts a conversation he says that he held with the Flinders electorate paid organizer, Mr. Don Fowler, in 1976 after the election. I am stating only what the honorable member for Westernport alleges in this document and it seems to be of some concern to honorable members of the Government. Mr. Fowler is alleged to have said—

> During previous elections, I was directed by Edith Seller, Joe Davis and Graham Weideman, with the knowledge of Phillip Lynch, to work two receipt books and was threatened that if I did not do it they would have me sacked.

The Opposition regards that as a serious allegation and one that should be the subject of a judicial inquiry. The purpose of the two receipt books was allegedly to conceal where donations were going and to lead campaign donors—who were generous enough to give to the Liberal Party—to believe that it was used for fighting campaigns when in fact it was not. This is according to the document circulated by the honorable member for Westernport.

I find it difficult to believe that the Premier, because of his position in his party, and as a member of the State Executive, was not aware of those charges. The honorable member for Frankston and the Deputy Leader of the Federal Liberal Party are accused of serious irregularities concerning campaign finances, and the Premier does nothing.

The document contains accusations made by a former Minister about the former Leader of the Opposition. Let them all be investigated by a judicial inquiry. Mr. Fowler is also alleged to have said—

> I was very concerned in the 1973 State election as Alan Hunt had received large amounts which he would not pay into the fighting funds and he would not give any details. No one would do anything.

That is on page 7 of the document. We are all aware of this incident because it was mentioned in the Gowans inquiry, and I intend to talk about it later on. But if the Liberal Party was carefree about money, according to the member from Westernport it was equally carefree about votes, because on page 11 the honorable member for Westernport recounts a conversation he claims to have had with Mr. Jim Saxe, a Liberal Party organizer. I do not

know what Mr. Saxe is. I will rely on the honorable member for Prahran to tell me. This conversation was alleged to have taken place at the Sovereign Hotel, Frankston, on Saturday, 10th January, 1976. In that conversation Mr. Saxe is alleged to have said that he would burn the Westernport sheets—that was not the sheets on the yachts sailing around Westernport, that is the pre-selection and membership sheets—because, and I quote, "We wouldn't want another Caulfield down here." How about that for a Tammany Hall operation? Perhaps it is not only Westernport which will not go away!

One wonders just how far the internal wranglings and manipulations over which the Premier has presided actually extend. The Premier's involvement is alleged in the report on page 13 when the honorable member for Westernport says that the Westernport pre-selection convention—

was stacked for Rob Maclellan who had already told people that R. J. Hamer had asked him to stand against me even though he had been endorsed for Berwick.

This report is a voluminous document, containing 65 pages. The Premier's declaration of faith in the candidate for Westernport on 19th March, 1976, to the *Age* newspaper, which I have already adverted to, looks rather interesting in the light of this allegation. It appears even more interesting when the honorable member for Westernport recounts yet another conversation that he had with the former Minister of Public Works, the honorable member for Dromana, on 23rd May, 1977. The honorable member for Dromana is alleged to have said—

The main people who wanted to get rid of you were Lynch, Hamer and Hunt.

I do not know whether that is true. I am quoting the honorable member for Westernport's conversation with the honorable member for Dromana on 23rd May, 1977. The former Minister is alleged to have said—

They decided you would be a danger because of your support and your persistence with the accusations that the land deals were corrupt and that the people responsible should be exposed and that there was something wrong with the finances in the Liberal Party.

There was nothing wrong with it twelve months ago when the honorable member for Niddrie produced a balance-sheet to show that it had in excess of $1·3 million, but apparently something has changed since then to cause some concern.

He went on to say—

Is it any wonder that the member for Westernport speaks of cover-ups—cover-ups involving the Premier.

The honorable member for Dromana allegedly continued—

Hamer is a double-crossing—

personal decency prevents my using the word used by the honorable member. That is what is alleged in the report.

Hamer is a double-crossing so-and-so. Look what he did to Alan Scanlan and also Geoff Hayes on Kilsyth and me. You can't trust him.

The honorable member is then alleged to have said that the Premier was promising to retire but was misleading the party to keep the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Conservation at each other's throats.

I might say that the position has changed slightly. The hot tip around town, for what it is worth—and there are plenty of tips going around town about the Liberal Party—is that the Minister of Transport is the favourite for the big job, not the Deputy Premier and not the Minister for Conservation. For anybody else the odds are in double figures. It is the Minister of Transport who is now the hot favourite for the job.

It is incredible, is it not, that this is said about a Premier who promised stable and united government to the electors of Victoria only two years ago? There is much more about other matters not relating to Westernport, which I will deal with at another time. We have all day tomorrow and it will be much more interesting if we take our time and go through the more important sections of the document, rather than taking up the time

of the House now. There are allegations about the Mount Ridley deal; there are allegations about the Pinmore deal—very serious allegations.

There is only one way to determine whether the allegations are fact or fiction, that is by a properly constituted judicial inquiry. As the honorable member for Geelong North said, if the Government has nothing to hide it ought to welcome an inquiry. Certainly, the Premier ought to welcome an inquiry.

There are allegations about the Federal Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party; there are allegations about the Chairman of the Western Port Regional Planning Authority and the Stumpy Gully estate; there are allegations about members in another place and their financial activities; there are even allegations about the conduct of a Privileges Committee hearing.

I shall deal with those allegations at another time. What is important here is the simple fact that the problems of Westernport are continuing. They fester away like a cancerous sore on the vital organs of this Government. They will not go away until we get rid of this Government. Dissidents can be expelled from the Liberal Party. Party members can resign. The new Minister for Planning can attempt to talk tough to the anti-planners, but I notice in the Budget brought down this afternoon that the Minister for Planning cost the taxpayers of Victoria $67,000 in hard cash for legal representation at the land deals inquiry. On page 158 of the Bill, Item No. 76 reads—

> costs of legal representation for the Honorable A. J. Hunt, M.L.C., Minister for Local Government, at the Board of Inquiry into Housing Commission land purchases $67,172.

What for? I am quoting that as a cost paid by the taxpayers of this State to represent the Minister for Planning, who has now been reappointed to that portfolio in spite of what his previous stay there cost the taxpayers.

The Minister for Planning can talk tough to the anti-planners if he likes. The Premier can pretend that the problems do not exist, but they will not go away. No one knows that better than that experienced gentleman, the Premier. When the Liberal Party staggers, squabbling and divided, into Opposition, the problems will still be there.

Mr. STEPHEN: You will still be where you are!

Mr. WILKES: A Labor Party Government is a greater possibility today than when the Premier made all those idle promises in his election speech. The honorable member for Ballarat South does not intend to stand at the next election. He is a prudent member of the Liberal Party.

I am not particularly concerned if the Liberal Party wants to destroy itself. That does not concern me and that is not the real problem. The real problem is that the Premier has been so deeply involved in these sordid internal wranglings that he has neglected his basic job as Premier of this State. While he has pleaded with the faceless men and women, while he has been obsessed with the internal divisions within the Liberal Party and the Government and while he has grubbed around for numbers like a typical Tammany Hall politician for the expulsion of the honorable member for Westernport from the Liberal Party, we all know what has happened. The State has stumbled from crisis to crisis. Unemployment is up. State taxes and charges are increasing. Small businesses are going bankrupt. Country towns are suffering. We will test the water in the tank in the by-election in the Ballarat Province, and we will see the result. Industries are in danger of collapse. This is the real legacy of the Premier's involvement in these sordid deals.

Let us examine the Dunstan affair. Let us not imagine that Westernport is the only internal problem the Premier has. His then Minister of Public Works had the great courage—nobody could deny that—to speak up and say what he thought would be the effect of the Federal Liberal Government and its policies on Victoria

and on the Premier's chances of winning the next election. The then Minister of Public Works had the courage to speak out and say what is going on in the country and in the State. Colourfully, very colourfully indeed—and I shall not use the terminology used by the then Minister—he pointed out that the Prime Minister was absolutely destroying the economy. Nobody in Australia doubts the truth of that statement made by the then Minister of Public Works. As Minister responsible for building programmes in Victoria the then Minister of Public Works was eminently well equipped to make that assessment of the policies of the Federal Liberal Government on this State.

Once the statement was made, the Premier left no doubt about what he was faced with—he was faced with a simple choice: Sack him or back him. That was the simple choice faced by the Premier. The Premier made the simple choice into an amusing one, and it is interesting to examine what the former Minister of Public Works said on that day of decision—and indeed it was a day of decision. The former Minister told the *Herald*—

> When I saw the papers, I thought I could be in trouble.

This is the sort of masterful understatement that those of us who know the honorable member for Dromana know that only he would be capable of. He continued—

> Then in ten minutes the Premier phoned and asked why I did it.
>
> I immediately went into his office, and rather than being very angry, he was very embarrassed.

I can imagine how embarrassed he was. It had suddenly occurred to the Premier that he might have to make a decision about the Minister, as he was then, and that is something the Premier never likes doing, and he cannot deny that. It was a very embarrassing position for the honorable gentleman to find himself in. The former Minister continued—

> I said I never realized the implications of what I had said, and I offered to resign.

Now for the crucial part—

> He

That is, the Premier—

> said he would not accept.

So early in the morning the Premier, faced with the choice of sacking or backing the then Minister of Public Works, decided he would not sack him. However, the Premier later had a change of mind. The former Minister went on in the newspaper article to say—

> He later phoned me back and said to put my resignation in writing and he would consider it.

I will return in a moment to discuss the reasons why this later telephone call may have been made. The former Minister concluded his account of the day by saying—

> He

That is, the Premier—

> phoned back at 4 p.m.

some hours later—

> and said the resignation had been accepted.

The Premier had not quite got back to the "sack him" option, but the end result was the same.

The question I ask is: What went on in those eventful hours between the time that the Premier said that he would consider the resignation and the time he rang the former Minister back and said, "Give me your resignation and I will accept it"? There are many possible explanations: Firstly, that the Premier vacillated—that is normal for him; secondly, that he did not have the strength at that time to make a decision—that also is normal for him; or thirdly, that he did not really know what to do, and that is normal for him.

However, despite all the possible explanations, there is still another explanation. That has, of course, been denied by the Premier, but it is worth considering. The possible explanation is that the Premier saw the newspapers; he was embarrassed but, as usual, did not want to make a decision. Then his close friend, the Prime Minister, got in touch with him. He was not embarrassed—he was furious! The Prime Minister did

not need time to make a decision, because he had made up his mind quickly, and must have said to the Premier something like, "Get rid of that man", because immediately after that the Premier accepted the resignation.

Mr. HAMER: That is pure speculation.

Mr. WILKES: The Prime Minister and the Premier would have us believe, as the Premier is trying to do now, that neither of them communicated with each other after what the former Minister of Public Works had said about the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister must have been horrified when he heard what the then Minister of Public Works had said about him, just as the Premier was horrified when the former Minister said that the Prime Minister was spoiling the Premier's chances of winning the next election. No wonder the Premier was embarrassed! A senior Victorian Cabinet Minister accused the Prime Minister of being mad. The Leader of the National Party was away at the time, but he also would have been horrified if he had heard that statement. The accusation was reported on the front page of every newspaper in the State and, I do not doubt, in newspapers in other States.

I do not believe, as the Premier would have us believe, that the Prime Minister did not contact him or that he did not have any influence on what was to happen, after having been referred to as being mad. No doubt the Prime Minister's well-known tolerance and understanding of criticism were well at work on that afternoon. I do not believe that was so, and the Premier knows it was not.

The Premier came under enormous pressure from his Federal colleagues, and, predictably, he caved in under that pressure. That is the explanation that can be deduced from the former Minister's account of what happened on that eventful day, and I challenge the Premier to deny it.

Once again, I do not care if the Liberal Party destroys itself; that is not the real problem. The real problem is that while the Premier was unable to make a decision, while he vacillated on the simple choice of sacking or backing his Minister, the State's unemployment level crept up, more businesses failed, more people were plunged into poverty, and the economy went deeper into a recession. By the end of that ill-fated day, with all this behind him, the Premier was playing the role of the decisive leader. He told the press—

> I think that people are capable of indiscretions at times and they have to pay for them.

That is a very important and most interesting statement, particularly compared with the statement the Premier made to the House during his Ministerial statement on the Gowans inquiry report. On that occasion the Premier said—

> I do not throw people out for errors of judgment. Mr. Dickie and the commission acted in good faith.

Both statements were made with the obvious sincerity which is so much a trademark of the Premier, but which is true? Should people pay for indiscretions and errors of judgment or should they not? Bertrand Russell once said that any man who never changed his mind was a fool. Unfortunately he did not consider the possibility of a man who never makes up his mind.

To add to the confusion let me cite another example of the Premier's thoughts on this matter. On 7th April this year the *Herald* reported that the Premier had written to all Liberal Party branches stating that he would not let the former Chief Secretary, Mr. Dickie, resign. Once again honorable members can speculate on the various explanations given for this set of contradictory statements, all of which were contradicted.

The former Chief Secretary's ill health was one explanation given for his resignation. I am not a doctor

and I do not want to make any comment on that. The former Chief Secretary's pension entitlements are another matter. On that subject very little needs to be said.

Firstly, I do not believe the then Chief Secretary would not have been better off financially if he had finished his term of office, as he said he was going to do, the day before he decided to take the reprisal action he took against the Premier. Secondly, I do not believe, even if he did save a few thousand dollars, that it was worth the $100,000 or more that it will cost the taxpayers of Victoria to finance a by-election in the Ballarat Province.

What are a few thousand dollars to the former Chief Secretary if it is to cost the taxpayers of the State something more or less than $200,000 to finance a by-election? Thirdly, I am convinced that the resignation was a direct reprisal for what the Cabinet did to the Chief Secretary. Senior back-benchers went to the Premier and threatened a "spill" if the Chief Secretary was not got rid of. Once again I imagine the Premier was embarrassed, as is his usual state, by these proposals. Once again the decision was taken out of his hands altogether. In this case a handful of back-benchers decided what was going to happen to the Chief Secretary and the Chief Secretary was angry at what he saw as betrayal by a man who had been so good to him; he even sent him on an overseas trip. Is it any wonder that the Chief Secretary reacted with what can only be described as a reprisal against the Premier by causing a by-election?

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballarat South): On a point of order, it is customary in the House when a member is quoting at length from a document that he makes that document available to the House. I wonder if the honorable member will lay the document on the table of the House.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I am not quoting from any document, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of interest, I sat down for an hour and a half and heard the Premier read thousands of words from a document.

The Chief Secretary, as I described, retaliated in the only way in which he could, with a reprisal against the Premier. While all this was going on, of course, what was happening in the real world, away from the Byzantine world of Liberal Party politics, was quite different. A Federal Budget was being brought down, a Budget that savagely attacked the standard of living of all Australians, that slashed funds for this State, which, according to a press statement, the Premier said would cost the State only $20 million but which increased taxes and unemployment. The Premier was once again too preoccupied with the internal wranglings within his own party to make a castigation of the Federal Budget and how it affected the economy of the State. No wonder Victoria and the Government have sunk so low!

I return for a moment to those two sincere statements of the Premier. The first was, "I think that people are capable of indiscretions at times and they have to pay for them." The second was, "I do not throw people out for errors of judgment." In the light of the actions of the Minister for Local Government in allowing funds to be raised for his campaign by developers involved in the land deals it is worth examining the statements of the Premier. There is no doubt that this was a clear breach of Liberal Party ethics.

What is a breach of ethics? At the very least it must be regarded as an indiscretion by the Minister and also as an error of judgment. In fact, it should be regarded as both, and the Premier knows that. What does the Premier do? He does not make these people pay for their indiscretions. He does not simply confirm them in office; he actually promotes them to the very portfolios

in which these indiscretions or errors of judgment were purported to take place.

I challenge the Premier to deny that the breach of ethics was an indiscretion and an error of judgment. I challenge the Premier to make up his mind which of these maxims he intends to apply in this case and to deny that he will again fail to make a decision on this matter until he is forced to do so.

The sitting was suspended at 6.15 *p.m. until* 8.4 *p.m.*

Mr. WILKES: Prior to the suspension of the sitting, I was pointing out the inconsistencies in the Premier's promises in his election speech and the marked effect that those inconsistencies, and the attitude of the Premier concerning the honorable members for Westernport and Caulfield as compared with his attitude towards the honorable member for Dromana and the former Chief Secretary, have had on the performance of the Government. Victoria is suffering from a Government that has concentrated, and has been forced to concentrate, too much on the affairs of the Liberal Party. The wranglings and divisions with which the Liberal Party is now bedevilled have affected the ability of the Government and the Premier to run this State.

If the Premier is responsible—and he must accept some responsibility—for the economic problems of the State by encouraging the Prime Minister on his mad course, what of the Premier's own economic policies?

This afternoon, I listened to his Budget speech and I searched for any fiscal improvements that might change the course of those policies, but one is bound to say that there are none. In the last two Budgets brought down by the honorable gentleman—no doubt the same position will be found in this Budget when it is examined in this House—the Premier proudly pointed out that there were no increases in State charges. If we take what we read in the *Herald* this evening no increased charges are proposed in this Budget. Of course there were no increases in State charges in the last Budget and the Budget before it. But in those years, when the Premier boasted that there were no increases in charges, stamp duty went up, land tax sky-rocketed, gas and electricity charges increased enormously—not in the Budget but afterwards—and rail, tram and bus fares went up. There was no indication in the Budget of increases in tram fares, rail fares or rail freights. Only a month or so ago, rail freight charges were increased, shipping charges have gone up, freight charges have gone up, driving licence fees have gone up, and briquette prices have increased. This was all outside the Budget.

I am not referring to today's Budget, but to the previous Budget. I will be able to relate the situation with this year's Budget when I have analysed it and what the Premier and Treasurer proposes. Housing Commission rents have risen, many fines have been increased, new duties have been levied on caravans, boats and trailers. All these charges and increases have occurred outside the Budget and one might well ask: When does a State charge not go up when the Budget says it does not go up? Only the Treasurer can answer that question, and only the Treasurer knows what State charges will be increased following the Budget he presented today.

But the public is not deceived. It is aware of the Government's economic policies because it has had a sample of them. It knows that the policies are eating away at its pockets day after day and will continue to eat away at its pockets simply because the Premier and Treasurer refuses to take any stand against the economic policies of his colleagues in Canberra. I will deal with the effects of these disastrous policies when I am addressing myself to the Budget.

I will make three simple points. Victoria's unemployment now stands at just under 100,000. It will be even higher next year. The prediction of the Federal Minister for Employment

and Industrial Relations, Mr. Street, is that unemployment will rise. If the Premier and his colleagues on the back-benches want to believe that unemployment will not increase, they will not glean any satisfaction from any initiatives that the Premier promised today, because there were no initiatives.

Secondly, every week this year an average of 316 Victorians are thrown out of work because of the economic policies of the Premier. Thirdly, on the admission of the Premier, funds to Victoria from the Federal Government have been slashed by the Federal Budget and one of the few mild criticisms that the honorable gentleman made of the Federal Budget was to suggest that Victoria would be $20 million worse off. Members of the Opposition suggest that Victoria will be nearer $30 million worse off because of the cut-backs of the Federal Government.

Those three simple points illustrate the net result of the Premier's actions—his continual obsession with internal party wrangling, his weakness in dealing with his Ministers, and his support for the Federal Government. Not once has he denounced its policies, not even at meetings of the Loan Council. Leaks from the Loan Council meetings and the Premiers Conference suggested that the Victorian Government was prepared to go along with the policy initiatives of the Federal Government. The result of the Premier's actions has been a continual silence on the Federal Government's attack on the standard of living of the people of this State.

What does the honorable gentleman do? He announces a new monument every day. The problems will be solved by roofing the Flinders Street railway yards, or by building a new world trade centre at a time when world trade is at its lowest ebb, or by the utilization of brown coal. The Premier has tramped all over the world examining technologies for the utilization of brown coal for the creation of char and metallurgical coke. At first he went to West Germany and then to East Germany and later to Japan. Honorable members heard that there are two consortiums in Japan. Which one will be chosen, and what will it cost to interest these people in the utilization of our brown coal? Only the Premier can answer these questions.

The problems of Victoria will not be solved by roofing the Flinders Street railway yards, by building a world trade centre or by making car number plates green at a time when people are finding it difficult to pay for fuel to put into the cars because of the policies of the Federal Government in rushing to reach world parity with oil prices. The problems will not be solved by anything other than a real solution, and the real solution is hard work in the business of good Government. When there is good honest Government in this State we will know that we have turned the corner.

The Premier cannot continue to devote himself to the mundane tasks of government because he has become so embroiled in the problems of his party, particularly in Westernport, on the Mornington Peninsula, and in relation to the people in the Liberal Party who do not see eye to eye with the planning policies of the Premier.

I began by referring to the Premier's words. I shall conclude by doing the same. On 16th November, 1975, when addressing the Liberal Party State Council the honorable gentleman said—

> Australia now has the chance—the democratic chance—of deciding the Government it wants to have. A Government of chaos, of mismanagement, waste or failure or a new Government determined to lift this country from the morass back to the path of prosperity and hope and confidence in the future.

Today this Parliament has the same decisions to make. I shall not go through all the ramifications of the allegations that were contained in the report that was tabled in this House, although if only a fraction of them were true this Government would be obliged to resign. Members of the Government party do not like talk about having to resign; they

usually use their numbers and, with blatant disregard for public opinion, force their way through these sorts of situations. They should select another Premier because the present one is not performing too well.

I make no statement about the truth of the allegations contained in the document, about why the document was prepared, or about the honorable member for Westernport. All I say about the document is that it contains allegations of corruption, manipulation, stand-over tactics, cover-ups, disunity and instability on a scale never dreamt of before in this place. I have been a member of this House for 21 years and I have never before known of allegations like these. Every Minister of the Cabinet, except one, is mentioned in the document and is alleged to have acted improperly.

The truth of the allegations is a matter for the Premier to determine. It is for the honorable gentleman to decide whether there will be a judicial inquiry to determine the validity of the remarks. The last inquiry exposed some of the deficiencies in some of these incompetent Ministers. In one instance it cost the taxpayers of this State $67,000 to protect the hide of a Minister. When the Labor Party went into that inquiry it paid for its counsel. It did not filch from the public purse as did the Premier and those incompetent Ministers, one of whom is not in the Parliament today.

It cost a great deal to represent the Minister whom the Premier would not sack. The Premier said that he was satisfied that what the Minister had done was proper. I can understand the sensitivity of the Chief Secretary towards inquiries, just as I can understand the sensitivity of any back-bench member, when it cost this State a great deal of money to protect the hides of Ministers who were indicted by the inquiry.

The Premier says that they were not indicted. The Parliament has lost one Minister. If he was not indicted by the inquiry, why is he not still here?

Mr. A. T. EVANS: He resigned because of his health.

Mr. WILKES: The gentleman, when a Minister, made no reference to ill-health and said he intended to resign because of his Parliamentary pension. He said that if he stayed in this place it would cost him some thousands of dollars. He had already told the Premier that he intended to remain in Parliament because on the Monday the Premier announced that the Minister would stay for the rest of his term. However, the Minister had other ideas. He did not care what it cost the State, and nor did the Premier. It had already cost the State thousands of dollars in legal fees to protect him, just as it cost further thousands of dollars to protect another Minister. The cost of protecting the present Minister of Housing or of having the Valuer-General involved in the inquiry for as long as he was is still not known.

Not once did the Valuer-General prove value in the inquiry. Whatever the cost was to the people of this State, it was in vain. Members of the Government party should not tell me that a Valuer-General is not expected to prove value. That was the reason for his involvement. It cost the taxpayers of this State thousands of dollars to protect incompetent Ministers who did not defend themselves.

If there is any truth in these allegations, let there be a judicial inquiry, where Ministers will not have the right to have thousands of dollars paid from public money to defend themselves or anybody else who is cited in the allegations in this document.

Today this Parliament can decide the sort of Premier and the sort of Government it wants. Does it want a Premier who has failed to resolve its differences in the Westernport electorate and the Mornington Peninsula? One only has to talk to Liberals down there to know that they are eating themselves up and fighting one another. Honorable members should go down there and speak to them and hear what they have to say

about some of the Ministers who sit behind the Premier. It is amazing what they say about them, and it is because this Government and its Ministers have double standards on planning. That is what it was all about on the Westernport peninsula, plus the fact that the members of the Liberal Party are so divided down there that no one knows where they are going.

Parliament can have a Premier who has presided over chaos, mismanagement, waste and failure, or a Premier determined to lift this State from a morass path to the path of prosperity and hope. Parliament has to decide whether it wants honest Government in the future or whether it wants a Government which will continue to govern under the problems that this Premier has faced and tried to cover up from start to finish.

Somebody said, "Nonsense". If one looks at the track record of this Government on the Mornington Peninsula in respect of the Western Port Regional Planning Authority, the Geelong Regional Authority, and anywhere planning or land purchases is concerned, it will be seen that it has a bad track record. It cannot escape that, and it is due to this Premier with his lack of supervision over his own party.

The Opposition suggests that it is time for Parliament to take stock of what is happening. Members of the public are already taking stock of what is happening outside. They are not to be fooled any longer by the incompetence of this Government and the weakness of this Premier. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): For some days we have been looking forward to this occasion. We have been regaled in the press with all sorts of previews of what the Leader of the Opposition was going to say. We listened to him and we were wondering when he was going to start. We thought, "Surely he can do better than this. When is he going to deal with something of substance?" It was the same old Australian Labor Party mixture: negative, vague and insubstantial innuendo. What we got was largely guesswork—and I inform the Leader of the Opposition, it was absolutely inaccurate—and a lot of scatter-shot comment. He began with the 1976 election platform of the Liberal Party. I think his speech was written for him before the Budget because he very rapidly switched from the 1976 election platform. It was just as well because it would have led him on to confound his own argument. He mentioned sewerage. This is vitally important. But the Budget, which he read after the speech was prepared for him, showed that last year 23,000 houses were actually sewered, of which 15,000 were backlog, and this year 19,000 houses in Melbourne will be sewered of which 11,000 are backlog. In other words, we are steadily overcoming the backlog. Last year an all-time record amount of $39 million was spent on sewerage reticulation in Melbourne. Streams have been improved, as anyone can see. Water quality has improved, so much so that on the majority of beaches they do not bother to take the readings because we have reduced pollution to negligible levels.

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! When the Leader of the Opposition was speaking I attempted to give him all the protection that I possibly could, and I demand that from honorable members whilst the Premier is making his reply.

Mr. HAMER: The only other reference to the 1976 policy speech made by the Leader of the Opposition was on the question of hospitals, and here again he was confounded by the fact that an all-time record amount of $601 million is being spent this year on hospitals. The capital expenditure is $48·5 million, which is a 30 per cent increase on last year. It is just as well that the Leader of the Opposition switched away. In fact, he must be rather grateful that the honorable member for Westernport filed his document because it gave

him a chance to get away from the main theme on which he intended to speak.

Mr. WILKES: I had to change my speech.

Mr. HAMER: I agree that the honorable member had to change his speech, and he did not improve it in the process. He talked about stability. This is coming from a party which is racked with internal strife. Everybody is waiting for the Socialist Left to step forward and assassinate this Leader.

Mr. WILKES: Will you give me police protection?

Mr. HAMER: Let me get down to the real tin tacks. Since the Leader of the Opposition challenged the record of the Government, let me remind him of some of the facts. This State enjoys the highest average earnings in Australia, the highest savings *per capita* in Australia and the highest rate of home ownership in Australia.

Mr. EDMUNDS: The highest unemployment!

Mr HAMER: Consistently, it has the lowest rate of unemployment in Australia.

Mr. TREZISE: What about the Gallup poll?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I will not tolerate this continual barrage of interruptions. If honorable members want to continue along those lines they will have to put up with the consequences and I will not accept apologies.

Mr. HAMER: I invite the Leader of the Opposition to look at the figures for the past two years. He will find that Victoria, month by month, every month, has had the lowest rate of unemployment in Australia. Even this past month, it was 5·47 per cent as compared with a national average of over 6 per cent. Victoria is the only State with an unemployment level below 6 per cent. No one is satisfied with that.

Mr. AMOS: That is not true.

Mr. HAMER: I invite the honorable member to look at the figures of the Commonwealth Employment Service or the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He does not understand them or want to understand them, but to anyone else it is an admitted fact that Victoria has consistently had the lowest rate of unemployment in Australia. No one accepts the level we have. Everyone wants to improve it. I commend to the Leader of the Opposition one way in which he might play some constructive part instead of the usually negative role he does play. The Leader of the Opposition could act and speak at times when it counts, namely, when there is a crippling strike that is putting thousands of people out of a job. Whenever there is such a strike and it threatens employment there is a deafening silence from the Opposition.

I shall now turn to some other aspects of Government achievement, since I have been challenged to do so. In education, under the present Minister of Education, the Deputy Premier, Victoria has achieved by far the best teacher-pupil ratio in Australia.

Mr. EDMUNDS: But you count cleaners and everyone else in that figure.

Mr. HAMER: We count it in exactly the same way as it is counted in every other State. The Government has established more than 1,000 pre-school centres and we are reaching far more pre-school children than any other State. The early childhood development programme is a credit to Victoria. We have a record number of apprentices, more than all the other States put together last year.

These are the solid achievements of the Government and they derive from the very policies that the Leader of the Opposition set out to criticize—although he did not get very far. They betoken a record that the Leader of the Opposition ought to concede and in which he ought to take some pride as a Victorian.

In mental health a five-year plan has just been completed and a whole network of day and residential centres for the mentally handicapped has been established. It is a credit to the Mental Health Authority. In home buying the Victorian Government is giving more assistance to young home buyers than they could obtain anywhere else. If there is a better or more comprehensive scheme, I should like to hear about it, because the Government has concentrated on this a great deal through the co-operatives, through interest subsidies and through the gearing back of second mortgages to an interest rate of 10 per cent, which is pretty remarkable. All of this cost is carried by the State Budget.

It would generally be admitted that the Victorian policies on decentralization are the most comprehensive in Australia.

Mr. AMOS: But they do not work.

Mr. HAMER: These feeble interjections do not get anywhere. Let us simply stick to the facts on decentralization. Victoria has 2,400 decentralized industries, all receiving 100 per cent rebated pay-roll tax and land tax, freight subsidies, removal expenses and other benefits.

Mr. FORDHAM: Why don't they vote for you, then?

Mr. HAMER: They do. They recognize service when they get it and achievement when they see it.

I shall now deal with the police, which is a favourite topic on which the Leader of the Opposition expounds considerably at times.

Mr. WILKES: I did not mention it today.

Mr. HAMER: No, and the Leader of the Opposition did not mention it today because the record is very good. For the first time the number of police is more than 7,000.

Mr. WILKES: That is right. It is commendable.

Mr. HAMER: I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition has said one constructive and favourable word tonight.

Mr. EDMUNDS: But you count recruits in that figure.

Mr. HAMER: We count in the ordinary way. There are 7,000 policemen in Victoria now and I am sure the honorable member for Ascot Vale will be glad to know that that number will be increased by 350 this year. There are also 60 civilians.

Mr. EDMUNDS: That is our policy, which you have pinched.

Mr. HAMER: It is our policy, too, and we have been carrying it out for years in an effort to relieve the police from all kinds of administrative and clerical duties so that they can be free to carry out their ordinary police duties and have a visible presence.

The Government's policies on consumer protection and on conservation and the protection of the environment and of our heritage are excellent. Dealing with public transport, one can go outside Parliament House and observe those beautiful new trams.

Mr. WILKES: They were not running there last week.

Mr. HAMER: No, they were not running last week and I did not hear one word from the Leader of the Opposition. Was he interested in the people who could not get to work or who could not do their shopping? No. Is the Leader of the Opposition interested in getting taxation down?

Mr. WILKES: Yes.

Mr. HAMER: Then he should observe what has been done by the Government. Is he interested in social welfare?

Mr. WILKES: My word he is.

Mr. HAMER: Then he ought to be interested in the fact that this year, for the first time, the funds available to social welfare are more than $100 million. They incorporate some highly innovative programmes, such

as the Victorian Family and Community Services programme and many others, and they betoken a real concern on the part of the Government for social welfare.

Is the Leader of the Opposition interested in achievements in sport, youth and recreation, and in the arts, and in new initiatives in the field of minerals and energy? If he is, I do not know why he was so contemptuous about Victoria's brown coal reserves. The fact is that they are our major energy resource and would be a major energy resource by any standards in the world. Even if the Leader of the Opposition is not interested in what can be done with this vast resource, the Government certainly is. The schemes that are being investigated at present are most promising and in the Budget the Leader of the Opposition will find that those schemes are being carried forward. A great deal of research is being carried on by the Brown Coal Research and Development Committee and by the Solar Energy Research Committee into alternative sources of energy and alternative ways of using our resources.

Does this betoken a Government that is inactive and lacking in ideas and innovation? Of course not, yet that is the basis on which we are asked to debate this motion. This motion has been described by the back bench as a waste of time. I am disappointed. I thought, after all the fanfare and preparation and the weeks and weeks of work and analysis, that we would at least be offered something constructive and substantial to deal with, but as it is one can only recall to the House the present status and record of the Government after two years in office on the basis of the set of policies to which the Leader of the Opposition referred.

The Government has tackled all those scores and scores of promises. It has tackled every one.

Mr. CATHIE: But it has not carried them out.

Mr. HAMER: Of course some of those policies are continuing ones and they cannot be carried out overnight. That is why I used the word "tackled". Some have been completed and some are under way, but all have been tackled.

So now we come to this document, which, to his great relief, the Leader of the Opposition grasped as if it were a straw, in order to make something of his speech. It is a pity that the leader of the alternative Government of Victoria has sunk so low that he has to parade a document which he cannot possibly verify and does not seek to verify—to do him credit, he did say that. He has merely put forward what at first impression appears to be a great deal of gossip and conversation; it goes over a lot of familiar ground.

Mr. WILKES: I did not write it.

Mr. HAMER: I know the Leader of the Opposition did not write it, but he repeated portions of it as if they were meaningful. From the point of view of the Government I regard it as second-hand scuttlebutt, and I regard large chunks of it as entirely laughable. I am sorry that the Leader of the alternative Government should seek to use this sort of document to discredit the Government.

Mr. WILKES: What do you think should be done with it?

Mr. HAMER: We will deal with this document tomorrow. As I said, it is a pity that in a serious debate, which a want of confidence motion must be, one has to deal with this sort of material that has been put up without even being vouched for. The Opposition merely says, "Here it is; what are you going to do about it?"

That is not good enough to support a motion of want of confidence, and it leaves the House with the problem of dealing with something which has no substance and no backing. After all this preamble and preparation, the presentation of the motion was a disappointing effort, and I can find no real basis for it.

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to challenge the record of the Government, let him do so, but he has not done that. He gave honorable members a little bit about the Budget, a little bit about the 1976 election campaign and a little bit about this document which has been lodged and which I have not yet read completely. It takes time to do so.

The House is left in the dilemma that honorable members are not debating anything of substance, and I can only invite the House to turn down this motion with the disdain and contempt it merits.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I find it extraordinary, as I am sure would most members of the House, that the Premier of Victoria is able to say that honorable members are not debating anything. That statement shows the contempt with which the Government treats a motion of want of confidence in its Leader and its own performance. The Government and the Premier had the opportunity yesterday of bringing on debate on a motion as important as this, but the Premier chose not to do so because, as he said today, it is not regarded as being of any significance. That is an indication of the contempt in which the Government and its Leader hold the people and the Parliament of Victoria.

There has been an attempt to hide a motion as fundamental and important as this amongst the Budget day matters, as today was going to be taken up predominantly by the Budget speech, although later events showed the situation to be completely different.

In most other parts of the world that follow the Westminster system, a motion that called for a vote of want of confidence in the Premier would be brought on immediately, but the Victorian Government chose to try to hide, defer and push off this important motion. That is to be deplored, as is the concern and fear that the Victorian Government has of being subject to the type of scrutiny that Parliament provides by a motion such as this which was so ably presented by the Leader of the Opposition.

During the two hours in which the Leader of the Opposition spoke on the motion tonight, he was able to document issue after issue and provide quotation after quotation to demonstrate the inability of the Premier and the Government to lead Victoria into the 1980s. I have no doubt that at present it is the view of the vast majority of members of the Victorian public and, I suspect, of the majority of members of this House, that the time has well and truly come for the Premier and the Government party to stand aside and let another party have the opportunity of taking the reins of government in Victoria. The Premier failed to answer the serious and grievous charges that were levelled against him so ably by the Leader of the Opposition.

The motion was divided into three main heads. Firstly, the Leader of the Opposition examined the undertakings and promises of the Government in 1976 about what was going to happen to the State and the people of Victoria under a Liberal Party Government between 1976 and 1979, if it managed to hang on as long as that. He was able to show that in the fields of education and health, in sewerage and hospital expansion, the Government has failed to honour the promises it made to the people of Victoria during that election campaign, and I could go through all those matters in detail.

If members on both sides of the House reflect on their own electorates on matters such as health, education, housing, transport and conservation, they will recall the spirit of euphoria of the Premier in 1976 and should ask themselves whether that spirit of euphoria has been justified in the interests of the people in their electorates. Of course, it has not been because, day after day, both in the Parliament and outside, members are expressing concern about shortcomings within their electorates.

The Premier mentioned education, and suggested that promises made in 1976 had been honoured in that area. He also referred to migrant education. One recalls that in his 1976 policy speech the Premier said that an increased effort would be made in this field, and I believe the Minister of Education would be the first to admit that it has not proved possible to honour that undertaking. No significant measures involving personnel, buildings, facilities, policies or structures are being undertaken to meet the needs of migrant education in Victoria, and that is just one example of the failure of the Government to honour the promises of the Premier.

The next head used by the Leader of the Opposition was the internal disunity and instability of the Government. The Premier neglected even to refer to that second and major charge of the Leader of the Opposition. He did not deny that Mr. Jennings, the honorable member for Westernport, and Mr. Francis, the honorable member for Caulfield, had decided to leave the Government's ranks as the result of some degree of force. He did not mention that a number of Ministerial changes had taken place since 1976 and following the re-election of the Government, once again in most unusual circumstances. The Premier did not refer to the statements made by the honorable member for Dromana or the former member for the Ballarat Province in another place, setting out their views on the issues of the day.

When referring to the internal disunity and instability of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition drew the attention of the House to the comments made by the Premier on this important matter when he said in his 1976 policy speech—

> We go into this election as a strong, united team. We can promise stability of Government, without which all else is futile.

That is a statement with which one can only agree.

The history of Government of all parties in Victoria and throughout the Australian Commonwealth is that where there has been disunity within the Government, whether comprising the Liberal Party, Labor Party or any other party, all else is futile. It is wrong for any party which is disunited or has a degree of instability of the sort that this Government has portrayed over recent months to try to remain in office when it is so evident that a deep and continuing division exists within it.

What was the Premier's opinion of the honorable member for Westernport in 1976? On 19th March he made the comment that the honorable member was totally supported by the party and himself as the person best equipped to represent the electorate. I have no doubt that at the time the honorable member, then a candidate, would have been proud. I suspect that he will use those words for the remainder of his political days, but what has happened is an indication of the breakdown within the Government ranks, and the absolute futility of a Government trying to continue in office during this period of instability and complete and utter disunity.

The third aspect dealt with by the Leader of the Opposition, and the other major one not mentioned by the Premier in his brief and perfunctory reply to a serious and grievous charge, concerned the relations between the Victorian State Government and the Federal Government. The issue is whether the Premier and the Government support the policies and the programmes being put forward by the Fraser Government for the future development of this country, with particular reference to Victoria and Victorians and to the use and the effect on Victorian Government services. An example of the attitude of the Premier of Victoria is that on 9th December, 1977, when dealing with proposed cuts in Federal income tax, the Premier said—

> The proposed tax cuts by the Fraser Government are essential to Australia's recovery.

That was the situation in December, 1977. Mr. Fraser, for reasons best known to himself, and, I suspect, known only to himself, decided in August, 1978, that the tax cuts which took effect only in February, 1978, would be reversed in August with the reversal backdated to July. Therefore, the cuts lasted for only five months and Mr. Fraser decided there would be an increase in income tax in Australia.

What statement has the Premier of Victoria made and what concern has he voiced on behalf of the people of Victoria about these tax increases? Not a whimper, not a cry, not a statement has issued from the Victorian Government. Some months earlier it was claimed that tax cuts were essential. All of a sudden there is an increase in tax and its lack of protest is symptomatic of the performance and attitude of the Government which is completely prepared to subvert the State of Victoria and the people honorable members supposedly represent, in the interests of the Fraser Government. The social philosophies of the Government are completely discredited. The Fraser Government, to its credit, has openly, without a suggestion of subterfuge in the statements by the Federal Treasurer and the Prime Minister, determined that there must be a cut in the standard of living of the ordinary working people of this country.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: Of everybody.

Mr. FORDHAM: Of everybody, but particularly of wage earners, according to the statements of the Federal Treasurer. This will affect Victoria. What has the Government done about it as part of its policies? In an attempt to lower the standard of living there have been major cutbacks by Canberra in a whole range of Government services. They obviously affect the Government of Victoria because it will have the opportunity of picking up the tab.

Education, in which there have been real cuts in the provision of funds for the State school system, is one of a number of areas in which the Victorian Government has to pick up the tab. In the field of health, school dental services, hospital care programmes, community health services, all cut by Canberra, the Victorian taxpayers will have to pick up the tab. As a result of cuts in social welfare, child care, senior citizen centres, and home help services, the Victorian Government has been charged with the responsibility of providing additional finance to meet these needs. In urban affairs, whether transport or sewerage programmes, there is again a determined and open policy in Canberra to cut services, and the Victorian Government must pick up the tab.

What has been the response of the Government to this attack on the standard of living of the people of Victoria? Of all the Premiers of Australia, the Premier of Victoria has had the least to say about the situation. The Premiers in the three States with Labor Governments have consistently criticized the social philosophy and policies put forward by the Fraser Government. Sir Charles Court, the Premier of Western Australia, has consistently criticized many aspects of the performance of the Fraser Government. Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, the Premier of Queensland, has also demonstrated that he is not a mere vassal of the Federal Government, but the Premier, who talks about Victoria being a sovereign State, has shown on issue after issue that he is not prepared to stand up to the Federal Government.

Even in the Budget brought down today, which honorable members will have an opportunity of debating in detail next week, there is no clear and firm statement on social philosophy from the Premier and Treasurer of Victoria that criticizes the performance and attitude of the Federal Government. That is what Victorians are waiting for, and to the credit of the Victorian Parliamentary Labor Party, it has given that lead over recent months. The Labor Party has been able to fill the void that has

been left by the lack of performance of the Victorian State Government. That is an absolute disgrace.

Therefore, there are these three headings: The Government has failed to perform and to honour its 1976 promises; it has shown itself to be internally disunited, unstable; and it is completely unwilling to divorce itself from the performance and attitudes taken by the Federal Government that are anathema to the health, welfare and well-being of the people of Victoria.

I turn to the general question of unemployment. From time to time the Premier has mouthed phrases of concern about the unemployed in the State.

Mr. EDMUNDS: But nothing else.

Mr. FORDHAM: To take up the honorable member's interjection, there has been nothing else. There have been no concrete or determined State programmes that will give leadership, if necessary, to other States in Australia. This has again highlighted the differences of opinion in the Government. Many backbenchers, and indeed, one Minister, have been prepared to speak out publicly and say that Governments at all levels, whether State or Federal, cannot afford, in the interests of the future of the nation, to stand aside from the problems the unemployed are facing. In Victoria nearly 6 per cent of the workforce are unemployed. The Premier is aware that the unemployment figures next February and March will be horrendous and an absolute disgrace to any Government, whether Federal or State. In February and March of next year that percentage will be of the order of 8 per cent.

Mr. STEPHEN: The honorable member is hoping.

Mr. FORDHAM: It is not a matter of my hoping; they are the predictions of the responsible Federal Minister and the Federal Government. If the honorable member does not realize that, I suggest he should ask the Federal Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations for his predictions on the level of unemployment in February and March of next year. The Premier had the audacity to suggest that these levels of unemployment are not sufficiently of concern in certain parts of country Victoria, and reference was made to Ballarat.

On another occasion the Premier is on record as saying that the levels of unemployment in Ballarat are not significantly worse than they are in other parts of Victoria. Being a loyal member, the honorable member for Ballarat North is supporting his Premier—I am glad there are a few left.

At the end of the financial year, 3,090 people in Ballarat were seeking employment. They comprised 1,806 adults and 1,284 young people. There are 20·3 adults for every vacancy in Ballarat and for youth vacancies, 37·8 applicants for every vacancy.

Ballarat has one of the highest unemployment levels in this State and yet the Premier and the honorable member for Ballarat North suggest that these figures are not a matter of concern. The Government should be doing something about it.

Mr. A. T. EVANS (Ballarat North): On a point of order, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that I said that unemployment in Ballarat is not a matter of concern. That statement is not true and should be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): There is no point of order, but if the honorable member finds the remarks objectionable he can ask for a withdrawal. I will not give any directions to require the honorable member for Footscray to withdraw them.

Mr. A. T. EVANS: I did not say that they were objectionable; I said that they were not true.

The SPEAKER: There is still no point of order. The honorable member will have the opportunity of refuting the allegations.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): The honorable member for Ballarat North says that the unemployment situation in Ballarat is not significantly worse than that in the rest of the State. The figures for the end of June, 1978, indicate that over the whole State there are 15·1 adults for every adult vacancy as against 20·3 in Ballarat and 28·1 youths for every vacancy as compared with 37·8 in Ballarat. If the honorable member does not believe the situation in Ballarat to be significantly worse, that is a new concept of arithmetic.

One can go through the figures for other parts of Victoria outlining these tragic statistics, yet the Premier, in his reply to the Leader of the Opposition, referred to how successful the Government's decentralization policies have been in meeting the needs of industry and commerce for country Victoria. I agree with the interjection by the Leader of the Opposition that it has been an abject failure and most members in all parts of the House will agree.

However, it is not only the statistics that are important. I have made this point before in this House. For those honorable members who have visited country centres, what is depressing is the absolute desperation of the young people and their families and their expectation that the situation will not improve within the foreseeable future and the likelihood that their future is one of continuing unemployment.

No Government can possibly countenance a continuance of that philosophy and a continuance of that performance, and yet the Government has shown by its subservience—which I mentioned earlier—to the attitudes of the Federal Government an unwillingness to set itself apart and produce its own policies and programmes to help to rid the State of this great problem of unemployment.

The motion should be supported. The time is long overdue for a change of Government in this State. Victoria needs a new charter, a new philosophy and a new party to lead it to prosperity in the future. The Liberal Party has shown itself to be disunited. It does not have the stability and the strength, and it does not have the leadership for the people of Victoria. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The press publicity that has been built up over recent weeks concerning the motion is reminiscent of the build up for the football finals at the Melbourne Cricket Ground last Saturday and it has had the same result. On one hand, we saw a weak, indecisive and vacillating performance by the Leader of the Opposition, rather reminiscent of that of Collingwood, and from the Hawthorn side on the other hand, a positive strong-finishing and vigorous speech by the Premier, the Leader of the Government, after seven vigorous and effective years in office.

It gives me great pleasure to join the debate at this stage. I am speaking about a Premier, whom I believe to be the most hard-working Premier this State has ever seen. He is a leading figure on the Australian scene, an influential figure—and I will develop that point later. He is also one of the most positive, constructive and forward-thinking Premiers that this State has ever seen. For that reason, he will be here for a long time to come.

On the Australian scene, we have seen the influence of the Premier in sponsoring constitutional conventions for constitutional reform. He is a leading figure at those conferences. I have seen him in action at Premiers' conferences. He was one of the sponsors of the short-term wages and prices freeze which was the turning point in the battle against inflation in Australia, which has meant so much to the low-income earner. Again, he is sponsoring a conference on developing a higher level of employment and endeavouring to reduce youth unemployment to the barest minimum. Once again, his words are being listened to.

The honorable gentleman indicated from the scoreboard the tremendous development that this State has seen in recent years. These are the facts that matter, not vague political insinuations, innuendoes and inferences that in the final analysis mean nothing to the man in the street. The latter wants to see this State develop and he wants to see action. That is why he applauds when he sees the Victorian scoreboard showing that this State has the highest rate of home ownership of any in Australia—indeed it is higher than that in any other country in the world—and the fact that it is maintaining that general level. He also applauds when he sees Victoria consistently having the highest rate of employment of any State in Australia and regularly seeing that Victoria holds the top position in the average bank savings throughout Australia, as well as the highest average earnings. These are all further trophies for the economic scoreboard.

In these four vitally important areas, Victoria has regularly led the rest of Australia. In the final analysis, these are the things that matter to the man in the street who is endeavouring to meet the cost of educating his children and paying off the house that he is purchasing.

The Premier can also be described as one of the most constructive and imaginative Premiers that this State has ever seen. There has been the development of new departments—the Ministry for the Arts and the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation.

Mr. FORDHAM: That was our policy.

Mr. THOMPSON: Now members of the Opposition are claiming the policies of the Premier as their own. Both of these departments have been an unqualified success and other States are establishing similar departments. The Ministry for Planning is another one and the Ministry for Conservation, under the vigorous leadership of the Minister for Conservation, is another plus for the Premier, even though it was originally established in the 1960s. It was much further developed by the Treasurer.

During his term of office, in the field of education the Treasurer has trebled total expenditure and also trebled *per capita* expenditure in this important area. That was an amazing performance and speaks much louder than the words, insinuations and innuendos of the Opposition.

By providing the necessary finance the Treasurer has to some degree been responsible for the development of such innovations as the work experience scheme. It needed encouragement from the Treasury in the first place when it was suggested by my colleague, the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation. Nearly 30,000 youngsters have had the benefit of a period in industry, which has given them a better idea of what is happening in the outside world, has given them valuable educational experience and has enabled them to establish a relationship with a possible future employer. Not so long ago a woman tapped me on the shoulder in the street and said how much she appreciated this scheme. She stated that her boy had been drifting aimlessly when he received the opportunity of taking a job with a local electrician during his work experience period from his local high school. That led to his taking a real interest in a trade for the first time, and now he is apprenticed to an electrician and doing well. She thanked those who were responsible for the development of the scheme.

That is one example of how the work experience scheme has been successful. Already 5,500 firms are involved in it, and now that the Treasurer has agreed to carry workers compensation for employers co-operating in the scheme, employers will be further expanding, especially those who work as a one-man unit, whether farmers, agricultural scientists or veterinary surgeons, people who previously had been worried because they had not employed others and who had some fears about workers

compensation. That development will certainly lead to further expansion of the scheme.

The community education programme has also received stimulation from the Treasury. About 30 officers are working in this field, and the aim is to implement the Government's educational philosophy of making education a lifetime process, of doing away with the old concept of closing the school at 3.30 p.m. and at week-ends and holiday times. The aim is to make the school available 7 days a week and 52 weeks of the year. This requires additional effort by some teachers and the appointment of community education officers. The scheme will be gradually expanded further as funds permit.

The Premier drew attention to Victoria's most favourable teacher-pupil ratio. Honorable members are aware that Victoria has the most favourable ratio of any State in Australia and has been in this position for many years. It is a ratio which compares more than favourably with any in the world. It is interesting to note that Treasury allocations have enabled the Government to increase the number of teachers fourfold during a twenty-year period when the number of pupils has merely doubled. In other words, Victoria now has twice as many teachers in relation to school population as it used to have, a magnificent achievement when one considers that there have been demands from all parts of the State and all portfolios for further increases in allocations as well as demands for reducing rates of direct and indirect taxation. This fourfold increase in the number of teachers has been a remarkable performance because it involves a total salary bill of $800 million, as indicated by the Treasurer this evening.

The Treasurer has made possible the further expansion of the migrant English teacher scheme. Victoria has been the only State that has consistently paid for more teachers in addition to those whose salaries are paid by the Commonwealth. In recent years Victoria has had approximately half of the total number of migrant English teachers in Australia. This amounts to 1,100 to 1,130 teachers —the figure fluctuates slightly—the equivalent of an effective full-time teaching force of 960 in this very important field.

Again the Treasurer has given his full support in providing money for community education projects as distinct from the provision of teachers' salaries in this field, and he has backed the department in the development of 55 to 60 projects in conjunction with municipalities and local organizations. These community projects have a threefold value. Firstly, they lead to a far greater measure of community involvement. Secondly, they lead to a much better finished product. Thirdly, they lead to substantial cost savings. I hope that during this sessional period further legislation will be introduced to enable the expansion of this scheme. Interest is being shown by other States in copying the pattern of development in this area. I welcome the active co-operation of honorable members on all sides of the House in the further development of this scheme. Initially some help was needed from the Treasury to launch this innovative venture.

Time and again the Treasurer has also shown that he is sensitive to the needs of the handicapped and the disadvantaged. It was he who enabled the State to take over general responsibility for the care of the disabled and to alter the offensive section in the Education Act which placed responsibility for the education of handicapped children on the parents. It was he who raised special Treasury funds to relieve the plight of the minus children of the Kew Cottages and, in conjunction with the *Age* newspaper, enabled the renovation of the whole area there to be carried out, and the rebuilding of the educational and health facilities. That has meant a new deal for the handicapped children of the Kew Cottages.

I refer at random to a paragraph in the Budget, which reflects the general philosophy of the Treasurer. In the area of home-help services the following appears—

> The Government has increased the subsidy ceiling on home-help housekeeper salaries to the current award rate.
>
> Home-help services are provided directly by municipalities for the aged and the sick and for the physically and mentally handicapped. For the physically and mentally handicapped the home-help programme is totally funded by the State. At the Premiers' Conference in June the Commonwealth announced that it was reducing its subsidy for home-care services for the aged in 1978–79, from a $2 for $1 basis to a $1 for $1 basis. As a consequence the basis of State funding has been changed from $4 for $1 to $2 for $1.

That is being done when the State can ill afford it, but it is a means of helping the less fortunate in the community. The Treasurer had no hesitation in taking that action. The next paragraph develops the theme—

> However, this change will not bring about any reduction of the State's share of the cost of home-help services and the resulting reductions in home-help subsidies relate only to the reduced level of Commonwealth support. The State will maintain in full its support for home-help services and is actually increasing its commitment.

Here is a man who has always been prepared to listen to the complaints of the man in the street, of deputations, regardless of their political or other beliefs.

Mr. FORDHAM: What about unemployment?

Mr. THOMPSON: That is a good question. I will mention again that the Premier has enabled Victoria to maintain consistently the highest employment level of any State in Australia, and under education he highlighted the question of youth unemployment. The Premier has said publicly that unemployment is at an unacceptable level at the present time.

Mr. FORDHAM: What is he going to do about it?

Mr. THOMPSON: I thank the honorable member for the question. To assist in the transition from school to the work force, the State has participated from the beginning with the Commonwealth Government in the Special Youth Employment Training Programme. Last year positions were made available in State Government departments and authorities to train young people. This programme was building up last year and the cost was $1·35 million. For 1978–79, 2,000 young people will be trained and the cost is estimated at $2·6 million. Under the programme young people who have been unemployed for four months or more will be eligible for four months of training in State Government departments and authorities.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I must remind the honorable gentleman that we are not on a Budget debate.

Mr. THOMPSON: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked me what the Government was doing and I just wanted to draw his attention to this development because I think he missed that particular part of the Budget speech tonight. The fact that the Treasurer made a special increase in the allocation for the youth employment scheme shows that he believes that the State Government should set a lead in this important area, and he has made the necessary funds available.

I thank the honorable member for the question. On top of that he alone, of all Australian leaders, has called for a summit conference to discuss further proposals in this important area. It becomes abundantly clear that here is a Premier with a magnificent record of positive achievement. Take, for example, the area of decentralization. That is a general success story due to the positive measures he has initiated in the form of land tax concessions, pay-roll tax concessions and freight subsidies. He has given a boost to the development of the Department of State Development, Decentralization and Tourism and has been a consistent and interested visitor to all parts of the State of Victoria on week days, week-ends, at any time of the year. The Premier has only to be asked to visit some country centre and he is there. No Premier of this

State has ever travelled so much to all corners of the State as the Honorable R. J. Hamer. No Premier has been so effective in introducing remedial and positive steps following those visits. The economic score, the decentralization score, the scoreboard of assistance to the disadvantaged and the handicapped, all show a magnificent record of positive achievement.

Once again I repeat that the Premier has been an innovative Premier, an intelligent Premier, an extremely hard-working Premier, and a sensitive Premier. He has been a wonderful Premier from the point of view of the future development of the State of Victoria, and I will conclude on that point. Recently whilst overseas, the Premier, with top technical officers, succeeded in pioneering development for the conversion of brown coal for fuel purposes. It is that positive approach which has been the centre of his success as Premier. I know that when historians look at the development of our brown coal projects in future years, they will pay a tribute to the foresight of our present Premier. He deserves the support of the people of Victoria. He has had the support of the people of Victoria, and he will continue to have that support for many years.

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum): I support the motion of want of confidence, which has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition, because it is quite clear not only to the people outside Parliament but also to those inside it that this State no longer has a Government which is stable, efficient and effective. These are the very factors that have kept this Government in power for the record term of its office, something like 22 or 23 years. It is now a bleak Government, tottering from one crisis to another. One day it is the Housing Commission land purchases and another day it is the expulsion of two members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party in this House. Following that expulsion there has been continued wrangling between the members of the Liberal Party in this House. Then there was the resignation of senior Ministers in the Hamer Cabinet. After that, it was made clear in the Budget Papers presented to the House tonight that there has been a reduction in the level of State services to the community and to the people of Victoria, and yet the Premier claims a great record of achievement for his Government for the period of two years since the last State election.

The Premier asks us to examine the record and that is what we propose to do. What are the facts? The facts are that each area of Government activity, and what it is able to achieve in this community, is now winding down. The commitments that it has made in the past about sensible and orderly planning, for example commitments made to the environment and public transport, no longer exist. We are told that these commitments still hold, but anybody who travels on VicRail knows the level of service being provided proves otherwise.

It was a very short and shallow reply which the Premier gave tonight. Very few members of his Cabinet were prepared to sit behind him and listen to his weak defence of his Government. I do not blame those who absented themselves from the Chamber. The facts are that the Liberal Party is no longer credible as a party, the Hamer Government is no longer credible as a Government, and the Premier is no longer credible as the Premier and leader of this State. There have been too many shifts, too many changes in directions, too many failures to honour the commitments of the past and too many scandals.

The position has been reached where even Liberal members of Parliament who represent safe seats, like the honorable member for Doncaster, have expressed the fear that no matter how blue ribbon their constituency may have been in the past they will be defeated at the coming election.

What is the Premier's answer to all this failure to honour his Government's commitments? The best thing the Premier has been able to do

is to advertise for and appoint a new image builder. It is costing the taxpayers of this State $23,000 for a principal press secretary to manage the press relations unit in the Premier's Department; to try to dress up the image of the Government and to make it look responsible and acceptable to the public of Victoria.

Mr. WILKES: It cost $350,000.

Mr. CATHIE: It costs $350,000 in all, when one takes into account the public relations exercise in which the various Ministers now indulge themselves.

It will take a lot more than public relations to save the Government from slipping further down that slope to inevitable defeat.

Let us examine the facts, let us examine some of the commitments this Government made and then failed to honour. I shall deal, first of all, with the Environment Protection Authority. What did the Premier assure this Parliament four years ago, in 1974? The Premier then gave solemn promises and assurances—which were, incidentally, given during the debate on a motion of want-of-confidence in the Minister for Conservation. The Premier said that the operations of the Environment Protection Authority required absolute independence, that the Environment Protection Authority is and has been free to make its own policy and that the Government would never interfere with the operations of the authority in its own field.

Four years later, what has happened to those assurances and that commitment? Four years later it is recorded in the official minutes of the Environment Protection Authority that the Minister for Conservation, not alone, but with a number of senior Ministers, including the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism, and the Minister of Water Supply—a significant proportion of the State Cabinet—called the Environment Protection Authority together and told its members what they had to do. I quote from the actual minutes of the authority—

> The Minister has directed that the authority does not take action to enforce the licences on—

and it mentions two particular companies. I shall not go into any further details. It is apparent that we have a selective law in this State under this Government. It is apparent that if a company has the ear of a powerful group of Cabinet Ministers it is possible for that company to have protection from the law. Presumably, if a company does not have the ear of that powerful group, the law will apply to it. That is an example of the double standards and hypocrisy of the Government, and the people of Victoria are beginning to see through it. Despite these attacks on the Environment Protection Authority and attempts to introduce amendments to its legislation, the Premier was entirely silent. No one heard his voice supporting the Environment Protection Authority in the way in which he was prepared to support it four years earlier.

Take the issue of sensible and orderly planning, which is so vital to the people of Victoria. One only has to examine the history of what took place with the Western Port Regional Planning Authority to see what has happened to planning in Victoria. The reason for the establishment of the authority was to draw up and implement a planning scheme for the Mornington Peninsula and for Westernport. The authority was established in 1970, but to date at least one municipality in the area, the Shire of Hastings, has had to act under interim development orders for approximately seventeen years because there is still no planning scheme under which the council can operate.

The planning authority went ahead and did what it was expected by the Government to do. It drew up a conservation plan for the Mornington Peninsula. That plan was placed on public exhibition not once, but twice. On both occasions all objec-

tions were heard and amendments were made to the plan. The Government was still not satisfied and it proceeded to appoint an independent committee, which also heard objections and which also came to a conclusion about the plan. That independent committee consisted of a solicitor, a planner, a farmer and a retired Chief Engineer of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. No one could suggest that the committee was loaded in a particular direction. What did that committee, which heard objections and which came to a unanimous decision, conclude? I quote from its conclusions—

> That the conservation plan is a suitable and adequate response to the direction of Statement of Planning Policy No. 2.

Did the Government accept that conclusion and decide that that, surely, was good enough? No. The people of the Mornington Peninsula, as well as the authorities of the Mornington Peninsula, said that they wanted the adoption of the plan, but the Government intervened yet again. So disturbed were the local municipalities that they met together. I have the minutes of a meeting of the Mornington Peninsula Municipalities Association, which was held at the Civic Centre at Frankston on Tuesday, 27th June, 1978. The meeting resolved unanimously—

> That this association write to the Premier, the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Planning expressing its concern over the lengthy delay which has occurred in the adoption of amendment 1A to the Westernport Regional Interim Development Order (Conservation Plan) required by Statement of Planning Policy No. 2.

All the regional planning authority did was to carry out the instructions and guidelines of the Government's policy, its Statement of Planning Policy No. 2. The Government then intervened and said, "That is not good enough. The Government will not accept the results of your work." It rejected the plan.

What was the result? At least one decent, public spirited and hard-working member of that authority resigned in disgust. The person concerned is Councillor Robin Cooper, who was the representative of the Shire of Mornington on the Western Port Regional Planning Authority. He made it clear that he would not seek re-election to the authority when positions were nominated later in the month of August. His reasons for not continuing his tradition of public service to the community and to orderly and sensible planning were quoted in the *Peninsula News* of 2nd August, 1978, as—

> I am totally disillusioned with the State Government's attitude towards planning, in particular towards the authority.
>
> Anything where there is a pressure group they buckle and don't make a decision, which is costing individuals a tremendous amount of money and heartache.

Councillor Cooper went on to say—

> It is now totally apparent that Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hamer's knowledge of the conservation plan is lamentably scanty.

It is equally apparent that the Government and the Premier are prepared to bend this way and that, in line with whatever pressures are placed on them and to suit whatever vested interests happen to have their ear at a particular moment.

There is another aspect to this story, which shows once again how the policies of the Government are full of contradictions and completely lacking in sense or consistency. The Government appears to be tacking in any direction out of desperation, in an attempt to gain support from here or there or from any group. In the Speech made by His Excellency the Governor in opening this session of Parliament on 7th March, 1978, the Government gave an assurance to Parliament.

The promise was made that the Government would recast the role of regional planning authorities on the lines of the newly constituted Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority.

It was quite clear that that statement referred to the Western Port Regional Planning Authority. That probably was the Government's policy

last March, but it is not its policy now because events have intervened. It should have been and was Government policy to add to the regional planning authority representatives of the Government and of interested groups from the fields of farming, industry and conservation.

Indeed, according to a report written in the *Age*, the Premier himself took the initiative in reversing that policy. The *Age* reported that the Premier had bluntly rejected a proposal from his Minister for Planning, Mr. Hayes, to restructure the Western Port Regional Planning Authority. He said that he would not change the structure of the authority and that it would not be broadened with the addition to those members whom I have just mentioned.

The proposed legislation that presumably was scheduled for this session of State Parliament has now disappeared. It is no wonder that the former Minister of Public Works, the honorable member for Dromana, is alleged in the document prepared by the honorable member for Westernport to have said—

> Hamer is a double-crosser; you can't trust him.

That statement was alleged to have been made by a former senior Minister of the Crown who had served many years under the Premier of Victoria.

I refer to one other issue of vital importance to the people of Victoria. The Premier said quite clearly in his election policy speech in 1973 and stated again in his defence tonight what he has been able to achieve in the sewerage of Melbourne and the regional centres of Victoria. In 1973 he said—

> Our objective is a massive clean-up of the rivers and streams of Victoria, including the Yarra and the Maribyrnong, and the complete sewering of Melbourne and major country centres by 1980.

At least he had the grace to recognize three years later, in 1976, when he was again facing an election campaign, that that date of 1980 was unrealistic, so he altered the date. By 1976 the Premier was saying—

> The immense task of completely sewering Melbourne and other urban areas of Victoria by 1982 is well under way. It will be done.

No one, not even the Premier, believes in that promise today. He knows it is not possible, because at present throughout the Melbourne and metropolitan area there are over 100,000 homes that are unsewered. It was stated in the Budget Papers that of the 100,000 still unsewered homes, 11,000 will be caught up with in this financial year, leaving 90,000 homes still unsewered by 1979. That shows that the Premier is not really talking about the complete sewering of Melbourne by 1980 or 1982; possibly, with the progress made by the Government, it will not be achieved by 1992.

This has an effect on pollution, and in his defence the Premier said he was proud of his record of decreasing the amount of pollution in urban streams, the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

A retired doctor who lives at Templestowe was so concerned about the levels of pollution in an unsewered area because of the drains and creeks running into the Yarra River that he went to a consultant and paid for an analysis to be undertaken. The firm of Water Science Laboratories Pty. Ltd. undertook an E.coli analysis of the Foote Street drain which runs into the Yarra River at Finns Reserve at Lower Templestowe. That analysis showed an E.coli count of 1·6 million. The comment of the person who undertook this testing sample was that the bacterial count showed significant pollution of the drain. Of course that is so, and that is the direct result of the failure to sewer the developed suburbs in and around the metropolitan areas of Melbourne and the regional and country centres of Victoria.

The permissible E.coli level that may be present in water that is used for swimming determined by the Environment Protection Authority is 200. In this case a reading of 1·6 million was obtained, and that is 8,000 times the accepted health standard laid down by the Environment Protection Authority. On the standard allowed for recreational but non-swimming waters such as urban creeks, that reading is 1,600 times the health and safety standard set for those creeks. Therefore there is very bad pollution of the streams and watercourses and Port Phillip Bay simply because of the failure of the Government to carry out the election promises it made in 1970, 1973 and 1976.

I should like to give one other illustration of the failure of the Government, and this is purely a local issue that affects people in the area I represent. It concerns the Frankston Community Hospital and the events that occurred there. I received a letter from the manager of the Frankston Community Hospital enclosing the text of a telegram sent to the Premier of Victoria on behalf of the hospital. The letter was dated 30th June, 1978, and the text of the telegram was—

> Could you please advise us when we can appoint nursing staff to commission our new intensive care unit, opened 11th June, 1978, by the Honorable P. Lynch, M.P.

Mr. Lynch is Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Federal Parliament and the local Federal Parliamentary member. I wrote to the Premier in support of the telegram, and received an acknowledgement of that letter on 20th July, in which the Premier said he would arrange for inquiries to be made and would write again as soon as possible.

Two months later the hospital still does not have the nursing staff it requires. It has a splendidly equipped intensive care unit of four beds opened by the Honorable Phillip Lynch which is now being used as an ordinary ward and a high dependency unit. Some of the equipment there would be worth $45,000, including at least $20,000 worth of electronic equipment. That electronic equipment is locked up because the Premier will not supply the qualified staff required to use it and to staff the intensive care unit. The hospital has requested an additional staff of ten or twelve but is still waiting to hear what the Premier is going to do for the health of the Frankston community and the needs of the hospital.

It is clear that wherever one looks, once one begins to get behind the fine phrases the Premier gave the House tonight and the fairy stories the Deputy Premier tells about the football match and the lady who tapped him on the shoulder and other personal anecdotes, one sees that the Premier presides over increasing chaos in Government and in the State and mismanagement at nearly every level of Government activity. There is the continuing breath of scandal.

For those reasons I fully support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, and I hope it will be supported by the House.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): Tonight honorable members are debating a motion of want of confidence in the Premier of Victoria. I regard the poor performance of Cabinet as a collective responsibility and although the Premier is the Leader of the Cabinet, in my view it would have been more appropriate to debate a vote of want of confidence in the Government. However, I am aware of the fact that the motion was directed against the Premier for procedural reasons. That does not in any way limit the scope of the debate. I wanted to make that point clear before I proceeded any further. My contribution will deal with the very serious weaknesses in the Government of the State, particularly since the last sittings of Parliament. In recent years few Governments in Australia have been in such disarray as the Victorian Government has been in recent weeks.

There are Budget matters to be debated but tomorrow week would be the more appropriate time for that and I shall then take the opportunity of discussing the Government's financial dealings within the State.

I do not intend to discuss the Jennings journal tonight. I have no idea how accurate the statements made in that document are—I have merely skipped over the 65 pages—but most of what I read has been the subject of rumours in Melbourne for many months. I am not in a position to comment on their accuracy. The opportunity for debate on that subject will be presented tomorrow and it will be up to the Government to decide whether to hold an inquiry to clean up that unfortunate state of affairs.

My criticism is aimed at the poor performance of several Ministers and before I go into detail, I should discuss the resignation of the former Chief Secretary, the Leader of the Government in the Upper House, and the third-ranking Cabinet Minister in the Government, the Honorable Vance Dickie. After the report on the lands inquiry was presented, it was the view of many responsible people in this State—and I am talking of people in all walks of life and of all political persuasions—that Mr. Dickie should either have resigned or been sacked.

When I made that statement I thought it was a fair and correct statement of an opinion shared by some members of all parties in this House. The Premier and the Cabinet, no doubt after due discussion, with some diffidence and some opposition, decided to support the Chief Secretary in his decision to tough it out and the Liberal Party was somewhat divided on the matter. The serious aspect of this was that the man in question ranked third in the Government and was Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Months later total confusion reigned within the Government and the Chief Secretary resigned under pressure from members of the Liberal Party.

Mr. RICHARDSON: There is no way of knowing whether or not that is true.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: Why did he not advise the Premier that he was resigning from his seat at the same time as he was resigning from the Ministry? His resignation came as a surprise to some members of the Government.

Mr. WILKES: Including the Premier.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: The only reason I mention this is to show that a lack of teamwork and confusion exists in the Government. That is a statement of fact which the events of those few days prove. The action of the Honorable Vance Dickie does not inspire confidence in a Government of which he was a most senior Minister.

The former Minister of Public Works, the Honorable Roberts Dunstan, made a most remarkable verbal attack on the Prime Minister of Australia; there is no dispute about that. The Premier had no choice but to ask for, and accept, his resignation, which he did. I do not want to dwell on those two examples but they are public evidence of what has been happening in Cabinet in recent years. Basically it is caused by a lack of discipline in Cabinet. It was particularly obvious between 1973 and 1976. I will not discuss the personalities of the past because they have gone from this Parliament. I pointed this out in the last election campaign and time has proved my words to be completely true.

Apart from the incidents concerning the two Ministers who resigned, there is an obvious lack of discipline in the Cabinet, examples of which were seen last night. Apparently the back-benchers will not discipline their Ministers in the party room and the Premier will not do it in the Cabinet room. It is high time someone pointed out the behaviour with which this House, this Parliament and this Government has to contend. Last night the Minister of Immigration and

Ethnic Affairs was running around like a fifteen-year-old schoolboy. A schoolboy would have been chastized for behaving in that manner. The Minister picked up the file like a little boy, he dashed off, dropped it and dashed back to his seat. No other Minister would have been stupid enough to do that, and I know it is something which will embarrass the honorable gentleman for many years to come.

During the debate on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting, the rudeness and bad taste of the Minister of Special Education in answering questions was obvious to all honorable members. This behaviour goes on month after month. The attitude of the Government is that no matter how it behaves it will get away with what it does. The problem is that, however incompetent, however lazy, however poor the standard of behaviour of Ministers is, the attitude of the Liberal Party is to give blind loyalty—"My party, right or wrong." By adopting this policy the present Government is slowly but surely destroying itself. Honorable members know the old political saying that Governments defeat themselves. How true that is in this instance. It is true that this Government can correctly claim a better record than some other State Governments in many fields of Government administration, but some proviso should be made.

Previous Governments of all parties have been responsible for initiating excellent programmes and the National Party will pay proper tribute to the present Government for many of its initiatives.

Honorable members should remember that Victoria is the most densely populated State and has the shortest network of roads and railways of any mainland State. That is a tremendous advantage when it comes to spending a dollar. If Victoria could not lead Australia in virtually every field, there would be something wrong with the Government. That point should be made quite clear.

My criticism is on two grounds: The poor performance of certain Ministers—I have made a brief reference to particular Ministers—and the lack of discipline in Cabinet.

I have a high personal regard for the Premier as a man; he is of good character. That is my personal view and I am sure that it is shared by other members of the National Party. The Premier is a man whom I like personally, but, because of the dismal performance by the Government, of which he is Leader, over the past six months, it is with regret that the National Party supports the motion of want of confidence in the Premier.

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora): I support the motion. As I understand the speech by the Premier, and to a lesser extent that by the Deputy Premier, they have produced a shopping list of what the Government has done and suggest that that really answers the charge. On a motion of this kind, it is not enough to say that the Government has done certain things in office. Even assuming that it has, which I do not necessarily acknowledge, that is not an answer to a motion of this kind.

It could be said with some degree of confidence that many men and women in this Chamber could preside over a Government with a competent Public Service and achieve the sorts of things that the Premier and Deputy Premier claim as achievements in seven years of office. Of course, it helps when the Government has 51 of the 81 members of this House. The capacity of a Premier is not demonstrated by achieving only that. Admittedly, some honorable members opposite do not have that capacity, and they would acknowledge it. A lot more is required of a Premier than merely reciting a shopping list and saying that therefore the charge that the Parliament and the community do not have confidence in the Premier has been answered.

One should look for, inspect and examine some special qualities in determining whether the Premier has the confidence of the Parliament and of the people.

Mr. LACY: Tell us what the charge is.

Mr. CAIN: I shall. In the time available and with my limited capacity, I wish to explain the qualities that I believe the community looks for in a Premier.

Firstly, it looks for leadership and for a person who acts and is seen to act with authority and commands respect when he so acts. It must also look for a person about whom it can be said that when he says something it is believable. A final criterion is that he must be capable, and prepared to make decisions and to stick by those decisions.

Later, I will deal with these qualities but, as a corollary to the criteria I have mentioned, the person must not set out to try and please all people at all times about everything. One cannot survive just on the power and patronage of office. The one sure way to fail as Premier and to lose the confidence of this Parliament and the people is to try to be all things to all men and women at all times about all issues. That is what concerns most people about the Premier.

Approximately a month ago, the Premier tried to be all things to all people. He had a facelift in his Cabinet. Some argument has ensued tonight on whether it was an enforced facelift or a voluntary action on his part. There is not much point in going into that issue as it has been ably canvassed by other honorable members.

There was a facelift and the Government thought that it could move into the next election looking a little different with some new faces. To use the analogy of the Deputy Premier earlier this evening, they are interchange players in the team. They did not make the first 18 side, but they are there for the moment and they are enjoying their place in the sun. They will not enjoy it for long. Perhaps I could use the words of the former member for Melbourne, Mr. Barry Jones, who, in a situation like this, frequently said that what they are really doing is taking their places in the sun on the deck chairs on the *Titanic*. The *Titanic* sank in five days and it might take five or six weeks in this case, but that is what will happen.

The people of Victoria are concerned that the attempted facelift has left the Government party, quite clearly from today's and yesterday's performance, in almost utter disarray because all the tensions, pressures and hatreds are coming to the surface. One can discern the various groups within the party by the way in which they react, and the things that they say not merely in the House or in the corridors, but also in other places. It is reaching a situation where the Government party can be categorized into various sectors.

There are the hasbeens who have been through the Cabinet or have missed their opportunity. They have become cynical about the Government. They know its days are numbered, but they are not terribly concerned. Some members, like the honorable member for Ballarat South, made the wise choice of announcing their retirement long before the writing was indelibly on the wall.

Another significant category which is a growth sector in the Government Party are the almost hasbeens who have seen what is inevitable. They have more hope than the hasbeens but they now see the inevitability of the future and they are prepared to accept it. Some are still hopeful of joining the Cabinet and some, of course, are quite savage about missing opportunities on the last two occasions.

The last group in the Government party, which is perhaps the largest growing group, are the nervous ones. They are the realists who are concerned about their seats. They number approximately 26. They see the

inevitable consequences of what is coming with the electoral onslaught in a short space of time.

I return briefly to those qualities that people look for in a Premier, and which I believe honorable members should endeavour to measure against the performance of this Premier to understand why the motion has been moved. Firstly, I take the criterion of leadership because this is something about which the honorable member for Ballarat South would know nothing. The style of the Premier involves a conscious contempt for this place and the Westminster system. There have been several indications of this contempt in recent actions by the Premier. I believe the remarks by the Leader of the National Party about the "resignation" of Mr. Dickie are extremely cogent. Whatever may be said about that episode, it is clear that Mr. Dickie survived until it became apparent that he was a spectacular electoral liability. No member would deny for a moment that all indications they had from hard data indicated that to be the position. Mr. Dickie's demise or resignation was a direct consequence of that knowledge.

The point made by the honorable member for Carrum demonstrates the Premier's contempt for the Westminster tradition. The honorable member drew attention to the extravagant spending by this Government on public relations. He referred to a recent article under the by-line of Peter Ellingsen concerning $350,000 spent by this Government in improving its public relations.

Mr. WILKES: Is that not a disgrace!

Mr. CAIN: I believe it is a particular disgrace, when this Parliament should be the vehicle through which the Government presents its policy, that the people's representatives should use it so badly. The Premier has every opportunity of using this place as a far more effective vehicle than any public relations bureau that he can recruit. That type of attitude of the Government is disgraceful. It denigrates this place, and the Premier, as the first member of this place, for not using it as it has traditionally been used.

There are certain members of Parliament and certain Leaders to whom the Westminster style does not appeal. Westminster Parliaments and systems are the forums where members can say what they want to say to the world. That is the place for it to be done, not through fancy public relations consultants.

The third way in which the Premier demonstrates his lack of leadership qualities is in how he bows to the dictates of the Prime Minister. If there is any disappointment by the people of Victoria, it is in the Premier's lack of capacity to stand up for Victoria. He does not care what happens to the people of this State or to financial arrangements so long as Malcolm Fraser is not upset. The honorable gentleman runs in tandem with the Prime Minister every time, until he thinks there will be an election, and then he says he does not want anything to do with him. It will be interesting to note whether the Prime Minister comes to Ballarat at the time of the by-election to talk about his Government and the Federal Budget.

The fourth way in which the Premier demonstrates his lack of leadership qualities is in his knee jerk reaction to any issue or problems. His reaction is generally to say, "We will have an inquiry or a committee".

Mr. EDMUNDS: "We will have to look at it".

Mr. CAIN: "We will have to look at it", as the honorable member for Ascot Vale has said. It does not matter what is involved. When there is an inquiry the matter can generally be put away for a couple of years. The numbers of reports made and inquiries that take place are astronomical. Inquiry after inquiry is held. But the Premier never makes a decision or faces up to the hard decisions required of leadership when it

is no longer possible to pass the buck. A Premier has to face certain decisions and this Premier does not do so. They are given to a committee, a Beach inquiry and then to a Norris inquiry, inquiry on inquiry, to postpone, delay or avoid making a decision.

I come to the second criterion which I believe to be a necessary quality for a Premier and a reason why I believe the Parliament should adopt the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. It is the degree of authority. If a Premier says something, he must be satisfied that it will be acted upon. I point to two examples of a complete failure by the Premier in this regard. The first was the construction of the VicRail building on the banks of the Yarra River, known as the Metrole building. Clear instructions given by the Premier about observance by Government authorities of planning policies were completely ignored. A Dorothy Dixer question was asked of the Minister of Transport which indicated that as a result an extra $2 million will be spent.

I am concerned at the utter contempt that public authorities have for the word of their Premier. This public authority has gone ahead and done what it has wished. It has made no attempt to communicate with the planning authorities of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The Minister of Transport can grimace as he wishes. Consider the correspondence. Plans for drainage and sewerage were forwarded, but no communication took place with the planners at the board, and the authority went its own way.

The second example was referred to in the Melbourne *Age* of 12th August. The Grain Elevators Board did exactly the same thing as VicRail. It was reported that the board demolished the Chinese Masonic Society building in Lonsdale Street, and began excavations for a six-storey office building, again without communicating with the planners on the proposal. It is clear that public authorities and Government departments have decided to go their own way and to take no notice of the direction of the Premier. Any Premier who has the qualities that demand that public authorities take notice of what he says would not allow that to happen. That instruction was given three years ago and as recently as last July there was defiance in the face of instructions.

The third matter to which I refer is that a Premier has to be believable. That is a little different from being credible. When a Premier says something the public has to accept what he has said as being true because he has said it. The example that I cite of the Premier failing in that regard is in his announcement regarding the proposed link between the South-Eastern and the Mulgrave freeways. The honorable gentleman has said that the link of those two segments of freeway will not require the further extension of the freeway through the Domain from Punt Road to Kingsway.

One may or may not believe that it is desirable to have a freeway from Dandenong to Werribee; one may argue about whether it is a good idea. Members of the Opposition do not believe it is a good idea but will not argue about that now. I do not believe any engineer or expert who has been associated with a study of this proposal would suggest that if the two segments of freeway—the South-Eastern and the Mulgrave freeways—were joined it could be left at that without anything being done about the principal segment through the Domain.

The Premier has said that the flow of traffic will spread out at Punt Road but the experts say that putting such a volume of traffic onto the South-Eastern Freeway from the Mulgrave Freeway through Gardiners Creek to Punt Road is like pointing a hose with a narrow jet of water at a brick wall. That is a perfectly reasonable and accurate analogy. I defy the Premier or the Minister who is now concerned with this area to say that any expert has told

them that if those two segments of freeway are linked it will not be necessary to complete the most important and critical segment—from Punt Road through to Kingsway. The Premier says that it is not intended to proceed with the building of the freeway through the Domain but that it is intended to complete the Gardiners Creek link. That flies in the face of all the advice that the Government has, and the only advice that it has.

The final criteria is that the Premier has to make decisions and stick by them. I can cite many examples, but time will not allow me. However, I shall mention two. One is in the planning field, about which I am primarily concerned. The proposals relating to the T & G construction at Mount Ridley are one example. I shall traverse the material briefly.

In the early 1970s the Government, I believe correctly, determined a policy on the future of urban growth around Melbourne. It was decided upon in conjunction with the planning authorities and the Board of Works.

In July, 1975, a clear and unequivocal statement was made by Mr. Hunt, the Minister for Planning, which indicated that the Merri corridor was excluded from urban development. It is true to say that planners and developers acted on that decision, and within about six weeks from the time that decision was made the T & G sought to make use of urban land in the corridor, not because it was in conformity with planning decisions but because it suited them, and to the Premier's eternal discredit he refused to say, "No" for something like three years. It was only three weeks ago, after the re-emergence of Mr. Hunt as Minister for Planning, that a "No" answer was given. Between 1974–75 and now, the Premier was not prepared to stand by the integrity of planning decisions made in this State, not by planners of the board, but by his own Minister, in his own Cabinet room, by his own Government.

On examining the file I felt strongly that the Premier was mesmerized, seduced, or in some way twisted by the material available to him. It was totally against all the proposals and recommendations of the experts that the Government had available to it, and against all the best advice the Premier refused to say, "No". It may be, as the Leader of the National Party says, the Premier is a nice guy who does not like to say, "No." I do not know, but he cannot be a Premier and Leader of the Government unless he is prepared to say "No" ten times for every time that he says, "Yes". It is easy to say, "Yes". One can easily turn "No" into "Yes", but one cannot do it the other way, and that is the Premier's trouble. It was demonstrated spectacularly in the Mount Ridley decision.

The Premier also lacked the capacity to stick by decisions on Westernport. I would like to say a lot more about Westernport than is possible in the time available to me tonight. For seven years we have been waiting for a plan, and we have gone on waiting simply because of infighting in the Liberal Party between people who had been living down there for years, and who saw their fortunes being made when BHP–Esso moved into that area, and those members of the Liberal Party who were concerned about the bay being polluted. The battle lines were drawn and we all suffered as a result.

I understand the sensitivity of those holiday makers—Liberal Party members who are probably more articulate and more influential than the local party members. I understand that they want their holiday homes protected. The members of the Opposition would feel the same. I understand the sensitivity of members of the Liberal Party who live there. But these factions within the party are locked in an internal struggle. This has led to animosity that many of us would regard as undesirable, but by decisive action, by strong action, by saying, "No," the Premier

could have stopped it, could have stemmed it, and could have arrested the trend as far back as 1971. His failure to do so has led to all sorts of bitterness. It is alleged that the Premier sent the Minister of Transport to oppose the honorable member for Westernport for pre-selection.

As the Leader of the Opposition said, we do not care what the Liberal Party does. If it wants to tear itself to bits, that is its concern, but it is our concern, as members of the Opposition, when that fighting and tearing itself to bits affects the people of this State. That is the last point I wanted to make. We cannot afford a Premier who is so concerned about keeping the peace in his own party, in Parliament, in Cabinet, and out in the branches, that we, the people, suffer. That is the reason the people of Westernport do not have a plan.

All the spurious things about the plan being too complex and detailed, about houses on hills and what colour paint should be used, is all nonsense. Anybody on the peninsula knows what is going on and they know that is nonsense. The real reason is much deeper, and as long as the Premier, and the Cabinet, and the Government allow this sort of thing to go on, and as long as the Premier is not prepared to stand up and make decisions—and that is the fourth criterion—this State will continue to suffer for the way it is governed.

The example of what happened in Westernport is only a microcosm of what is happening in planning. As far as the battle of the two sides is concerned, Westernport is just the start. There is a much bigger battle to be won. The drift has started and it is pronounced. Even if the Premier were decisive and able to show capacity of leadership now, he would be too late. He clearly has not the capacity to show those qualities and the game is over for the members of the Government. It can be seen in their faces tonight and by their reactions to what has happened in this place over the past two days. It is clear that these looks, and reactions in the hearts and minds of the Government members, is as a result of the Premier's lack of capacity to do all the things I have pointed out he should do as a Premier.

The Premier should not just run through a shopping list of Government services when he has thousands of public servants to help him. That is not what the Premier, the first Minister, is all about. It is far more than that. This motion pinpoints the heart of the trouble. It demonstrates that we have a Premier lacking in the quality of premiership and authority, and that is why this Parliament should support the motion.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): Right from the moment when the Leader of the Opposition began his attack on the Premier, it seemed to Government members that there are a lot of people in the Opposition making noises to brace each other up for a fight in the next six months which they know now they cannot win.

The honorable member for Carrum talked about problems in the Liberal Party because of two people being expelled from it. It is commonly known that the honorable member for Carrum was the architect to get out of another place the Honorable Alec Knight, and the Honorable Doug Elliot—that is the truth of the matter. Therefore we do not like listening to his hypocrisy.

I shall now deal with the statements of the honorable member for Bundoora. The honorable member spoke about the qualities of leadership needed in a Premier. It is obvious from the speeches made by the Leader of the National Party and members of the Opposition that they are politicking tonight and are not fair dinkum. Who are the potential alternative Premiers about whom they are speaking? The honorable member for Northcote, the Leader of the Opposition, is an alternative Premier, although the National Party would love to go back to the days

when it did not matter for whom one voted in Victoria, the Country Party went into office. That is what the National Party would like. In that case the other alternative would be the Leader of the National Party.

In his discussion of the qualities of leadership that are needed, the honorable member for Bundoora spoke about the Westminster system. The honorable member knows full well that no Labor Premier in Australia could possibly pay anything but lip service to the Westminster system, because every Labor Government in Australia is controlled by the trade unions and is answerable to them. That has been demonstrated over and over again.

Even the new Leader of the Opposition has been tipped upside-down by the Trades Hall Council in the short time in which he has been Leader. Therefore, how in the name of good fortune could the honorable member for Bundoora suggest that a Labor Premier could honour the traditions of the Westminster system? It is impossible.

The honorable member for Bundoora listed a number of matters. He said that words should be acted upon and that a Premier should be able to make decisions and stick to them. I shall examine the record of the Leader of the Opposition in connection with that last remark—make decisions and stick to them. The Leader of the Opposition does not have a very long track record. He has not had a lot of time.

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): I raise a point of order. The House is debating a motion of want of confidence in the Premier, but the Minister for Conservation is introducing irrelevancies and making personal attacks on members of the Opposition. This debate concerns the Premier. What other people may have done is irrelevant.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER Mr. McLaren): Order! With all due respect to the honorable member for Caulfield, this is a wide ranging debate and many aspects of administration and even personalities have been covered. It is within the bounds for the Minister for Conservation to continue along those lines. The debate will also present an opportunity for any honorable member who feels that he wishes to add to anything that has been said. There is no point of order.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): It was not I who introduced the qualities of leadership into the debate, it was the honorable member for Bundoora, who was politicking and suggesting that better people were available for the position than the present Premier. I dispute that.

I point out that the present Leader of the Opposition vacillates and changes his mind at the slightest pressure. I have the evidence here, and I shall now give it to the House. I shall quote from a media press release of the Leader of the Opposition which is, in fact, marked "Do not use until Sunday February 12". I presume that the Leader of the Opposition was to visit Portland on that day.

> A State Labor Government would upgrade the Balmoral–Norajuha railway line to attract available wheat to the Portland harbour, State Labor Leader, Mr. Frank Wilkes, said today.
>
> Mr. Wilkes said a Labor Government would aim to link Portland and Mildura to make Portland the focus for wheat exports from the south east region of Australia.

The *Geelong Advertiser* of 22nd February, 1978, when Mr. Wilkes was becoming answerable to the Geelong Trades Hall Council states—

> The meeting passed a resolution expressing concern at press reports of Mr. Wilkes advocating that Portland be established as the main grain port for Victoria, and asking that the Geelong Trades Hall be consulted prior to any future proposals that could affect employment in Geelong.
>
> Seamen's Union delegate, Mr. E. Rowarth, said he at first thought the statement indicated that a State Labor Government would set about making Portland the main port for grain at the expense of employment opportunities in Geelong.
>
> Mr. Rowarth said that he had visited Mr. Wilkes yesterday with Mr. E. Kenworthy, of the Waterside Workers' Federation and State Labor candidates, to obtain clarification of Mr. Wilkes' statement.

Mr. Wilkes denied that he had made the statement attributed to him in the press," Mr. Rowarth said.

"He told us that it was not his intention to establish anything in Portland that would be to the detriment of Geelong".

The Leader of the Opposition had completely changed his mind within one week because a couple of minor union officials in Geelong took him to task. On the basis of the criteria of the honorable member for Bundoora, this man, who has never had to make a major decision in his life, vacillates about a minor decision when he is under pressure from minor union leaders. On that criterion alone, the honorable member for Bundoora —who is another alternative Leader in the three-way split in the Opposition—ought to stand up and say that his own leader fails.

Of course, the only material on which the Leader of the Opposition could make his speech was this document. The honorable member quoted sections concerning statements allegedly made by the honorable member for Dromana. I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition agreed with what was alleged or whether he believed it was true, but I should like to know why he did not quote the sections referred to in the same segment that relate to the previous Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. FORDHAM: He referred to them.

Mr. BORTHWICK: He did not. I should like to know whether those sections of this document are right or wrong. If they are wrong, how much else in the document is wrong?

The Deputy Premier defended the Premier ardently and well and I support the views expressed by the honorable gentleman. He also informed the House of many of the initiatives taken by the Government, which the honorable member for Bundoora tried to put aside. The record of the Hamer Government will stand for many years in many fields, and there is nothing that the atmosphere of a forthcoming election, fostered in this House by all kinds of scurrilous smears, can do to detract from the record of the Government in many fields.

I shall also point out a few achievements in my own field of administration and give examples of some of the initiatives taken in that field. These initiatives are entirely dependent on the support of the Premier and Treasurer of Victoria.

Anybody who is interested in the fishing industry in Victoria will know of the advances made in recent years owing to the interest of the Premier in financing a patrol fleet which is second to none, in bringing the industry into the position of making decisions, and of management philosophies that are unique in Australia and supported by the vast majority of fishermen.

Mr. WILKES: Did you direct them as the honorable member for Carrum said you did?

Mr. BORTHWICK: I will answer the question raised by the honorable member for Carrum. On occasion after occasion the Environment Protection Authority deferred taking action. I asked the authority not to go further in requiring large capital expenditure until it had brought forward policies as required by the Act. I requested the authority to take the action it had already taken previously. I have stated that clearly to the House before, and I make no apology for it.

Mr. WILKES: Who put pressure on you?

Mr. BORTHWICK: No one put pressure on me. I invite honorable members to look at the national parks and the changes and developments that have occurred there as a result of the interest of the Treasurer. No Minister can make achievments in any field unless he has the support of the Treasuryy, and unless a Minister has a Premier who is sympathetic towards the initiatives he puts forward, the Minister gets nowhere.

The Premier and Treasurer has demonstrated his sensitivity in many fields and his ability to understand

the aspirations of different groups and do his best to help them. At a time like this, when a motion of want of confidence in the Premier is being debated, the achievements of the man are forgotten. The Leader of the National Party paid tribute to the Premier in many of these areas, but that is not what one has heard from members of the Opposition. One would think, after listening to them, that the Hamer Government had taken no initiatives, had not entered into new fields, and did not have a good track record.

Mr. WILKES: What has the Government done in Westernport?

Mr. BORTHWICK: I shall tell the House what the Government is doing in the Dandenong Ranges. I am the local member and represent people living in the Dandenong Ranges. The Government's initiatives there in endeavouring to rectify the horrors of the past are second to none in Australia. No other Government in Australia is doing what the Victorian Government is doing in the Dandenong Ranges.

Throughout the debate members of the Opposition have based their case on the support of their Leader, and they are putting him before the people of Victoria as an alternative Premier. The Leader of the Opposition has not at any stage of his Parliamentary career, in my view, demonstrated the qualities that the honorable member for Bundoora says are necessary for a Premier. I have demonstrated tonight that in the short term in which he has been Leader of the Opposition, the honorable member has vacillated, been uncertain and been subject to pressure; he has been tipped upside down repeatedly by relatively minor union officials, and he has not the capacity or the quality to do the job.

I am absolutely positive, confident and certain that once in every three years since 1955, members on the other side of the House have tried to whip up a little enthusiasm towards themselves, seeing if they can face the next drubbing, and that is what is going to happen again.

Members of the National Party sit on the sidelines, hoping and praying that something will be fluked that will leave them where they will have the balance of power. They wait for that proud moment in Victoria's history when there will be a return to the days of the late Sir Albert Dunstan—the golden era that anybody who is old enough to recall will remember, except for the pork barrel side of politics, that Victoria then had one thing to be proud of—it was the lowest taxed, worst administered and poorest served State.

As for the continual suggestions and behind-the-scenes manoeuvring, for the Labor Party to be trying to do deals with the National Party to take Victoria back to that era shows the humbug of the Labor Party in suggesting it is thinking of the people of Victoria rather than its own hungry members. That is what this deal is all about.

The interesting thing is that the Leader of the Opposition visited one of the electorates over which I will bet he is breaking his neck to do a deal; he mucked the whole thing up because he was pressurized for a second or two by a minor union official in the Geelong Trades Hall Council.

I will leave my case there. When the people of Victoria have to decide in whose hands they want to leave the reins of Government, it will be Hamer's hands, not Wilkes's hands—never in a million years!

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): It is a matter of considerable regret to me that I rise to support a motion of want of confidence in somebody who is a Liberal Party leader, but I would be failing in my duty to this State if I did not speak out on this occasion.

I believe the honorable member for Bundoora touched on part of this problem when he spoke of qualities of leadership. I have served under a number of leaders and have lived close to leaders, and I say that the Premier lacks the very first quality of leadership. The first quality of leadership

is that a man who is a leader looks after his men, and I do not mean by that obtaining cheaper meals in the Parliamentary dining room or free overseas trips.

A man who is a true leader in the political context will help his men to develop their full potential so that they can serve the State to the best of their ability. The Premier does not want under him men of strength and independence; he wants bootlickers. For that very reason he is no leader.

It has been said of the honorable member for Westernport that he is a wild horse. There was once a wild horse called Bucephalus owned by a great leader called Alexander the Great. Alexander tamed that wild horse and found in him strength and wonderful support, but the moment the Premier is confronted with any unruliness in one of his members, the only way he knows of dealing with the situation is by assassinating that member.

I listened carefully to what the Minister of Education said. His speech reminded me a little of one of the speeches made by elderly relatives of the bride at a wedding when the bride is rather unprepossessing; they have to say something to " crack the bride up a bit ". However, I noticed—and I give the Deputy Premier credit for this—that never at any stage in his speech did he say that the Premier was a man of integrity. I believe that is the most basic issue of all.

I have found the Premier to be a man who is completely untrustworthy. One cannot believe his word, whether he is answering a question in the House, speaking to the public or giving evidence under oath before the Privileges Committee. Victoria is confronted with precisely the same problem that confronted the American people and the Republican Party after the Watergate scandal. This State now has a Leader who has no credibility whatsoever.

I believe a careful analysis of the Beach report, and in particular the facts and circumstances which arose after it, a survey of the Gowans report, and now the matters raised in the Jennings report, will demonstrate that the Premier presides over a Government which contains elements of corruption within it. Some of those elements of corruption belong to the Premier himself. I will make clear what I mean by corruption. I am not necessarily speaking of the taking of money. By " corrupt " I mean tainted. ungenuine, impure and having the quality of corrupting and debasing those around one. At a later stage, if I have time, I shall endeavour to analyse what I mean in relation to the Beach and Gowans reports. I say to the Premier that he is unfit to be the Leader of the State and of the Parliamentary Liberal Party. Indeed, he is unfit to be a member of Parliament.

There are members of Cabinet who, to do them justice, probably lack the perspicacity to realize what is happening in this State. That does not mean that they are not men of integrity, but it raises serious doubts on their capability to fulfil the onerous tasks of Ministers. On the other hand, there are men in Cabinet who know very well what is going on in this State and so long as they remain silent and support the Premier by opposing this motion, they are not doing their duty to the people of the State. In the long run, if they continue in this process they can only corrupt and debase themselves.

I have stated here and now that the Premier is corrupt. In corroboration of that I shall point to five qualities of the Premier which I say are qualities found in corrupt politicians.

Firstly, the Premier is untruthful. Secondly, he has no respect for the law. In that regard he is very like President Nixon. I have listened to him before the Parliamentary Liberal Party and I have listened to him in this House and I have frequently heard him mis-state the law for his own purposes. It is not a matter of ignorance. The Premier is a very learned lawyer. His capacity as a

lawyer was well recognized in Melbourne. When he misleads the House and the public as to what the law is, he does so deliberately.

Thirdly, the Premier is a lawyer with no sense of justice whatever. That was well demonstrated by the manner in which he pursued the honorable member for Westernport until his final expulsion in July of this year. The procedures which were used to expel the honorable member for Westernport from the Liberal Party on 29th July of this year were a total denial of the principles of natural justice. Moreover, the Premier stood by while another lawyer misled delegates on what was the law applicable in those circumstances. It is no defence to say that the Liberal Party is a private club. The Supreme Court has indicated that even private clubs should make some attempt to pursue elementary natural justice. The mere fact that the Supreme Court does not necessarily intervene in these circumstances does not mean that a private club should not endeavour to do natural justice. The Premier knew and knew well that the Liberal Party delegates were misled on the law. He also knew that they were breaking every elementary rule of natural justice.

Fourthly, I say that the Premier, who knows well the procedures and traditions of this Parliament, has shown scant respect for them. He showed no respect for the Westminster tradition when he refused to require the Honorable Vance Dickie and the Honorable Alan Hunt to stand down during the Gowans inquiry. Further, he showed no respect for the Westminster tradition when Sir Gregory Gowans handed down his final decision and indicated that the Honorable Vance Dickie had fallen far short of the appropriate standards of Ministerial responsibility.

The fifth characteristic of the corrupt politician which I enumerate is that the Premier is a character assassin. He either does this personally himself or more frequently he operates through his immediate henchmen. There is an excellent example of this in relation to the honorable member for Westernport who had differing views from the Premier on the subject of planning. Therefore, the honorable member for Westernport had to be destroyed. The first step in that destruction was the spreading of the false allegation that he had stacked branches. The honorable member demanded an inquiry and the public was promised that the report of that inquiry would be released. The honorable member was completely exonerated but that report has never been released. One of the reasons why the report has never been released is that if it were released it would show the methods of false character assassination which were used by the close associates of the Premier.

It may be said that there is no evidence that this particular character assassination had the imprimatur of the Premier upon it, but thereafter the Premier continued to have as his close associates the men who elected to produce this material for the purpose of false character assassination. Indeed, when other members of the party sought to attack those close associates, those false character assassins, the Premier stepped in and wanted to deal with those who said that we should not have character assassins in the party.

The Premier's personal technique of character assassination was well demonstrated in the House when he attacked the character of Mr. Howard Nathan, the barrister who represented the Labor Party at the Gowans inquiry. Under Parliamentary privilege the Premier made a false attack on Mr. Nathan, and once again, he wrongly stated the ethical principles which apply to counsel in those circumstances. Mr. Nathan had acted entirely properly. He had done only his duty, both to his client and the State, and he was subjected to a most reprehensible attack.

Perhaps an even clearer example of the character assassination of the Premier is his participation in the

release of the spurious Darvall report which followed a situation in which there was no inquiry whatever. There never has been a Darvall inquiry and the Premier well knows it. Yet the Premier gave false answers to a number of questions which were put to him in the House. Those false answers appear in the *Hansard* report at pages 2881, 2882, 2884 and 3032. The Darvall report has been well dealt with in a report issued by the Australia Party.

Mr. McCABE: Did you write it?

Mr. FRANCIS: I did not write it nor any part of it. The report states—

> It is highly improbable that R. J. Hamer will ever repeat this grotesque absurdity outside the safe confines of Parliamentary privilege.

The report adds—

> Whereas, the deceptions of the Hamer Government commit it to repeated wiles, and shams in defence of a squalid fraud. This repugnant episode raises the very point upon which the Hamer Government invites political hara-kari: the exposure of the "team" and the games they play.

There has never been any public denial, so far as I am aware, of the contents of that report. As I understand it, when the Attorney-General was questioned about the report at a meeting of Liberal Party branches, he expressed the view that he doubted whether anyone could sue for defamation on this report. If he expressed that view, then the only reason why the Premier could not sue on that report was because in truth he did participate in a squalid fraud.

I want now to examine in a little detail some of the cases of untruthfulness of the Premier in this Parliament. Before I came to this House, I had been gently warned by a few senior Liberals that the Premier's credibility was not perhaps as good as it might be and for that reason, perhaps, I watched him with particular interest to see if this was true or a falsehood spread by people jealous of him. I did not have long to wait.

The Premier appointed a woman adviser. It was not a very popular appointment and in April and early May, 1976, there had been circulated around Melbourne, and particularly within the Liberal Party, photostat copies of an article that this woman had written. Some of the Liberals were getting rather worked up about it.

On 29th April, 1976, the Deputy Premier obtained a copy of this article to give to the Premier. On 2nd May, 1976, the present Minister of Labour and Industry delivered a copy to the Premier's home. On 4th May, 1976, I referred to this matter in the party room and I read extracts from the article. I personally handed the Premier a copy of that article.

The news that the Premier was embarrassed about this spread everywhere and the Premier kept having the article handed to him at various places. Each time he would say that it was the first time he had seen it. This news gradually drifted to the other side of the House. On 25th May, the honorable member for Broadmeadows asked the Premier a question about the article. To the amazement of everyone on the Government benches, the Premier replied that he had no knowledge of it at all. Of course, this was entirely untrue and it became a matter of hot gossip about the House.

I can perhaps only repeat a comment made by one of the Ministers concerning this particular incident. He said, "Dick told another lie in the House today. He's getting better at it; he did not even look embarrassed this time."

Mr. JONA: Who said that?

Mr. FRANCIS: The Minister concerned knows who it is and can admit it if he wishes to do so.

The honorable member for Broadmeadows, of course, later learned that he had been deceived and he put a further question to the Premier. This is all recorded in *Hansard*. The Premier gave a very ingenious answer. He claimed that he had misunderstood which article was being referred to.

At this stage some of the members of the Liberal Party began to say to themselves that perhaps after all the Premier had not lied in the House. I was interested in this question. At first, I thought there was a possibility that the Premier might not have been deceiving this House but then I noted that the Premier, in answering the question on 25th May, had referred to the fact that he had been reading a news item in the *Herald* shortly before and he had inquired whether it was the article referred to in the *Herald.*

I later examined every edition of the *Herald* that day and the article was so completely identified in each edition that it seemed to me there was a fatal flaw in the ingenious argument that the Premier later advanced when he sought to hide his deceit. There was no doubt in my mind that on that occasion he had lied to the House.

Thereafter there were other instances in which, to my mind, his credibility was called into serious doubt. I found it extremely difficult to reconcile many of his answers in the House when I compared them with information we had received in the party room, but I do not propose to go into details of that.

When the Vapold issue arose, I supported the Premier in the first debate because I believed him to be innocent. Subsequently, a great deal of information which I received within the Liberal Party seemed to me to make it certain that, during the course of that debate, the Premier had also misled the House.

Finally, I come to the land deals debate. At that stage, every member of the Parliamentary Party had very good reason to believe that at least one Minister had lied to the Parliamentary Liberal Party in the party room. Indeed, when the Gowans inquiry delivered its report and when one examined the evidence at the Gowans inquiry, it indicated that one assurance which we had been given by a Minister in the party room was in fact false.

Mr. BILLING: Which Minister? Name him!

Mr. FRANCIS: I will answer the question if the Speaker wants me to do so.

When that debate came on, every member of the Parliamentary Liberal Party had very good reason to believe that the Government knew that there was corruption within the Housing Commission, even though the Ministers themselves might not personally be implicated in the corruption.

To say, as the Premier said in the land deals debate, " If there has been any irregularity and in spite of the innuendoes and insinuations from across the Chamber I know of none " was, to say the least, deliberate prevarication calculated to mislead this House. Not only inside this House but also outside it, the Premier has frequently and deliberately misled the public.

Take, for example, what happened on the night of 21st March, 1978, when, in this House, I referred to the personal meetings which I had had with the Premier in September, 1977, immediately prior to my expulsion. Within an hour or so of my speaking in the House, the Premier was questioned about this by the press and he said that there had been no meetings at all. He indicated that the only meeting that he had with me related to a complaint made in relation to the Beach report. It was common ground that that meeting was back in December, 1976, and had nothing to do with the matter. The *Age* carried a report on the following day on its front page stating that the Premier had said—

> It is all completely untrue. I saw him once with the Deputy Premier on a matter that related to the Beach Report.

Perhaps the Premier will claim that he was misreported, but he also spoke on radio station 3AW the following morning and I still have a

tape of the broadcast. Once again he said exactly the same thing, that it was all untrue and that there had been no discussions at all.

Unfortunately for the Premier, at the time he was telling everyone it was all untrue, and that there were no meetings at all, apparently unbeknown to the Premier, the Deputy Premier was going around telling everyone that there had been two meetings and the present Minister of Labour and Industry was saying that he had been present at one meeting. Each of them was assuring the public that the Premier had done nothing improper at those meetings. We might euphemistically refer to this as bad staff work.

On the following morning, the Premier came into the House with what looked like a Ministerial statement in his hand. The Deputy Premier rushed up and spoke nervously to him, following which the document was promptly put away and the Premier did not speak. Then later in the day he did speak. He said that there had been meetings, that they related to " one issue only, and that was related to the information which the member for Caulfield claimed to have in relation to land transactions and that the only other matter discussed was procedure ". That is recorded in *Hansard* at page 793.

However, when one looks at the evidence the Premier gave to the Privileges Committee he enumerated a string of other matters which were discussed. It is only necessary to compare the Premier's statements as recorded in *Hansard* on that day with the evidence he gave to the Privileges Committee to understand the complete falsity of what he said in the House. This is demonstrated simply by comparing his statement with his own evidence.

The Premier also said in his statement to this Parliament on page 794 of *Hansard*—

> As far as I am concerned, honorable members in this House vote as they please. They are bound by their oath to do so and I would be the last person to try to divert them from that duty.

I believe that is simply sanctimonious hypocrisy. The honorable member for Westernport and I voted in accordance with our consciences and, as everybody knows, we were promptly expelled from the Parliamentary Liberal Party for abstaining from voting. The honorable member for Westernport was pursued thereafter by the Premier until 29th July this year, when he was finally expelled, and part of the basis of his notice of expulsion, even some ten months later, related to his abstention from voting in Parliament.

What is the effect of that treatment that was meted out to the honorable member for Westernport and myself? Does the Premier suggest for one moment that it will have no effect on the members of the Liberal Party? Does the honorable gentleman suggest that that will encourage them to vote in accordance with their consciences in this House? I say to members of the Government party, " Gentlemen, your Leader says to you that you may vote in accordance with your conscience and do as you please. You will, of course, thereafter be harassed, maligned and expelled from the party, have your character falsely assassinated and you will be marked out for political extinction, but do not let that deter you from doing your duty in this House."

Let us also consider for a moment what the honorable member for Gippsland East said in this House on 10th May, 1978, when he referred to evidence which the Premier had given before the Privileges Committee. The essence of that allegation was that the Premier had deliberately misled the Privileges Committee about the Parliamentary Liberal Party constitution. I remind members of this House that when the Premier made those statements he was on oath. If he made those statements knowing that they were false, there is only one word which covers it and that is perjury, and perjury is an offence in this State carrying a penalty of up to fifteen years' imprisonment. It is therefore not a trivial matter.

I believe the Leader of the Opposition when he spoke in this House tonight was in some respects more than generous to the Premier, because the Leader of the Opposition knows that the Premier committed perjury before the Privileges Committee, and if anybody wants to trace this out he needs to do no more than look at page 64 of the Premier's evidence, page 4 of the *National Times* issue No. 307 of 1976, and on page 3 of the *Australian* of 23rd December, 1976. In those three documents one will find an overwhelming probability as to where truth lies, and it does not lie in the mouth of the Premier. These are a few of the many instances of the untruthfulness of the Premier.

I turn now to the question of corruption, and I begin with the Beach report. It is a matter of history that Mr. Beach, now Mr. Justice Beach, conducted an inquiry in 1975 and 1976 and ultimately recommended that some 55 members of the Police Force should be prosecuted. In a Police Force of the size of the Victoria Police, which is of the order of 7,000, that represents something less than 1 per cent. Therefore, in some respects it is not a matter of very great moment, although the seriousness of some of the allegations against particular members of the force was a matter of considerable moment.

It is also a matter of history that every policeman concerned was able to avoid conviction. I ask this House: Did Mr. Beach have some unusual characteristic which unerringly enabled him to reach the wrong conclusion in every instance? That was hardly a characteristic which would warrant the Government subsequently appointing him a Supreme Court judge.

But do not think for one moment that I am making any criticism of Mr. Beach. Judges not only need a knowledge of the law, but also need to be able to make an intelligent and able analysis and a logical analysis of fact. If they do not have that ability, they obviously will be failures as judges. It was not Mr. Beach alone because learned crown prosecutors and senior counsel were asked——

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The honorable member has another one and a half minutes.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): In regard to your comments, Sir, I desire to move—

That the honorable member for Caulfield be permitted to continue his speech for a period not exceeding fifteen minutes.

The House divided on the motion (Sir Kenneth Wheeler in the chair)—

Ayes	.. ..	29
Noes	.. ..	42
Majority against the motion	.. ..	13

AYES.

Mr. Amos	Mr. McInnes
Mr. Cain	Mr. Mutton
Mr. Cathie	Mr. Ross-Edwards
Mr. Crabb	Mr. Sidiropoulos
Mr. Culpin	Mr. Simmonds
Mr. Edmunds	Mr. Simpson
Mr. Evans (*Gippsland East*)	Mr. Stirling
Mr. Fogarty	Mr. Trewin
Mr. Fordham	Mr. Trezise
Mr. Francis	Mr. Whiting
Mr. Ginifer	Mr. Wilkes
Mr. Hann	Mr. Wilton
Mr. Jasper	*Tellers:*
Mr. Jennings	Mr. Remington
Mr. Kirkwood	Mrs. Toner

NOES.

Mr. Austin	Mr. McClure
Mr. Balfour	Mr. McKellar
Mr. Billing	Mr. MacKinnon
Mr. Birrell	Mr. McLaren
Mr. Borthwick	Mr. Maclellan
Mr. Burgin	Mr. Plowman
Mr. Cox	Mr. Ramsay
Mr. Crellin	Mr. Reese
Mr. Dixon	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Dunstan	Mr. Scanlan
Mr. Ebery	Mr. Skeggs
Mr. Evans (*Ballarat North*)	Mr. Smith (*Warrnambool*)
Mr. Gude	Mr. Stephen
Mr. Hamer	Mr. Templeton
Mr. Hayes	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Jona	Mr. Weideman
Mr. Kennett	Mr. Williams
Mr. Lacy	Mr. Wood
Mr. Lieberman	
Mr. Loxton	*Tellers:*
Mr. McArthur	Mr. Coleman
Mr. McCabe	Mr. Collins

PAIRS.

Mr. Doube	Mr. Suggett
Mr. Lind	Mrs. Patrick
Mr. Roper	Mr. Aurel Smith

Mr. LACY (Warrandyte): I was not intending to enter into this debate tonight, but I am afraid I do not feel I could be true to myself as a person or true to my constituents unless I did. This has been a very sad day for this Parliament and a sad day for me, because what we have seen here today is perhaps the worst example of the misuse of this Parliament and the members of this Parliament that I have seen take place. I am ashamed that I have had to listen to the speeches that have been made in this debate and that to that extent I am associated with this motion. I do not believe I could be true to myself or to my electorate if I did not say to the members of this House that I oppose the motion and give the reasons for opposing it.

What we have seen today is a coalition of hate. There are three parts to the coalition, all with substantial vested interests in pursuing their hatred against one man; the Labor Party is consumed with hate because it has vested interests, in attempting somehow, through whatever device of filth is available to it to occupy the Government benches in this House; the National Party is also consumed with hate and willing to join itself to this group of people opposite and associate itself with the most despicable attempt——

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The honorable member for Warrandyte without interruption.

Mr. LACY: Today, the National Party, with enormous disappointment to me, chose to associate itself with this most despicable attempt to smear the character of the Premier. The Leader of the National Party supported the motion, and he is on the record as supporting the motion and that is where he stands. The honorable member for Caulfield is consumed with hate for his own twisted and obsessive reasons. He is a wealthy man and a man who has used his wealth and the time afforded to him because of it to put enormous effort into this attempt to discredit the name of the Premier. The honorable member for Westernport, consumed with hate, has done similarly. His vested interest is his inability to reap what he thought were to be the benefits that would accrue to him from owning land in an area where he thought he may one day be able to subdivide and sell. These enormous vested interests have decided today to associate themselves with a motion that attacks a man who is a giant among midgets who assail him.

I do not mind saying that I would not be a member of this Parliament today if it were not for the respect I have for the Leader of this party. I frankly would not be interested in serving my constituents and representing them in this House, if it were not for the fact that the Leader of the party of which I am a member is a person who is personally committed to rational, humane and sound government in this State. I would not want to take part in the sort of exercise that went on today if it were not for the fact I could face my constituents and say to them, "I will put up with all the hatred and venom that has been exhibited today because we are making progress in Victoria towards better government and a better quality of life under the Premier's leadership."

The Deputy Premier has most ably outlined that progress. I do not mind putting up with the inane interjections of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for whom, until today, I had considerable respect, but I am afraid that respect has been greatly diminished by his performance during this debate, as has my respect for the Leader of the Opposition, who is a person whom I similarly respected until now. They are attacking a man who has a reputation throughout this country as being a great leader, a great man and a person who has achieved great feats of administrative reform and progressive policy initiative over the past six or seven years.

I am proud, and members of the Liberal Party are proud, to be associated with this man. We stand today in this Parliament united and willing to serve behind a leader who is prepared to pursue sound, rational and humane Government for the people of Victoria.

If there is any question about where this State is going, let those who ask that question read the Budget speech made by the Premier today. Let them read what this Premier, as Treasurer, has done personally, after receiving the submissions of his Cabinet colleagues, in deciding the form of the Budget and its allocations. Let them read how he has done that in the context of the economic circumstances that prevail in Australia today. Let them then look this man in the face and say he is not doing a job worthy of the people of Victoria and in their best interests. They could not do that because it is clear that the task is being performed exceedingly well and to the credit of the honorable gentleman who is the subject of this motion. He has the support of every honorable member on this side of the House.

The shame of this motion and the shame of those who support it is this: The very accusations, the spiteful, miserable, smearing, slanderous accusations of the honorable members for Westernport and Caulfield and the honorable members who are prepared to associate themselves with those sorts of statements, those sorts of unsubstantiated allegations, are attacking a man who not once in my experience has ever been prepared to say an ill word about any member of this House or about any other person. That is the shame of it. He would not stand up and defend himself in that context and in respect of those terms. He would sit here patiently and quietly, in accordance with the character that members of this side of the House have come to know and appreciate, and listen to these poisonous accusations and turn the other cheek.

Mr. TREZISE: What about Bunna Walsh?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The honorable member for Geelong North is referring to a person who was a member of another place and was not a member of this House. He will cease interjecting.

Mr. LACY: That is why the Premier has the support of the majority of the members of this House and has the overwhelming support of the people of Victoria. He will continue to have that support because we know the sort of man he is. He will continue to have that support in the electorate because far and wide throughout the State his reputation stands untarnished and unmarred by the venomous allegations that have been made by people who are not prepared to put forward one scintilla of evidence to support them.

I am proud to have had the opportunity tonight of saying what I have said, because I would not be prepared to go back to my electorate and say that I am prepared to continue to represent my constituents in this House to the extent of having to listen to the sort of argument put forward in support of this disgraceful motion if I did not believe so strongly in the Premier's integrity and performance. He is a giant compared with the midgets who assail him.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale): The House is well used to the venom of the honorable member for Warrandyte and his inability to exercise the Christian charity in which he professes to believe. He is not prepared to exercise Christian charity within the House. Members of the Labor Party do not want to hear what he has to say or would have said from the pulpit. This is a political debate. It is a debate that has been promoted by the history of the Government, led by the Premier, over the past two years.

I have no hesitation in saying that I respect the Premier as a man, but he is now leading a rabble of inconsequential individuals who are polarizing themselves according to their differences to the extent that the State of Victoria is suffering.

The honorable member for Caulfield made a speech casting serious doubt on the ability of the Government to continue to govern. He detailed, in a legalistic manner, material that should be the subject of a judicial inquiry.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Not another one. You were complaining about inquiries earlier. Now you want another one.

Mr. EDMUNDS: I know that the honorable member for Forest Hill does not want an inquiry into the matters that have been raised today. No more serious allegations have been made about the head of this State in this century. I can assure the House that if the same allegations were made against the Leader of the Opposition, he would have no hesitation in standing down and allowing the matter to be resolved by an inquiry into whether the situation is as serious as it appears from the document that was tabled by the honorable member for Westernport and by the speech made by the honorable member for Caulfield.

If the House is to preserve its right to lead the State of Victoria, the Government, the Cabinet and the Premier must consider the serious ramifications of what has occurred today. There is no doubt that the allegations made are extremely serious. I shall attempt to exhibit the seriousness of what has taken place behind the scenes in the Liberal Party through a section of the document tabled by the honorable member for Westernport. The charges made by the honorable member for Caulfield, following the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, were heard in silence. All honorable members are greatly concerned about this matter. Despite his venom, even the honorable member for Warrandyte is seriously perturbed about what has taken place today.

The Government should take a serious look at itself. It ought to call a party meeting tomorrow and not accept the usual back-slapping, but look seriously at what is happening and disturbing the public mind.

The Premier has got himself into a situation where there is no recourse, in my view and in the view of the Opposition, but to stand aside, as the former member for Ballarat Province was asked to stand aside while an inquiry was held because of some of these allegations. One allegation was that there is corruption within the system of the Government. For example, the Minister for Planning in another place copped $13,000 for his campaign funds from people associated with the development of land. If that is not a scandal, I should like to ask what is. That was contained in the evidence produced at the inquiry.

Members are inclined to be blind in respect of this matter, but it cost the taxpayers of Victoria $67,000 to defend that man at the inquiry, and he has now been given the same portfolio again. Does that mean that he will be the bag man to collect funds for the Liberal Party and that he is going to cop the same amount of money and use it for election purposes in a most inappropriate manner? I can assure the House that nobody comes forward to the Labor Party with sums of money like that for election purposes in similar circumstances to those under which the then Minister for Planning received money during the 1976 campaign.

It is said in the House that the Victorian Government follows the Westminster tradition of government, so if a former member of the Government makes accusations against the Government and the Leader of the Government, the Westminster tradition prevails and the Leader of the Government or the person against whom the charges have been made stands down until they are heard and resolved one way or the other.

The whole House and the State of Victoria know that the Premier is leading the Government into the next election and that win, lose or draw, he will not be going on from there. I cannot understand why the Premier does not decide here and now to let the matter be aired thoroughly by some form of inquiry so that it can be re-

solved before an election is held. I say this with respect to the knowledge I have of the Premier, but if he is to take into account the sensitivities of the House and the community generally, he ought to take some positive action instead of allowing what has been going on in his own party to continue.

I refer to the document that was tabled today by the honorable member for Westernport. On page 50 the author of the report states—

> At 11.45 p.m., which was the night of the party meeting, Vern Hauser came into my office and talked until 1.00 a.m.
>
> He said "Jennings you are wet behind the ears, right wing and naïve." He said "Until you realize it is not what you do up here that counts, but how you go about it. You want to tell the people in Westernport who have got problems to get f-----." He said "You are causing a lot of problems and unless you wake up that you have to accept what Ministers say, you will get nowhere."
>
> I said "As far as I am concerned, they are b----y liars." He said "Well you have to accept that." I said "As for the Mt. Ridley and Pinmore deals, they smell as much as the Melton deals." He said "There's nothing wrong with Pinmore, that's a b----y good deal." I said "Yes, for the rotten b------s in it." He said "I know that, but that's what it is all about up here and until you wake up you won't get anywhere."

That is the type of conversation that members of the Liberal Party were having amongst themselves about twelve months or so ago. It goes on—

> I said "The current Cabinet fixed Mt. Ridley and Pinmore and they are all in it up to their eyeballs." He said "So what?"

The Honorable Vern Hauser said this at 1 a.m., when the Liberal Party does its machinations.

> He said "I was able to get away with the Tamar Holdings land sale to the Urban Land Council because I know what to say and when." I said "Well I think that's b----y awful, just like the Development Underwriting Limited deal with Charles Hider."
>
> I told the House that Lindsay Thompson and Dick Hamer had done nothing for my problems in Westernport." He said "So what?" He said "You can see what's happened to Barry Beach—he's an honest man and he prepared a report on the police force which embarrassed the Government and is now paying the penalty. He should have been a Supreme Court Judge but he's like you, he won't accept the position that the men in Cabinet control the show. It's about time you realized that democracy is b--- s---. A dictatorship is the only Government that works." I said "That's b---- shocking. Why don't you go out to your electorate and say that?" Hauser said "That would be b----- stupid as no one would vote for me."

That is what has been going on behind the scenes. Even you, Mr. Speaker, were involved in that as a signatory to the motion for the expulsion of these members who are under question today.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): I was involved as a signatory as the honorable member for Essendon, not as Speaker.

Mr. EDMUNDS: What has gone on today sickens members to the stomach.

Mr. BILLING: Speak for yourself.

Mr. EDMUNDS: Some members would sit here while the greatest possible calumnies were being made against them and would do nothing to defend themselves. The honorable member who was interjecting has not once during the debate tried to rise to speak, and I dare say he is not prepared to do so in case any of it sticks to him.

The Liberal Party has published many documents setting out what it believes are the rights, prerogatives and privileges of members of Parliament. It does not extend those privileges and prerogatives to members of the Opposition or to dissenters within the party, but one publication states—

> DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS.
>
> The Liberal Party gives no instructions to its Parliamentary Members. We expect our candidates and Members to observe Liberal principles in their actions. We expect them to implement our policies at appropriate times, but we do not issue orders. We recognise that they have a National as well as a Liberal responsibility.
>
> Their actions are judged each three years by the electors and by the Liberal pre-selection committees. These are the true democratic restraints.

In this place honorable members have seen the honorable member for Caulfield and the honorable member for Westernport attempt to bring to the attention of the community gen-

erally and, I suspect, their Parliamentary colleagues within their party meeting, certain matters about which they have been deeply troubled. For a long time as a member of the community I have seen the Liberal Party attack the Labor Party on either faceless men or the discipline of the Labor Party, but when there are a couple of dissenters within the Liberal Party, Christian charity, principles about the Liberal Party or democratic rights are all thrown out of the window and it is as solid as any left-wing or right-wing group in any part of the world in disciplining its own members. If it was a Fascist State they would have been abolished. It is embarrassing for members of the Liberal Party to find themselves in these circumstances.

Yesterday honorable members saw how a Minister of the Crown reacted to one member attempting to table the document from which I have been quoting. The honorable gentleman rose, picked up the document and quickly handed it back to the honorable member. One of the reasons why this place is not respected by the community and why no one is sitting in the gallery but a few people who are particularly interested in what is happening tonight, is because the House does not recognize that it must take action to ensure that these allegations are treated seriously.

Recently there was an example of the Government squashing an extension of fifteen minutes to allow the honorable member for Caulfield to add to his remarks. While such actions occur and there is constant upheaval within the Liberal Party, there is no other recourse for an Opposition but to move a motion of no confidence in the Premier. This has been a most serious occasion for the House. It is the first time since I have been a member of Parliament that on a Budget day the Budget has been surpassed by a motion moved by the Opposition. I am not sure how the media will handle it. Recently I read that more than a quarter of a million dollars of public money is spent in promoting the Government in the media. Therefore, no doubt there will be a minor report on what has happened.

I believe the community should know the facts of the Jennings and Francis allegations. It is useless for the Government to shelter behind the mechanics of being the Government to prevent those allegations being thoroughly examined by some independent body and the truth or otherwise determined. When one examines how the community is handling its polling results, it is obvious that the Government's figures are going down. The polls have shown that the public is not yet accepting the Labor Party but it is certainly not accepting that the Government is doing a good job or supporting the Government.

The Opposition's motion has been only superficially replied to by the Minister for Conservation, who did not attempt to answer any of the allegations made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The Deputy Leader of the Government went into his usual transports of sporting activity. The motion should be treated seriously by the House and not voted on in a cavalier manner. I commend the motion to the House.

I believe the Premier does not have the confidence of the House because the Opposition represents something like 55 per cent of the community in this House and will continue to do so until after the next election. The Government should accept that as a practical fact and the Premier in his capacity should go back to his Cabinet and say that this is a serious matter and somebody should be appointed to investigate all the Jennings and Francis material and produce a reply to it one way or the other to clear the air.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): I wish to answer the false allegations of the Minister for Conservation. It is sad that the Minister has slipped down the ladder so far. He had great potential when he entered the Min-

istry but tonight in a rather desperate attempt to divert the House's attention from the real issue, he has tried to use the analogy of the Leader of the Opposition making decisions and then changing those decisions at a later stage. The honorable gentleman picked the worst possible subject, the development of the port of Portland as a grain terminal. The Leader of the Opposition, in the time he has been Leader in comparison with what the Premier has not done in the years he has been Premier, was able to make a decision when he was briefed by his party's policy committees and by those in Parliament who have the responsibility of handling affairs in the rural sector. He was able to see the value of those decisions and stick to them.

The real issue is that the Labor Party and the Leader of the Opposition have gone on record as saying that a Labor Government will upgrade the Noradjuha–Balmoral railway line for the express purpose of developing the port of Portland as a wheat terminal export port. The Leader of the Opposition is backed by the Australian Wheat Board, the grain growers of Victoria, the grains division of the Victorian Farmers Union and today he has been backed by the honorable member for Lowan who presented a petition to this Parliament calling for that very action to be taken.

The Minister for Conservation in a weak way attempted to suggest that the Leader of the Opposition changed his mind. I assure the House and the public of Victoria that the Leader of the Opposition has not changed his mind for the excellent reason that he was able to see the value of diverting the Mallee and Wimmera wheat through the port of Portland and then by creating capacity storage at Geelong to take Southern Riverina wheat which will have the ongoing effect of increasing the revenue-earning capacity of the Victorian Railways. The Premier has known of the situation for years but has vacillated and refused to make a decision. For years he has known of the futility of propping up the Portland Harbor Trust and refusing to allow the Grain Elevators Board to take control of the terminal at that port.

When my responsibility was to advise the Leader of the Opposition on matters of agricultural policy and I put it to him that a private member's Bill should be introduced to bring it about, he was prepared to make a decision, and to back the judgment of the people who were advising him. He was prepared to support the grain growers in this State and the Grain Elevators Board.

When the private member's Bill was introduced into Parliament, and during the course of the debate, the Opposition related to the House the cost to the taxpayers of Victoria of the Premier's inability to make a decision because the faceless men who were manipulating the grain market at that time would not let him. That was the real issue, that they would not let the Premier agree to the proposal.

That information was given to the Parliament and, for political reasons, the Government rejected the Bill. However, within a few months, the Minister of Agriculture brought in a Bill containing the same provisions to bring about what the Labor Party had tried to achieve during five or six years of campaigning.

At every annual meeting of the grains division of the Victorian Farmers Union, resolutions were carried calling on the Government to act. The Premier and the Minister of Agriculture received deputations, but throughout the period they vacillated.

I have demonstrated the comparison, and that is my answer to the Minister for Conservation. It is contrary to what the Minister said. The Leader of the Opposition was quickly able to see the value of these proposals and he was prepared to make a decision. He stands by that decision and his party stands with him.

The Labor Party has spelt out time and time again that, when it becomes the Governent, the port of Portland will become a major exporting port,

as well as Geelong, for the simple reason that the port of Geelong has a freight advantage over Darling Harbour for the Southern Riverina.

This is common knowledge in the grain industry. The Australian Wheat Board has a responsibility to the grain growers of Australia and the Labor Party is prepared to support the board in discharging that responsibility. The argument of the Minister for Conservation was just a load of rubbish and had no effect except that it demonstrated that the Minister has lost his own credibility.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): I do not intend to take up the time of the House unduly. The honorable member for Warrandyte spoke about hate and the mere fact that he referred to this matter demonstrated the honorable member's problem. He referred to vested interests and my own personal interests. He referred to Westernport. He did not speak about the couples who come to me in tears with complaints that their assets have been ruined. Years ago, they had bought an area of land which they could subdivide into five 20-acre blocks. Now that subdivisions have been limited to 100 acres, they cannot sell their land. When these people first bought their land, they were going to live on 20 acres and sell the rest of the area but now they cannot even sell their land. They may have used their superannuation to finance the purchase but their assets have been destroyed.

In other instances, couples have purchased a block of land and, following the new planning proposals, they cannot obtain a permit to build on the land and cannot obtain compensation. In one case, a couple had spent $4,000 or $5,000 on the land and could do nothing with it. That is what the honorable member for Warrandyte should remember about what is happening at Westernport. He cannot give any instances where I have subdivided land at Westernport. Admittedly, I sold part of my farm when I bought it. The sort of comments by the honorable member for Warrandyte are typical of some members of the Liberal Party. Some have hate and others have large chips on their shoulders.

This is a sad day because there is no doubt that members on the Government side of the House have been weak. The interjections are coming from a group of members who themselves failed to get me kicked out of the Liberal Party. The local members had to bring in members from the Federal Parliament. Not only did they bring in the Federal members, but they also had to enlist the support of the Speaker of the House of Representatives as well as the Speaker in this House to sign the notice of motion for my expulsion from the party. That is what this is all about.

It is a sad day indeed because members in this House should be thinking about the man in the street. Surely they do not believe that the man in the street considers that there is nothing wrong with what is going on at the moment. He believes that there should be integrity and trust, which is something which some of the Government party members, such as the honorable member for Springvale, might find difficult to understand.

Mr. BILLING (Springvale): I find those remarks concerning me quite objectionable and I ask for them to be withdrawn without reservation.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The honorable member for Springvale believes that the statement made by the honorable member for Westernport is objectionable and seeks a withdrawal. It is only a request, not a direction.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): If the honorable member is upset, I will certainly withdraw it. He did not upset me when he spoke a lot of garbage about my land. That does not upset me. Honorable members on this side of the House are upset by the truth.

Under pressure, any person or any party shows up its true character. Members of the Liberal Party kicked

me out of the party after I refrained from voting. I ask honorable members on the Government side of the House whether they endorse all the transactions that went on, because, after all, that is what must be faced.

All honorable members have a responsibility to their electors and to their political parties if they are lucky enough to be still in one. The way to stay in a political party is to say that the top man is mad. The person who does so will be congratulated, as the honorable member for Dromana well knows. If a member of Parliament refrains from voting, that is bad and he is out of his party. First of all, they tried to get me out of the Liberal Party at the Executive level but that failed. The matter was then brought up at the meeting of the State council where I, as the member concerned, did not know who was the accuser. Members of the Liberal Party are a great crowd.

This is a sad day for the Premier because leaders in this country must be completely beyond reproach. I have said it before. I have said it a number of times and I think it is most appropriate tonight. It is the greatest thing that has ever been said in this country. It was said by Arthur Calwell about Sir Robert Menzies when he retired. The honorable member for Warrandyte puts his head down. It is a speech that honorable members should heed. Arthur Calwell said that while Bob Menzies was Prime Minister of this land there was never any shadow of doubt or hint or sign of graft or corruption in either the administration or the Government of the day.

We have a responsibility. Democracy revolves around integrity and trust. Honest government will not destroy this country, but corruption will.

The sitting was suspended at 12.13 a.m. (Thursday) until 12.44 a.m.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell): I support the motion of want of confidence in the Premier moved by the Leader of the Opposition, and supported by members on this, the Opposition side of the House, the members on the corner benches, and by the independent members of the Liberal Party. I do this with full knowledge of the way in which the Premier has behaved since he was first elected to that office.

I am reminded of the contribution to this debate of the honorable member for Warrandyte when he spoke about compassion and understanding, and his mock horror at a so-called motion of hate. I remember when the Premier was a Minister in another place and, supported by the Deputy Leader of the Government, he moved a motion without compassion, without feeling, and without any regard for fair play and justice which barred an elected member in another place from taking his place in that House and representing the constituents who voted for him. I am referring to the election of Mr. Ron Walsh, known as Bunna Walsh in this Parliament and elsewhere. At that time, because of an appearance in the Children's Court and a breach of The Constitution Act Amendment Act, the then Minister for Local Government, the now Premier of this State, moved a motion to prevent that man from taking his rightful position. He did not listen to pleas of leniency; he did not show compassion, but by moving a motion to expel that member, he set the mark.

I am reminded of the interjection by the Minister for Minerals and Energy, "How low can you get?" I wondered that, too, because a short time later when that Minister for Local Government moved into this place, it was found that he and the present Chief Secretary were in breach of The Constitution Act Amendment Act for being involved with companies which had dealings with the Government Printer. What happened then? Did the Liberal Party show them compassion? Of course it did. Within a space of 15 or 20 minutes it rushed an amending Act through this Parliament which allowed their continuance in this place.

Mr. CATHIE: Double standards.

Mr. AMOS: Yes, and from that time I knew what sort of a Leader the Liberal Party had chosen for itself. It has taken the Liberal Party and the back-bench members who are here now, and those who preceded them, all this time to see through the phoney person that the Premier is.

I congratulate the two former Liberal Party members, the member for Westernport and the member for Caulfield, for their courage in getting up in this Chamber and exposing the corruption and the weaknesses of the Government. I congratulate them, knowing full well that I am opposed to the philosophy that they espouse. Is it not a shame that the people of this State have to endure the weaknesses of the back-bench members of the Government party who know very well how corrupt their Government is but are not prepared to stand up and be counted. Does this motion not give them the chance to stand up and be counted along with the other members of this Parliament who can see through the façade and the corruption? They now know what the people outside this place are saying. Honorable members ought to be reminded of what the honorable member for Westernport said about public opinion. I remind those back-bench members of the Government party that public opinion is certainly against the Hamer Government. People are fed up with corruption, with corrupt land deals, and with all the in-fighting within the Liberal Party. They are fed up with the hypocrisy of the Premier who says one thing one moment and does another thing the next.

Honorable members owe a debt to the member for Westernport for having his document tabled in this Parliament. I take up the cry for a full judicial inquiry to investigate completely the allegations made in this document, because I believe they are damming and serious. I do not intend to quote at length from the document. It is, however, in the context of the remarks I am making, important to recognize one fact. I alluded to this earlier when I referred to the duplicity of the Premier and the duplicity and hypocrisy of the Government. On page 16 of the document the honorable member for Westernport refers to a meeting he had with the then Minister of Public Works, Mr. Dunstan. At that meeting Mr. Dunstan is alleged to have said—

> As far as I am concerned Hamer is a double-crossing bastard.

Those are the words contained in the report—

> Look what he did to Alan Scanlan and also Geoff Hayes on Kilsyth and me—you can't trust him, but the trouble with you is you think you are dealing with people you can trust and you are trying to do too many things too quickly."

We in the Opposition know about the double dealing and double crossing this Government and this Premier have been involved in, as does Bunna Walsh and the people who elected him in 1970. Page 16 of the report continues—

> Roberts continued that Bill Borthwick was very depressed about the situation as he was hoping to take over from Dick Hamer and Dick was supposed to resign within a couple of months, but I think Dick's misleading them all on purpose to keep Lindsay and Bill at each other's throat.

That is the sort of intrigue that goes on within the Liberal Party. Of course, Mr. Speaker, you would know of that because of the intrigue raised in the party room and because of your own involvement, with respect, in the expulsion of the honorable member for Westernport from the Parliamentary Liberal Party. It is a shame and it brings the Parliament down to a level that is so low as to be almost unbelievable.

The allegations that have been made in Parliament today show quite clearly the corruption of the Government, and I again ask the back-bench members of the Government party to think very deeply about the way in which they vote when this motion finally comes to the test. They ought to have the courage and the conviction to stand up for honest government. If they support the Hamer Government on this motion, it will be obvious that they do not want honest government and they will have to suffer the consequences.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Forest Hill): I commence my contribution to this debate by expressing my sorrow that the Parliament has been demeaned by the attitudes and remarks that have been made by previous speakers from the National Party and the Labor Party and by the honorable members for Caulfield and Westernport.

The Parliament has been demeaned by vile slander and unjust accusations against a man who is honest and of consummate integrity. I want it placed on the record that I am proud to serve in a party that is led by the present Premier. I affirm my support for the Premier. I totally reject the motion and I totally reject the vile and cowardly remarks that have been made about the Premier.

All that we have seen and heard tonight has been a succession of unsubstantiated accusations and innuendoes. There has been no evidence presented during the debate. It has been merely a repetition of unsubstantiated slander and innuendo that is not designed for debate in this Parliament. It is designed to be used in the public media to destroy a good man. The Premier of Victoria is a man of integrity and humanity, who has a capacity for work and a dedication to duty that I have never seen in any other man.

He is a reasonable man. He is, I think, the most reasonable man I have ever met. He is a gentle man. He is a good man. He is a strong man. His strength is not displayed by bluff or bluster. His strength is not shown by the sort of display that is common among members of the National Party and the Labor Party. His strength is shown by his very reasonableness and integrity, which has been undergoing attack by the same people who have repeated the same accusations—but whenever they have been asked to produce the evidence, it has never been there. They have never come up with any evidence. I challenge the honorable member for Westernport, publicly, and on the record, if he has got the goods on someone, to produce the facts, not just more vile slander and innuendo as is contained in that scurrilous document. It is still just unsubstantiated accusation. We have heard of suitcases of evidence secreted around the countryside. They have never been produced.

Time and again the honorable members for Caulfield and Westernport have been invited to produce the evidence behind their accusations. They were invited to make the evidence public at the Gowans inquiry. Prior to that they were invited to make it available privately to the leaders of the Liberal Party. They did not do so. They did not do so because they have no evidence. If there is any evidence to back up these accusations, why are they afraid to produce it? I suggest to the House, and through the House to the world, that there is no evidence. There is no justification to back up the statements that are continually being made, these unsubstantiated attacks on a good man. There has been continual smear and suggestion. There has been a succession of cowardly and reptilian attacks on the integrity of a man who has served this community for many years and who will continue to serve it as the Premier of this State.

The honorable member for Caulfield is consumer and obsessed by his hatred for the Premier. His motivation is a personal obsession and a consuming hatred of one man. The honorable member for Westernport is driven by a perverse desire to destroy a good man, an honest man, with continual attacks and accusations, but there has never been any substantiation of those accusations. He has not substantiated them before and he has not substantiated them now.

Look at the parties other than the Liberal Party represented in this House. The Labor Party is floundering around. It is made up of a triumvirate consisting of the Socialist left, those in the middle and those on the right. To their rescue came galloping the honorable member for

Westernport. He gave them precisely what they needed, because they could not think of anything themselves. They have no policies and no capacities and just continue to carp.

Along came the honorable member for Westernport and gave them a document that contained no evidence —it was just a series of accusations and vile slanders—so they picked it up and then were aided and abetted by the running dogs of Socialism who went to the support of the Labor Party. These are members of the National Party who claim to be such confirmed anti-Socialists but who are prepared to do a deal with anybody if it is to their own advantage. They are entirely without principle and they have the morality of a pox-ridden dingo.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I rule that the reference to the morality of a pox-ridden dingo is unparliamentary, and I ask the honorable member to withdraw it.

Mr. RICHARDSON: I will withdraw it, Mr. Speaker; they do not have the morality of a pox-ridden dingo.

Tonight honorable members have seen the true colours of members of the National Party. They will side with the Socialists, whom they publicly denounce when they think that they can strike an opportunistic blow that will suit their immediate parasitic political ends.

They have been aided and abetted by two bitter men whose intention is to disrupt this society, not to contribute to it—two men who betrayed the party that supported them when they were elected to this Parliament. They are bent on destruction and driven by an obsessive and all-consuming hatred.

I repeat that the debate and the remarks made by those who have attacked the Premier have made this a night on which the Parliament has been demeaned. The accusations that have been made against the Premier are totally unfounded, unjustified and unsubstantiated. The Premier is a man of integrity and honesty, and I admire him. It has been a privilege to serve not only in this Parliament, but under this man. I reject the scurrilous motion that has been proposed, and reject those who support it.

Mr. REMINGTON (Melbourne): I support the motion. The debate tonight has taken a dramatic turn. When it started, the initial attack and challenge was purely on the capacity of the Premier to lead his party and the State. The whole argument centred around the Government's capacity to perform, but as the debate moved on, particularly as can be seen from the speech made by the honorable member for Caulfield, its whole thrust took a dramatic turn.

It would have been easy for me, and I proposed to do it, to have said when I started off, " There is no question that Dick Hamer as an individual is a fine person." That was what I intended to say, but having listened to the speech of the honorable member for Caulfield I believe that until the people who sit opposite take the proper course to bring the serious accusations he has made which were substantiated in a professional, profound and legal way before a Privileges Committee and unquestionably clear the name of the Premier, the stigma will remain.

Whatever comes out of this debate tonight, the Premier will never be able to hold his head high in this State or in Parliament until those accusations are answered. The Government should have the opportunity, if it shares the enthusiasm of its supporters and can substantiate its claims, of repudiating the accusations. In fact, it should welcome the opportunity. The Opposition challenges the Government to accept the opportunity. The censure motion moved against the Government over its leadership and the policies it has pursued is no longer the central issue of the debate. It stands very much upon the integrity of the person who is the Premier of Victoria, and

until the proper course of action is taken, the stigma will remain with him.

Initially the debate was essentially about the capacity of the Premier to lead Victoria properly and what should be looked for in the qualities of a leader. Many honorable members have different interpretations of the qualities required for leadership. In my book a leader must be positive and assertive; he must be a man capable of making decisions. He must have the capacity to inspire the people he leads and to induce people to support him. He must be a man of integrity. Nobody can say that the Premier of Victoria is positive and assertive. He has repeatedly shown that in his debating performances. Nobody can say that the Premier of Victoria has the capacity to make decisions; even his strongest supporters could not assert that he has the capacity to make decisions. Nobody can say that he obviously possesses the proper and forceful characteristics of leadership, because everywhere one looks at the actions of the Premier and the Government, one sees that there has been a lack of leadership. He has not the capacity to inspire unity within his own party. At the moment the Liberal Party suffers most from the lack of unity within its ranks, and no matter how one says that, it comes back to the leader of the day. The Premier has not the leadership capacity to inspire unity within the party.

The Liberal Party is a fragmented group of people with its dissidents on the left attacking it and its Ministers standing down. The Chief Secretary resigned and honorable members had to read about it in the Vice-Regal notices in the *Age*. That is the sort of loyalty Government supporters get from within their party, and that sort of leadership is to the detriment of the people of this State.

Recent events show that the Premier has not the necessary strength and character for leadership. I would have said that as an individual he is a fine person, but after having listened to the speech of the honorable member for Caulfield an extreme doubt has arisen in my mind.

I go back to the infamous land deals and ask who was the man who missed receiving the wrath of the land deals inquiry? It was the Premier. Who was the Treasurer that signed the documents authorizing millions of dollars of expenditure on worthless land, some of which will never be developed? It was the Premier of the day. What intrigued me in the report which was never fully debated was the statement that appeared on page 52 of the report of Sir Gregory Gowans, paragraph 7.31, which states—

> At the stage at which the submission reaches the Treasurer there is a justification to make some assumptions in reliance on the Minister—

That is a fair comment, but why then did Sir Gregory Gowans say—

> . . . and no comment is proffered in relation to the role played by the Treasurer in granting approval.

One may ask why Sir Gregory made that comment.

He made the comment because the final consent for those transactions rested with the Treasurer under section 21 of the Housing Act, but within a short time when the cheques were placed on his table he signed them. When a person adds his signature to a cheque he takes responsibility for the document. He is not autographing it. He is putting his seal of final approval on it. The Premier was warned by the Crowley report that things were not well in the Housing Commission but the cronies got together and said there was nothing wrong in the commission. One would have expected a prudent and responsible Premier to make some inquiries. Not on your life—the Premier took no action. That is the same man whose party bought Centenary House. I was not here when that happened but I read about it in the newspapers. He was so naïve and out of touch with his party that he said that he never knew that it was buying the building for a headquarters which was most important in the development of the Liberal Party in the State.

Everywhere one examines his character and performance there are jobs for the boys, such as single tender contracts for Taylors at Geelong. The lands deal will follow the Premier and the Liberal Party and hang like a dead mackerel around their necks. The Premier may have got rid of the Chief Secretary but the stench of the lands deal will hang in his nostrils and in the nostrils of the citizens of the State. They are aware that things were crook in those deals. If the Premier had stood up as Leader and reprimanded people and stood them down, the Liberal Party would not be in the difficult position it is in today.

One Minister came out in the headlines as offering $2,000 a year to women to stay at home. It was a phoney performance and a gimmick. The Premier of the State did nothing responsible to inform people of the hoax. Many people read about it and assumed that they were going to get $2,000 a year to stay at home and look after their children. The Premier did not say the scheme had not been costed and approved. The Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation came out yesterday with his fifteen-year-old gimmick. Did the Premier come out and say that this was yet another stunt and gimmick? Everywhere the Premier is held up by gimmicky performances supported by the *Age* newspaper. When the executives of the *Age* realize that their Premier is in disrepute, the Australian Labor Party will really occupy the Government benches. The only thing that protects the Premier today is the gimmicky performances that he puts forward in the *Age* newspaper.

The honest men in the Liberal Party were expelled, leaving the party in tatters and divided. Many years ago Shakespeare said—

> A rotten carcass of a boat—the very rats have quit it.

William Shakespeare knew what he was talking about because he foresaw in that quotation the actions of political parties to come. The Liberal Party today is a rotten carcass of a boat which lacks credibility. The unfulfilled promises of the Liberal Party go back before 1976. In 1973 Mr. Hamer said the Australian Government would establish a lands commission. That never happened. In 1973 he promised cheap serviced blocks of land selling from $4,000 to $5,000. It never happened. In 1973 the Premier promised that Melbourne would be fully sewered by 1980. There is no way known that can happen. The Premier goes forward to the electors of this State on gimmicky promises that he never fulfils. In 1973 he promised to clean up the bay and do something about the pollution of the environment. He has done little to clear up the political pollution that emanates from the leadership of the Liberal Party in this State.

Early in the debate I studied the loyalty and support of members opposite. I saw the Deputy Premier come forward in an after-dinner-like fashion. One might have mistaken the speech for one that should have been made yesterday. It was almost a eulogy. The next Minister to step forward was the Minister for Conservation. I watched his style closely. He adopted precisely the same technique that he adopted on the lands deal when he spoke for about 20 minutes and never mentioned anything about it. As a matter of fact, he spoke about the Voumard report and another lands deal in about 1968–69. Tonight he used precisely the same technique. He never jumped forward to loyally defend the Premier like a skilful politician but attacked the Leader of the Opposition. Where was the loyalty? Where are the members leaping forward to protest the innocence of the man who is charged?

Today the Liberal Party has suffered in a way from which I doubt it will ever recover. The State of Victoria suffers with it because the people in the streets will know that the man they have been led to believe is a strong leader is no longer that. The speeches of the honorable member for Caulfield and other honorable members will be read

throughout the length and breadth of the State. When people lose confidence in their leader the whole State suffers.

I return to the point from which I started. There has never been any doubt in my mind that the Premier lacked proper leadership qualities. My association with him goes back a long time to when he was Minister for Local Government, and we discussed Mr. Croxford and men like that. I, for one, never believed that he had leadership capacities. Tonight not only his leadership, but also his credibility, are in question.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The honorable member for Melbourne has resumed his seat after engaging in an exercise which I suppose distinguishes him from many honorable members who have spoken in the debate in that he concentrated on policy issues rather than personalities.

Mr. FORDHAM: You were not here for most of the time.

Mr. MACLELLAN; I have heard the whole of the speech of the honorable member for Melbourne and I know exactly what he said. I can understand the embarrassment of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in finding himself in the position of having run out with a report that should have been on the table of the House. He suffered the embarrassment that he could not admit to where it was and put it back on the table where it belonged.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): On a point of order, I regret that the Minister does not appreciate the forms of the House. At no stage has any suggestion been made that I ran off with any document, report or return to the House. As was made clear at the time, I retrieved from a member the document that had been tabled in the House. I returned it to the table and another member took it at the time. This ought to be placed on the record. If the Minister did not know this before, at least he knows it now.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): I am sure the House welcomes the explanation by the honorable member for Footscray. It is the first time that honorable members have heard it. I am sure that the honorable member for Melbourne will understand me when I say that the bank officers must be grateful that he is now a member of this House.

The Labor Party and the National Party invite the House to support a motion of want of confidence in the Premier. Personally, I reject the motion and publicly express my support for and my admiration of the Premier because he has the leadership qualities which enable debate and expressions of points of view, no matter how strongly, whilst still providing the leadership which takes the team ahead.

The honorable members for Bundoora and Melbourne have expressed their ideas on leadership and honorable members can quickly appreciate the style of leadership that they are seeking for their party in this State and why there has recently been a change in the leadership of the Opposition. It is no surprise to members on this side of the House that the people concerned would not understand why a Liberal Government would not want that style of dictatorial leadership.

The interesting thing about the debate is that the Labor Party and the National Party were so devoid of ideas to advance on a motion of no confidence that they quickly adopted the obsessive arguments of two men who had ceased to be members of the Liberal Party and who had ceased to have the confidence of their colleagues and had been rejected by their colleagues. One of the more interesting aspects is that they have adopted the arguments which were contained in a folder left on the table in the House. Members

of the Opposition have adopted the arguments and time and time again have used extracts from the file.

It was quite clear that they felt some sort of embarrassment because they quickly said that they admired and liked the Premier as a person. The honorable member for Melbourne commenced his remarks by saying how much he admired the Premier as a person but, having heard the honorable member for Caulfield, the honorable member suddenly adopted a new point of view. The whole thrust of what the Leader of the Opposition was putting was that the obsessive material which was placed on the table under the guise of a rough addendum to a personal explanation justifies and requires some inquiry. However, every member of this House knows that the members concerned, and apparently this attitude seems to be adopted at least by the Opposition, if not by the National Party, would not accept the results of any judicial inquiry in the same way as they would not accept the results of an inquiry by the Privileges Committee of this House. That attitude was displayed by these members in the remarks that they made even when it was announced that the inquiry would be made and that the Privileges Committee would inquire into the same sorts of vague allegations that are being made now.

Although previously Sir Gregory Gowans had made a report which the Government has stated clearly as a matter of policy it would accept, and I think the Premier has made that abundantly clear, and the Privileges Committee had reported to the House that it felt it was an inappropriate vehicle for an inquiry into the sorts of things it had been asked to look into, the Leader of the Opposition invites the House to go strongly off into those same methods again. What is the point?

The real point is that certain members of this House do not have the confidence of other honorable members. In any political atmosphere, it can be expected in the public arena and in the House that, on matters of policy, there will be differences between the Opposition, the National Party and the Government. We can debate matters of policy with all the cut and thrust and vigour that members can bring to bear, but when we get down to the rather disappointing and despicable aspects that have been brought into this debate and we see the Labor Party and the National Party, whatever the reason, whether it is to gain an immediate temporary advantage or because the parties have nothing else to say, adopting the rather scurrilous and unjustified comments that have been circulated, that is a great disappointment.

The Leader of the National Party interjects. I know that the honorable member made it clear that it was not a matter of lack of confidence in the Premier, but a matter of lack of confidence in the Government. That is the distinction which he cares to draw to justify his invitation to the House to agree to a motion of want of confidence in the Premier, not in the Government. I cannot understand why the honorable member should want to draw that distinction. If the National Party wants to say that it has no confidence in the Premier, it should say so without trying to have two bob each way and trying to adopt the attitudes that some members adopt when they reach the final embarrassment of having to attempt to assassinate the character of a man whom they fundamentally respect, whom we fundamentally trust and who, we know, has the capacity for leadership which allows individuals to express their different opinions and to enrich the policy of the Government by the fact that those differences do exist and are brought to a consensus.

Time and time again the public of Victoria has expressed the view that it wants a Government not of extremes, not of doctrinaire narrowness, but a Government that is prepared and willing to listen. The honorable member for Bundoora suggests that there are too many inquiries. I

am sure that the honorable member would be the first to ask me for an environmental impact study on some particular road. He would want an inquiry and would want such action taken time and again.

The honorable member for Carrum would be repeatedly asking me for information on any impact which a particular road project would have on the community. The response of having inquiries and checking and making sure that we justify the actions of Government is a response both to the Opposition's and the community's demands for greater access to information.

Strong leadership is not dictatorial leadership; it is leadership of maturity and civilized respect for members and other people in this Parliament. I regret that civilized respect has not been shown in the personal and obsessive attacks with which the Opposition has associated itself. I can only regret that the honorable member who was the author of the 65 pages published did not say it all in the House rather than slipping it on the table and having it circulated at the behest of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition through the use of the photocopying machine on the ground floor without it being tabled in the House and given the authority of the House.

At the same time, there was a remarkable reluctance on the part of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to move the motion that the document be printed, so that those people who have responsibilities beyond the floor of the House—I refer to the media—who might wish to quote from the document would be entitled to the protection of knowing the status of the document. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition exposed them to the possibility of legal action if they had inadvertently relied on the fact that his procedural efforts had got the document to that stage. All honorable members know that the document was printed, published and distributed before it was given the protection of this House and that copies even reached Canberra before it received that protection.

I can appreciate the trouble and embarrassment of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this matter. He did not have substantial arguments to support the motion and therefore he seeks to use this document for this purpose. It will be rejected by a Government party which is united in its opposition to it and in its admiration and support of the Premier.

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir): The Minister of Transport has indicated that the Government party is united, and I wish briefly to make the point that the first occasion on which I visited this place was the night the Hollway Government was defeated. I can only reflect on the attitude of the Liberal Party in this House and say that the events of that time are about to be repeated. When a document of this nature can be produced by a member of a Government party, that party is crumbling.

The unemployed people of Victoria, the young school leavers, the apprentices who have trade qualifications and who are unable to pursue their trade because of mass unemployment, will look at this sort of document of the Government and say that they are entitled to a better deal.

The time has come for the people of Victoria to acknowledge the fact that a political party with a Minister of Transport who is totally involved in the machinations within the party in the manner described in this document is incapable of governing the State. A Premier who is unable to deal with the economic position of the State, as evidenced in the Budget papers, is incapable of leading the people of Victoria out of the chaos which now exists. The debate tonight has shown that the Government ought to test the result with the people of Victoria and I suggest that that proposition should be accepted.

The House divided on the motion (Sir Kenneth Wheeler in the chair)—

Ayes	..	29
Noes	..	41
Majority against the motion	..	12

AYES.

Mr. Amos	Mr. Mutton
Mr. Cain	Mr. Ross-Edwards
Mr. Cathie	Mr. Sidiropoulos
Mr. Crabb	Mr. Simmonds
Mr. Edmunds	Mr. Simpson
Mr. Evans (*Gippsland East*)	Mr. Stirling
	Mrs. Toner
Mr. Fogarty	Mr. Trewin
Mr. Fordham	Mr. Trezise
Mr. Francis	Mr. Whiting
Mr. Ginifer	Mr. Wilkes
Mr. Hann	Mr. Wilton
Mr. Jasper	
Mr. Jennings	*Tellers:*
Mr. Kirkwood	Mr. Culpin
Mr. McInnes	Mr. Remington

NOES.

Mr. Austin	Mr. McClure
Mr. Balfour	Mr. McKellar
Mr. Billing	Mr. Mackinnon
Mr. Birrell	Mr. McLaren
Mr. Borthwick	Mr. Maclellan
Mr. Burgin	Mr. Plowman
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Ramsay
Mr. Collins	Mr. Reese
Mr. Cox	Mr. Scanlan
Mr. Crellin	Mr. Skeggs
Mr. Dixon	Mr. Smith (*Warrnambool*)
Mr. Dunstan	
Mr. Ebery	Mr. Stephen
Mr. Gude	Mr. Templeton
Mr. Hamer	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Hayes	Mr. Weideman
Mr. Jona	Mr. Williams
Mr. Kennett	Mr. Wood
Mr. Lacey	
Mr. Loxton	*Tellers:*
Mr. McArthur	Mr. Lieberman
Mr. McCabe	Mr. Richardson

PAIRS.

Mr. Doube	Mr. Suggett
Mr. Lind	Mrs. Patrick
Mr. Roper	Mr. Aurel Smith

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES IN GEELONG.

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): On Tuesday I was asked by the honorable member for Niddrie whether the Housing Commission had purchased or is in the process of negotiating the purchase of homes in the Geelong area from a company called Oxford Homes (Vic.) Pty. Ltd. In my reply I stated that—

> to my knowledge the commission is not purchasing or negotiating to purchase homes in the Geelong area from that company.

In the answer given I described the present situation. However, the honorable member asked whether the commission—

> has purchased homes in the Geelong area.

and we canvassed that matter at question time this afternoon.

In April, 1977, the commission purchased 23 houses from the company for a total price of approximately $671,000, that is, an average of $29,180 per unit for house and serviced land in Corio.

In May, 1977, the company offered the commission a further 53 housing sites with houses, but that offer was not proceeded with.

In October, 1977, the commission offered to purchase some 47 fully serviced building lots at an average of $8,415 each, being the Valuer-General's valuation. The company sought a higher price and the offer lapsed.

In early April this year the company offered two completed homes together with the progressive supply of a further 44, and in May forwarded a draft contract which was not proceeded with.

In June the commission purchased five completed houses from the company at an average house and land price of $28,300 and advised the company that whilst the commission would be prepared to look at further offers, the construction of further houses would be entirely at the company's risk.

Early in August the company brought to offer a further six homes in Corio, but the submission was declined within a week.

Yesterday I said that to my knowledge the commission is not presently negotiating to purchase houses from the company in the Geelong area, and this is the present situation.

MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I move—

That the following Order of the Day, Government Business, be read and discharged—

Mines (Amendment) Bill—To be further considered in Committee.

and that the Bill be withdrawn.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was withdrawn.

GAS AND FUEL CORPORATION (MUNICIPAL RATES) BILL.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Gas and Fuel Corporation Act 1958 and the Local Government Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Petroleum Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

COUNTRY ROADS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Country Roads Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LAND (AMENDMENT) BILL (No. 2).

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Land Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

QUEENSCLIFF LAND BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to authorize the granting of leases of certain Crown land in the township of Queenscliff.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

SURVEYORS BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to surveyors, to make certain consequential amendments to various Acts and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

VICTORIA CONSERVATION TRUST (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Victoria Conservation Trust Act 1972 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision for the care, management, maintenance and preservation of the Shrine of Remembrance and other memorials and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT (CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS) BILL.

For **Mr. RAFFERTY** (Chief Secretary), Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I move—

That Sessional Orders be suspended for tomorrow so far as to allow the general business notice of motion in the name of the honorable member for Geelong West to take precedence after 1 o'clock on that day.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT.

VALUATIONS FOR HOUSING COMMISSION PROPERTIES AT WORONA COURT, BROADMEADOWS — NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR GREENSBOROUGH—FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES IN NEW CAR INDUSTRY—SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME — ROAD TRANSPORT — STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION HOUSING SCHEME—ESSENDON AIRPORT.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister of Housing. I remind the honorable gentleman that I wrote to him on 23rd August, 1978, and asked whether he would make available to me copies of the valuations made by the Valuer-General's Department on two Housing Commission properties situated at numbers 10 and 16 Worona Court, Coolaroo, Broadmeadows. I now ask the honorable gentleman if he would be kind enough to expedite this matter as I am rather anxious to receive the copies of those valuations.

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough): The matter I raise is for the attention of the Minister of Education. I direct the honorable gentleman's attention to broken promises to the Greensborough community. The Minister will probably recollect that just prior to the Greensborough by-election last year he gave a firm commitment concerning a new primary school. On the basis of this promise and to facilitate the rebuilding of the school, the Diamond Valley Council, the Greensborough Football Club and the Greensborough Cricket Club agreed to allow a temporary resiting of the school at the Greensborough Memorial Park, at considerable inconvenience to the organizations involved.

The co-operation that was shown by the community groups is typical of the community spirit that prevails in Greensborough and it illustrates the regard the people have for the education of the children of the community. What was the reward for this community spirit? The ink on the agreement with the Diamond Valley Council for eighteen months' tenure of the temporary site was barely dry when a request was received for an extension of the time to 30 months. The request also contained a veiled threat that refusal would detrimentally affect other schools in the area.

Members of the school council, which is a vigorous and energetic group, have been meeting with the Public Works Department for months, in their own time, in an attempt to work out a suitable design for a small site that has a high noise level. The members of the council were told that tenders were to be called in November. One can imagine their dismay when, this week, they received a letter from the Regional Director of Education stating—

Because there are changes afoot regarding the building policy of the Education Department, I would recommend that any immediate action regarding the new school "be held".

I will contact you in the near future about this matter.

The rumour now is that there will be a building surrounded by portable class-rooms. Parents see this as an insult and a quite unacceptable proposal for this site and for a school that has a static population.

I ask the Minister to keep his firm promise to the people of Greensborough, because the parents and staff want the type of school building they have been promised and they want it within a time scale of eighteen months. They also want to know the commencement and completion dates. I do not believe they will be satisfied with less than that.

Mr. McARTHUR (Ringwood): I bring to the attention of the Minister of Consumer Affairs what I consider to be a scandalous situation involving the new car trade, not the used car trade.

This matter was brought to my attention by two people in the past few days. One of those people is a constituent of the electorate of Ringwood. Both individuals have worked in the new car trade for quite some time. One has now left that industry and the other has moved to a different place of employment within the industry. They are both prepared to sign statements of evidence, and I believe that will be done on Friday and that those statements will be released to a national paper and to the media generally.

They claim that a number of major new car dealers in this city—and I wish to mention that they are the Datsun dealers—have been changing the badge work on cars to give the impression that the customer is buying a more expensive model. It is claimed that the badge work from Datsun GL models is being placed on deluxe models, which are lower status models, and that the deluxe models are being sold at the price of the dearer model. I reiterate that this is occurring in the new car trade, not the used car trade. It is also claimed that it is an intermittent practice amongst other car brands.

The claim is that the practice is not initiated from lower down in the new car industry, but that it comes right from the top, and that if a salesman does not go along with it he loses his job. One of the informants only yesterday received a phone call informing him that because he had spoken to me he would not be able to obtain another job in the new car trade around Melbourne.

As I have said, I understand that the two people concerned will sign statements of evidence on Friday. I ask the Minister whether, if these men come forward with signed statements of evidence, he will give an assurance that a thorough investigation into this alleged fraudulent activity will take place, and if the allegations are proved to have any substance will action be taken and will the public be made aware of it.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I have received a number of representations from schools during the past 24 hours about letters forwarded by the Education Department concerning a new emphasis in the school building programme. The matter concerns schools that have been negotiating or holding discussions with officers of the department about their school building proposals for the coming year. The honorable member for Greensborough has mentioned one example and I am sure that other examples would be well known to honorable members on both sides of the House where discussions of a protracted nature have gone on between members of the community, local government bodies and the Education Department concerning designs for and the needs of the local school communities.

These communities now find that they have been advised that their planning is redundant, that the discussions that have been held are quite irrelevant and that the new concept of a central core with relocatable class-room support is to take precedence over the earlier method of operation and, more importantly, that these detailed discussions at the local level are to be ignored.

There may or may not be some desirable change of policy on the part of the department, and I hope the Minister, at the appropriate time, will make a statement to the House indicating exactly what the department is doing, which would be appreciated by honorable members and by the community at large, but it would be outrageous to make retrospective a policy change of such a fundamental nature.

Given that the department had a policy of involving the communities in planning for the development of this aspect of the school building programme, it is wrong that there should

now be a change that will make irrelevant all the work and concern that has continued in some cases for over a year—as is the case with the Wonthaggi North Primary school of which the Minister of Education might be aware.

The Minister of Education should make it quite clear that any change of policy will affect only future developments in the school building programme but that it will not be retrospective so that these earlier undertakings and commitments will be fully honoured by the Minister and his department.

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla): I bring to the notice of the Minister of Transport a decision made by a transport operator in the Mansfield–Jamieson area. The person concerned, a Mr. Trenfield, with other members of his family, has, over a number of years, been servicing the Walhalla–Jamieson – Woods Point – Mansfield area with road transport. As some honorable members may be aware, the Tallarook–Mansfield railway line is now closed, and arrangements have almost been completed for the cartage of stock and other goods through that area by rail. Mr. Trenfield, a private operator, endeavoured to have his area extended and this request was refused. At present the rail-road transport system is not sufficient to enable farmers to have trucks call at the properties to take away wool.

Mr. Trenfield verbally sought a permit through the transport officer at Seymour, who in turn transferred the verbal application to the Transport Regulation Board in Melbourne, and it was rejected. The farmer telephoned and asked whether Mr. Trenfield could be helped to obtain a permit to carry his 19 bales of wool and another 40 which would be coming in about a month's time. He said that if Mr. Trenfield did not get this permit, another local man, Mr. W. B. Hunter—a well-known transport operator who is already making inroads under section 92 into the Strathbogie–Mansfield–Merton area in carting wool out and who is standing for about the fifteenth time as a Liberal Party candidate for Parliament at the next State election—will call and take his wool to Melbourne.

Already the interstate operators are taking groceries into Alexandra and Eildon because the grocer at Eildon could not obtain a permit for his own groceries and could not get a local carrier to carry them.

Before the last election it was said that transport in this community would be made freely available as quickly as possible. While all this has been going on, the interstate transport operators, from whom we do not desire to obtain any revenue, are taking over the business. I want to ensure that the local transport operators, who have kept these communities supplied with goods, along with the rail transport operators, are given an opportunity of having their licences or permits extended to allow them to pick up loads so that they can have a full load when going to Melbourne and can take a load back to the country areas. The Tallarook–Mansfield area particularly has been only partly serviced by rail, and before long the interstate operators will have the right to operate both rail transport and take over the little business that is currently being conducted by the local transport operator.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell): I raise a matter with the Minister of Housing and refer to the telegram I forwarded to him recently concerning the State Electricity Commission's departmental housing scheme that was agreed to between the State Electricity Commission and the Housing Commission and a proposal that has been brought to my notice put forward by the commission which would enable the resettlement of certain Yallourn residents in the commission's departmental homes. I wish to amplify the representations I made to the Minister by telegram and to ask him to consider the request I made not to grant the request of the State Electricity Commission.

The reason I ask this is that, as the Minister knows, there is a very long waiting list for Housing Commission houses in the Latrobe Valley. There is also a very long list of State Electricity Commission employees waiting for the departmental housing under the scheme operated by the State Electricity Commission's property office. The proposal to resettle retired Yallourn residents in a certain number of the departmental scheme houses would have the effect of putting those people in Housing Commission homes ahead of all the applicants who have been waiting for those homes for some time, many of them for eighteen months to two years.

The proposal, as I understand it, is to lease those houses back to the Housing Commission once resettlement has taken place, and that would bring about the situation to which I have just referred. It would also force the State Electricity Commission employees who are now living in shocking conditions in the Latrobe Valley in caravan parks and other makeshift accommodation to wait even longer for accommodation in the area.

The State Electricity Commission has a responsibility to relocate the Yallourn residents because of its plan to demolish the township. The commission gave certain assurances to the Public Works Committee about the maintenance of the town and the resettlement of the residents, and that placed an obligation on the commission to rehouse those elderly retired citizens of Yallourn.

It ought to be the prime responsibility of the State Electricity Commission, not the Housing Commission, and if that cannot be arranged, I suggest the Minister should make a recommendation to the State Electricity Commission welfare office that it invite the couples in Yallourn who require rehousing elsewhere to place their names on the Housing Commission waiting list so that they can take their turn along with everybody else.

Mr. SIMPSON (Niddrie): I direct a matter to the attention of the Minister of Transport following the tragic air crash that occurred at Airport West on 10th July this year. Honorable members will recall that a Partenavia training aircraft crashed in Airport West, and the lives of the family of Sam Gulle were lost.

Following that accident a small group of local residents quickly convened a meeting which was attended by the mayors of the three cities surrounding the airport and the three State members of Parliament—you, Mr. Speaker, as the member for Essendon, the member for Glenroy and myself as member for Niddrie. The public meeting was attended by 500 people, and certain resolutions were passed. One was for the immediate cessation of training flights from the Essendon airport. That is quite understandable and sensible, because the Essendon airport is completely surrounded, by a residential area, and it was undesirable that training flights be operated from that densely populated residential area.

Fortunately, we were able to obtain support in a positive way. The Shire of Seymour contacted many people interested in this proposal and convened a meeting last Friday. In attendance was the Minister of Water Supply, Mr. Granter, the honorable member for Benalla, several honorable members from Bendigo and Indi, several members of the Legislative Council who represent the area, representatives of the Federation of Air Pilots and other representatives of the municipality and shire. It was put strongly that the airport at Mangalore would be far better suited to that operation of training pilots; so although it is a Federal matter and the decision must be taken in Canberra, I should like to receive support from the State Minister of Transport.

Support for such a transfer has already been indicated by the Leader of the Opposition, by you, Mr. Speaker, in your capacity as the honorable member for Essendon, by the

honorable member for Glenroy, and in a publicly stated personal view by the Minister of Water Supply.

The transfer would be very encouraging for those who are interested in aircraft safety matters and we look forward to receiving similar support from the Government.

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): The honorable member for Broadmeadows referred to a letter that he sent to me on 23rd August last concerning valuations struck for Housing Commission houses available for sale, and I presume in the Bethel area of Broadmeadows. I assume that one of the people concerned was a Mr. Pavlic. I simply say that I wrote to the honorable member this afternoon. He should have the letter tomorrow and I think we have achieved a satisfactory resolution of valuations and arrangements for the future of similar valuations.

The honorable member for Morwell raised the matter of a telegram which he sent me three days ago. I have not seen the telegram. I made notes of what was said and I will certainly be in touch with the honorable member next week and ascertain whether we cannot make a better suggestion than has been made to date.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the proposal of the Education Department to build a flexi-type school in keeping with modern developments in education. This school will give a greater degree of flexibility and enable a greater concentration on the building of the core, the administrative section and those sections which could be utilized by the rest of the community. The honorable member raised the apparent disappointment of some schools which had discussions with our planning officers on certain types of school buildings. The question raised by the honorable member for Greensborough in relation to the rebuilding of the Greensborough school falls within that category. I will have a look at the worries of each of those schools to ascertain exactly what has taken place, what expectations have been raised, and make decisions accordingly.

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Consumer Affairs): The honorable member for Ringwood referred to an alleged fraudulent practice in the new car business whereby certain suppliers are apparently indulging in deceptive packaging and placing the wrong sort of insignia on particular vehicles. If the honorable member gives me the details of the case concerned, I shall be pleased to arrange for the Director of Consumer Affairs to have a close look at the matter and ascertain whether action could or should be taken.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The honorable member for Benalla raised the matter of a licence application being refused for a local transport operator. I think he also mentioned the related matters of the intrusion into the area of other transport operators operating under the protection of section 92. I will ignore the political aspects the honorable member inserted in his remarks on Mr. Hunter. I will certainly examine the matter and I thank the honorable member for informing me of the details. As I understand the position, either the Minister accepts the recommendation of the Transport Regulation Board and an application is granted where there is no objection, or where there are objections it is a matter for the Governor in Council. I have not yet rejected the board's recommendation although I have perhaps not had long enough to learn when that should be done. If the honorable member will give me a few days to have the papers searched out I shall see if I can obtain the information. I will then advise him of the possibilities that might be taken to assist the local transport officer.

The honorable member for Niddrie raised a matter in respect of the Essendon aerodrome and the possibility of its training flights and acti-

vities being transferred to Mangalore. I think the honorable member would know that an officer from the Ministry of Transport attended the meeting at Mangalore. I have not a full report on the matter but I understand that everything was not sweetness and light at the meeting. There were differences of opinion. I am not sure whether the honorable member wishes me to forward the matter to the Federal Government but I will be delighted to ask the Federal Minister who is responsible for civil aviation about it. Whether the representations are for or against any proposal, as the honorable member will understand, the State Government has legislated so that it has no constitutional responsibility in regard to aircraft, the training in one sense, but more particularly the commercial aspects of aircraft. Therefore, the Ministry of Transport has a limited responsibility, but if we can be of assistance to the honorable member we shall be pleased to do so.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): By leave, I wish to clarify the final sentence of my answer. I will take into consideration any discussion but the final decision will not necessarily be in accordance with the expectations raised. However those expectations will be taken into account.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.17 a.m. (Thursday).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

The following answers to questions on notice were circulated—

PENSHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Question No. 194)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

With regard to Penshurst Primary School—

1. What is the present student enrolment?

2. How many teachers are appointed to the school?

3. Whether the Education Department has received a report from the school council concerning reading ability tests and the urgent need for the appointment of a teacher aide to the school; if so, what action is to be taken on this report?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1, 2 and 3. The enrolment is 43 and there are two teachers at the school. The member for Warrnambool made representations to me in April, 1977, requesting the appointment of a teacher aide. In the light of more urgent needs at other schools and because of the limited funds available for the employment of teacher aides the request had to be refused.

SCHOOL FOR HOUSING COMMISSION ESTATE, WERRIBEE.

(Question No. 195)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

Whether the Education Department has entered into an agreement with the Housing Commission for the construction of a primary school as a part of stage 2 of the commission's estate in Derrimut Road, Werribee; if so—(*a*) what are the details of the agreement; (*b*) when the school will open; and (*c*) what provision has been made for the funding of the school construction?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

(*a*) The department proposes to enter into an agreement with the Housing Commission; however no details of the agreement have yet been finalized.

(*b*) The construction period is expected to be approximately twelve months.

(*c*) Fund arrangements will be determined as part of the agreement which has not yet been finalized.

INSURANCE ON MOTOR VEHICLES.

(Question No. 515)

Mr. FOGARTY (Sunshine) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether the Minister intends introducing legislation which will provide a form of insurance covering deficient title caused by a vehicle being sold whilst under lien to a finance institution; if so, when?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): The answer is—

The introduction of legislation of this nature is not under consideration at present.

SAFETY OF PERSONS RIDING HORSES.

(Question No. 566)

Mr. STIRLING (Williamstown) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether the Minister has received requests from a number of municipalities in Victoria for the introduction of legislation making the wearing of hard hats or safety helmets by persons riding horses compulsory; if so, whether he has considered the matter, and what action is contemplated?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): The answer is—

Such requests have been received and investigations have been conducted. A decision in the matter will be made shortly.

SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF.

(Question No. 669)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Minister of Special Education—

1. Which schools for the deaf now have the wireless link system installed and what has been the result of the experiment with this system?

2. What facilities are available within the electoral district of Coburg for children who are affected by deafness?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 29th June, 1978, as follows—

1. As yet no schools have had the wireless link system installed.

It is anticipated that the manufacture of the wireless link units will commence in 1980.

2. Where children require assistance, the following services are readily available—

(i) Visiting teacher service to private schools, primary, secondary and technical schools according to the child's location.

(ii) Free transport to schools for deaf located throughout the metropolitan area.

EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

(Question No. 675)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

1. How many children are eligible for public sector education under the terms of the Education (Handicapped Children) Act 1973 and what is the—(*a*) number; and (*b*) percentage of these children who are currently—(i) enrolled at Government schools; (ii) enrolled at non-Government schools; and (iii) not attending school?

2. What means, if any, the Education Department uses to advise parents of handicapped children of their right to be educated by the State?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 24th July, 1978 as follows—

1. The number of children eligible for public sector education under the terms of the Education (Handicapped Children) Act 1973 is not known. However, there are 5,637 children attending State day and residential schools for the handicapped in Victoria; 778 children who attend mainstream schools and are receiving Visiting Teacher of the Deaf Service; 293 children, who attend mainstream schools and are receiving Visiting Teacher of the Visually Impaired Service.

2. (*a*) Public statements are made by the Minister of Special Education from time to time.

(*b*) Information regarding schools and educational facilities for handicapped children is made available on request by the Special Education Section of the Special Services Division.

(c) When officers of Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services become aware that parents have a handicapped child, they advise them of their rights under the Education (Handicapped Children) Act 1973 and inform them of services available and invite them to visit any proposed school or facility.

(Question No. 690)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

Whether the Education Department has any day-time facilities for further education of handicapped children other than those at Montague and Bendigo; if so, where, and what is the number of places available at each establishment?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 28th June, 1978, as follows—

(i) With the exception of Ormond Special School, which caters for intellectually handicapped children to the age of twelve years, all State day special schools for the intellectually handicapped offer work education as part of the school curriculum in the senior classes.

(ii) Name of school	Pupil establishment number
Ashwood	144
Ballarat	144
Broadmeadows	120
Bulleen	144
Croxton	120
Dandenong	144
Fitzroy	55
Geelong	144
Mitcham	84
Moe	144
Moorabbin West	144
Naranga	144
Rosamond	96
St. Albans	144
Vermont South	144

EDUCATION OF DEAF-BLIND CHILDREN.

(Question No. 691)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

1. How many deaf-blind children of school age there are in Victoria, and what is the—(*a*) number; and (*b*) percentage of these children who are—(i) enrolled in Government schools; (ii) enrolled in non-Government schools; and (iii) not attending school?

2. Whether it is the policy of the Government to provide education for deaf-blind children in separate schools; if so, what is the number of places—(*a*) available; and (*b*) planned, indicating the years in which planned places are to become available?

3. Why it has been necessary for groups concerned with the education of deaf-blind children to organize the current "Silent Night" appeal?

4. What are the precise aims of the appeal given by the Government's obligations to provide education for deaf-blind children under the Education (Handicapped Children) Act 1973.

5. Whether the appeal is being conducted after full consultation with and approval by the Education Department?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 22nd May, 1978, as follows—

1. Statistics of this kind are not available.

(*a*) Not known.

(*b*) (i) Currently enrolled in Government schools—30.

(ii) Not known.

(iii) Not known.

2. Government policy is to place all handicapped children in the most appropriate educational setting after multi-disciplinary assessment by the Ascertainment Committee (Deaf).

3. The "Silent Night" appeal is concerned with residential facilities which are not the responsibility of the Education Department.

4. The "Silent Night" appeal has been established to obtain funds for residential cottages for deaf-blind children in Greensborough.

As such, the appeal does not relate to educational provisions and hence does not enter the area under the Handicapped Children Act.

5. To my knowledge there was no prior departmental consultation with the Education Department.

STUDENTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS.

(Question No. 697)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

1. Whether any student attending a high or technical school is required to leave school by reason only of having reached an upper age limit?

2. Whether any student attending a special school or special development school is required to leave school by reason only of having reached an upper grade limit; if so, what is the reason for this difference?

3. Whether parents of handicapped children are advised of their right to assessment of the handicapped child by a Special Education authority?

4. How many handicapped children were assessed by a Special Education authority in 1974 and each subsequent year for which information is available, and in each case what was the number of children whose parents were advised that they should—(*a*) leave; and (*b*) continue school as a result of the assessment?

5. How many children fifteen years of age and over were enrolled at special schools or special development schools in each of the five most recent years for which information is available, and in each year what was the—(*a*) number; and (*b*) percentage of these children who left school?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 19th July, 1978, as follows—

1. No, not by reason only of having reached an upper age limit.

2. It has long been the established practice for children who are beyond fifteen years and who attend special schools to

continue automatically to the end of the year in which they turn sixteen years—attendance beyond this period is contingent upon assessment of each child by Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services, recommendation of the school principal and consultation with the parents with the approval of the Minister of Special Education.

Such procedure has been adopted with due regard to the child's interest.

3. Parents of handicapped children are advised of their rights to assessment of their child by officers of Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services which is the branch responsible for Special Education placements.

4. To date no special education authority has been established.

5. (*a*) Number of students fifteen years of age and over who attended special schools and special developmental schools for the intellectually handicapped and the physically and sensorily handicapped:—

	Special schools	Special development schools
in 1973 ..	423	..
in 1974 ..	386	..
in 1975 ..	510	..
in 1976 ..	718	..
in 1977 ..	838	159

(*b*) Statistics of this nature are not available.

HOUSING COMMISSION PENSIONER RENTS.

(Question No. 711)

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Housing—

Whether rents paid by pensioners for Housing Commission accommodation are to be increased following the next half-yearly pension increase?

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): The answer is—

Rentals paid by pensioners for Housing Commission accommodation are reviewed annually in accordance with the Commonwealth and State housing agreements.

The review for 1978 is presently being undertaken.

When carrying out rental reviews, all income, including pensions, received by tenants, has to be taken into account.

EDUCATION LAND IN GLENROY.

(Question No. 875)

Mr. CULPIN (Glenroy) asked the Minister of Education—

What is the proposed future use of the Education Department land situated at North Street, Glenroy, currently leased to the Broadmeadows City Council?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

The City of Broadmeadows has been advised that the department may require use of the North Street, Glenroy site until March, 1979, for the storage of relocatable buildings. In the meantime investigations as to the future use of the site will be examined. Should the department decide to dispose of the site the City of Broadmeadows will be given first option to purchase.

SPARROWHAWK HOUSING ESTATE, BENDIGO.

(Question No. 164)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

In relation to children living in the Sparrowhawk housing estate, Long Gully, Bendigo—

1. How many are bussed to school outside the estate?

2. Whether land in the estate was offered to the Education Department for the establishment of a school; if so, why the offer was not accepted?

3. When it is now expected that a school will be built in the area?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. I desire to say that enquiries made locally reveal that very few (if any) pupils would travel to school by bus from the estate as the Long Gully and Violet Street primary schools are not more than ¾ kilometre from the estate.

2. Crown land at the corner of Creeth Street and Cunneen Street situate near the north west corner of the Sparrowhawk Estate was suggested as a possible replacement site for Long Gully Primary School, however the site was unsuitable. The existing Long Gully school has been extended by purchase of an adjoining property.

3. This matter is under consideration but no decision has yet been reached.

CHILDREN AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS

(Question No. 943)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

1. What is the—(*a*) number; and (*b*) percentage of children attending special schools who are "migrant children" as

defined by the Child Migrant Education Branch, indicating the comparable information for each special school and the source of the information in each case?

2. What is the—(*a*) number; and (*b*) percentage of children attending special schools who are not of Anglo-Saxon descent, indicating the comparable information for each special school and the source of the information in each case?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

The Honorable the Minister of Special Education has advised the honorable member by letter dated 30th June, 1978 as follows—

No such statistical information is available at present. The Ethnic Education Branch will be conducting in July, 1978 an extensive school by school survey of State primary and post-primary schools including Special Schools. Information from this survey should provide the details requested by the honorable member.

EDUCATION SERVICES.

(Question No. 945)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

In respect of children who are not of Anglo-Saxon descent, what services are available from the—(*a*) Special Education Branch; (*b*) Ethnic Education Branch; (*c*) Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services Branch; and (*d*) Division of Planning Services?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

The Honorable the Minister of Special Education has advised the honorable member by letter dated 22nd June, 1978, as follows—

(*a*) Children of non-Anglo-Saxon descent share equal entitlement to the full range of special education services available in special schools, special education units, remedial education facilities (opportunity remedial centres, remedial centres) and social adjustment centres.

(*b*) Child Migrant Education Services, part of Ethnic Education Services, offers assistance to teachers across all divisions, mainly through its language and ethnic consultants, and through its publication and resource centre.

Consultants visit schools upon request to discuss and advise on all aspects of migrant education.

Language consultants concentrate principally on developments in and strategies for teaching English as a second language, and assist with programme planning, etc., with migrant education teachers and/or classroom teachers.

Ethnic consultants assist with communication between the school and both home and community and liaise with other groups within the Education Department, such as Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services. Consultants assist with assessment and placement in schools, of student refugees residing in migrant hostels.

Child Migrant Education Services also conduct extensive in-service programmes for migrant education teachers, classroom teachers and principals. Consultants also assist with planning, and participate in in-service education programmes conducted by other sections of the Education Department and institutions, such as constitutent colleges of the State College of Victoria.

(*c*) For children of non-Anglo-Saxon descent the services of Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services are the same as for children of Anglo-Saxon descent, viz. counselling, welfare and speech therapy services. In addition, Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services employs 38 interpreters in the following languages—Italian, Greek, Turkish, Spanish, Macedonian, Lebanese, Serbo-Croatian and Maltese. These interpreters work with guidance officers, social workers and speech therapists and with principals and teachers in schools. One particular section of Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services is the multi-cultural resources section which for many years have been engaged in an on-going study of the cultures of the various ethnic groups. Information thus gained is made available to teachers and to the professional workers in Counselling, Guidance and Clinical Services to keep them well informed and up to date on matters concerning migrant children and their families.

(*d*) Assistance is provided to the Ethnic Education section in analysing standard enrolment data.

The Schools Priority Index Survey provides data used in the determination of declared disadvantaged schools and is applied in other areas such as the provision of differential staffing.

Recently within the administration of school councils, provision has been made for representation of ethnic groups on the School Councils Consultative Group.

FRENCH ISLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Question No. 952)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

What library facilities are available to pupils at the French Island Primary School?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

At present there are four children attending the Perseverance Primary School on French Island. There is no library facility provided as part of the school building, but there would be sufficient space within the building to make an area to be set aside for library purposes.

KOO-WEE-RUP PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Question No. 953)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

When the Koo-wee-rup Primary School will receive library facilities?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

Koo-wee-rup Primary School is to be given a relocatable library facility. This relocatable is currently being constructed and it is expected that the building will be sited at the school in October.

WONTHAGGI HIGH SCHOOL.

(Question No. 956)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

In regard to the Wonthaggi High School—

1. What is the current enrolment?

2. When a female physical education teacher and a music teacher, respectively, will be appointed to the school?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. The enrolment at this school is 485 pupils.

2. A female physical education teacher was appointed to the school by transfer with effect from 24th July, 1978. No recent request has been received from the school for the appointment of a music teacher, the school being staffed to establishment.

GRANTS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

(Question No. 967)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

In regard to grants to schools for libraries under the school grants scheme—

1. What is the present level of grants to schools, and what formula was used in determining the grants?

2. When the present level of grants was introduced?

3. Whether, as the volume of these grants has been significantly eroded by inflation—

(*a*) there will be a significant increase in grants for the 1978–79 year; and (*b*) grants will be indexed in future?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 17th August, 1978 as follows—

1. (*a*) Establishment grants of $2,500 are paid in each of the first two years of operating new school libraries.

(*b*) Funds to maintain existing libraries are included in grants to schools.

The current formula used to compute the library segment of school grants is—

Primary:
$4.20 per pupil in grade III and below
$5.60 per pupil in grades 4 to 6
Minimum payment is $264 per annum.

Secondary and Technical:
$6.56 per student in years 7 to 9
$7.88 per student in years 10 to 12
Minimum payment is $2,100 per annum.

The application of school grant funds to school libraries is a matter for school councils to determine in accordance with local priorities.

2. (*a*) January 1977.

(*b*) January 1978.

3. The department is aware of requests emanating from a number of schools for increases in their school financial allocation. This matter will be given careful consideration during forthcoming Budget discussions.

ATTACHMENT OF EARNINGS ORDERS.

(Question No. 978)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Attorney-General—

1. In each month since the coming into operation of Part XIII. of the Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975 dealing with the attachment of earnings procedure, how many applications for attachment of earnings orders have been made to Magistrates' Courts, indicating in respect of each month, the subsequent number of orders made?

2. How many applications for attachment of earnings orders have been dismissed?

3. How many attachment of earnings orders have been made *ex parte* as permitted by section 131 (4) of the Act?

4. How many variations of an attachment of earnings order have been—(*a*) applied for; and (*b*) made?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is—

1, 2, 3 and 4. The answer to all four paragraphs can best be set out in tabular form as follows—

Year and month	Applications made	Orders made	Applications for orders dismissed	Orders made ex parte under s. 131 (4)	Variation orders (*a*) applied for	Variation orders (*b*) made
1976—						
July	39	16	14	16	1	..
August.. ..	50	17	15	17	3	..
September ..	19	14	1	13	3	..
October ..	34	14	5	13	..	..
November ..	74	33	4	29	..	..
December ..	59	17	4	15	2	..
1977—						
January ..	9	6	1	5	..	..
February ..	47	14	1	11	..	..
March	88	23	3	16	..	..
April	86	30	3	28	..	..
May	74	21	..	18	..	..
June	96	40	10	35	..	..
July	47	19	4	16	..	..
August.. ..	103	71	3	33	..	..
September ..	79	30	3	26	..	..
October ..	68	29	2	24	..	..
November ..	76	26	3	22	1	..
December ..	51	19	2	16	..	..
1978—						
January ..	43	29	3	14	..	..
February ..	85	36	6	32	..	..
March ..	74	26	3	21	..	..
April	62	23	7	21	..	..
May	94	24	7	19	..	..
June	49	17	7	13	1	..
	1,506	594	111	473	11	..

NOLLE PROSEQUI.

(Question No. 979)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Attorney-General—

1. In the years 1970 to 1977 inclusive how many *nolle prosequi* have been granted to persons charged with a criminal offence?

2. In each of these years, how many of the *nolle prosequi* have been granted—(*a*) after the committal hearing; and (*b*) after the trial which resulted in a "hung" jury?

3. In respect of what offences the *nolle prosequi* have been granted in each of these years?

4. In how many cases the *nolle prosequis* have been granted as a result of representations made by solicitors or counsel acting for a defendant?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is—

1. *Nolle prosequi* entered in each year between 1970 and 1977 were as follows—

	Number of Persons
1970	58
1971	86
1972	73
1973	75
1974	82
1975	105
1976	86
1977	93

2. This answer relates to the year 1977 only. It has not been practicable to examine the files for earlier years to extract the information sought as the Crown Solicitor's Office does not have the staff resources which would be required.

(*a*) *Nolle prosequi* were entered after the committal hearing in relation to 93 persons.

(*b*) *Nolle prosequi* were entered after the jury had been unable to agree upon a verdict in relation to twelve persons.

3. This answer also relates to the year 1977 only for the reasons outlined in the answer to paragraph 2. *Nolle Prosequi* in relation to 93 persons were granted for the year 1977 in respect of the following offences—

Number of accused persons in case	Offences in respect of which *nolle prosequi* entered (1977)
1	carnal knowledge of a girl between 10–16 years (1 count). Indecent assault on a girl under 16 years (1 count).
1	theft (1 count). Assault with a weapon (1 count). Robbery (1 count). False imprisonment (1 count).
1	send letter threatening to murder (1 count).
1	negligently causing grievous bodily injury (1 count).
1	misprison of a felony (1 count).
1	theft (1 count).
1	misprison of a felony (1 count).
1	theft of a motor car (1 count).
3	all : assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count).
1	larceny as a clerk or servant (11 counts). falsify accounts (7 counts).
1	rape (1 count). Indecent assault on a woman (1 count).
1	prepare drug of addiction (1 count).
1	indecent assault on a male under 16 years (1 count).
2	each : conspiracy to rob (1 count).
1	perjury (1 count).
1	conspiracy to steal (1 count).
1	theft (1 count).
1	manslaughter (1 count).
1	obtaining property by deception (6 counts). theft (6 counts). Obtaining a financial advantage by deception (1 count).
1	conspiracy to rob (1 count).
1	obtaining a financial advantage by deception (1 count). Obtaining property by deception (3 counts).
5	each : aggravated burglary (1 count).
1	misprison of a felony (1 count).
1	carnal knowledge of a girl between 10–16 years (1 count). Abduction (1 count).
2	1st accused : set fire to grass (1 count). set fire to crop (1 count). 2nd accused : set fire to grass (1 count).
1	larceny of a motor car with intent to commit a felony (1 count). Robbery under arms (1 count).
1	larceny of a motor car with intent to commit a felony (1 count). Robbery under arms (1 count). Larceny of a motor car (1 count). Larceny (1 count).
2	each : theft (23 charges).
1	misprison of a felony.
2	each : handling stolen goods (2 counts).
1	obtaining a financial advantage by deception (1 count). Obtaining property by deception (1 count). Theft (3 counts). False accounting (1 count).
1	larceny (1 count).
1	fraudulently abstracting electricity (1 count).
1	buggery (3 counts). Commission of an act of gross indecency with a male person (3 counts).
1	incest (1 count).
1	common assault (1 count).
1	theft (1 count). theft of a motor car in the commission of a felony (1 count). Possession of housebreaking implements (1 count).
1	selling drugs of addiction (1 count).
3	1st accused : theft (2 counts). 2nd accused : handling stolen goods (1 count). misprison of a felony (1 count). 3rd accused : handling stolen goods (2 counts). misprison of a felony (1 count).
2	each : conspiracy (1 count).
1	false pretences (1 count).
1	robbery.
2	each : burglary (1 count).
1	carnal knowledge of a girl between 10–16 years (1 count). Abduction with intent to carnally know (1 count). Child-stealing (1 count).
2	each : malicious wounding (1 count) Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count)
1	driving a motor car whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor (1 count).
2	both : theft (1 count). Deception (1 count)
1	perjury (1 count).
1	theft of a motor (1 count).
1	larceny (1 count).
1	rape (1 count). Indecent assault on a gir under 16 years (1 count). Common assault (1 count). Abduction with intent to carnally know (1 count).
1	theft by deception (1 count).
1	carnally knowing a girl between 10–16 years (3 counts).
1	assault with intent to rape (1 count). Indecent assault on a woman (1 count).
1	causing death by culpable driving (1 count).
1	larceny (1 count).
1	theft (1 count).
1	theft (1 count).
1	abduction (1 count).
1	larceny (1 count).
1	escape from legal custody (1 count).
1	inflicting grievous bodily harm (1 count). Malicious wounding (1 count). Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count).
1	carnally knowing a girl between 16–18 years (1 count).
1	negligently causing grievous bodily injury (1 count).
1	conspiracy to traffic in drugs of addiction (1 count).
1	rape (1 count). Indecent assault (1 count).
1	negligently causing grievous bodily injury (1 count).
1	misprison of a felony (1 count).
1	indecent assault on a girl under 16 years (1 count).
1	attempted armed robbery (1 count).
1	misprison of a felony (1 count).
1	conspiracy (1 count). Forgery (5 counts).
2	1st accused : conspiracy (1 count). larceny (1 count). receiving (10 counts). 2nd accused : conspiracy (1 count). larceny (1 count). receiving (6 counts).
2	1st accused : conspiracy (1 count). forgery (2 counts). 2nd accused : conspiracy (1 count). forgery (1 count).
1	rape (5 counts). Buggery (2 counts). Indecent assault (2 counts). Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count).

4. For the year 1977, the entry of a *nolle prosequi* was made after representations were made by solicitors or counsel acting for the accused person, but not necessarily wholly as a result of such representations, in respect of 27 persons who were involved in 22 cases.

TRIALS RESULTING IN "HUNG" JURIES.

(Question No. 980)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Attorney-General—

1. In the years 1970 to 1977, inclusive, how many trials in—(*a*) the Supreme Court; and (*b*) the County Court, have resulted in a "hung" jury?

2. For each of these "hung" juries, what was the offence or what were the offences with which the defendant or defendants had been charged?

3. In each of the "hung" jury trials, whether the resultant action taken was—(*a*) a re-trial, and if so, what was the result of the re-trial; (*b*) the granting of a *nolle prosequi;* or (*c*) the Crown withdrawing the charge without the formal granting of a *nolle prosequi?*

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is—

1. The records which are more readily accessible at the Crown Solicitor's office relate to persons and not to trials. The number of persons involved in trials in which the jury was unable to agree upon a verdict in the Supreme Court and County Court in each year from 1970 to 1977 are as follows—

Year	Supreme Court	County Court
	persons	persons
1970	0	36
1971	1	20
1972	0	24
1973	7	23
1974	0	23
1975	3	37
1976	0	38
1977	4	35
	15	236

An examination has been made of the files for the year 1977 only as the Crown Solicitor does not have the resources to examine all of the files for earlier years. The information for 1977 is as follows—

	Supreme Court Persons	Supreme Court Trials	County Court Persons	County Court Trials
1977 ..	4	3	35	24

2. and 3. The records for the years 1970 to 1976 are not readily accessible and it would have taken a very considerable amount of research to obtain all of the information sought. The same remarks about the difficulties involved in answering paragraph 1 are applicable.

For the year 1977, details of the cases and the resultant action are as follows—

It has been assumed that what is meant in paragraph 3 (c) is the election by the Crown to lead no evidence, resulting in the recording of a verdict of not guilty. The only case in 1977 where the Crown led no evidence was in the third listed case for the Supreme Court in the following table—

Supreme Court Case No.	Persons	Offences	Resultant action: Whether re-trial	Result of re-trial	Whether *nolle prosequi* entered
1 ..	1	Murder	Yes	convicted	
2 ..	1	Inflict grievous bodily harm (1 count) malicious wounding (1 count alternative to count 1)	Yes	pleaded guilty to inflict grievous bodily harm	
3 ..	2	Manslaughter (1 count)	Yes	both accused pleaded guilty to a count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm	
		Note.—The Crown led no evidence in relation to the count of manslaughter against both accused.			
1 ..	1	Burglary (1 count)	Yes	acquitted	
2 ..	1	Theft (1 count)	No	.. ..	Yes
3 ..	1	Accessory after the fact to a felony (1 count) Robbery under arms (1 count)	Yes	acquitted both counts	
4 ..	1	Robbery (1 count) Assault with intent to rob (1 count)	Yes	acquitted of both counts but convicted of attempted robbery (1 count)	
5 ..	2	each accused : conspiracy to rob (1 count)	Yes (both accused) ..	jury failed to agree on a second occasion	
6 ..	2	each accused : conspiracy to rob (1 count)	No (both accused) ..	.. ..	Yes (*re* each accused)
7 ..	2	Accused 1 : possession of a prohibited weapon (1 count) assault with intent to commit a felony (1 count)	Yes (both accused) ..	accused 1 : convicted of both counts	
		Accused 2 : possession of a prohibited weapon (1 count)		accused 2 : acquitted	
8 ..	1	Causing death by culpable driving (1 count)	Yes	convicted	
9 ..	1	Burglary (3 counts) Theft of a motor car in the commission of a felony (2 counts)	Yes	acquitted on all counts	
10 ..	5	each accused : aggravated burglary (1 count)	No	.. ..	Yes (*re* all accused)

Supreme Court Case No.	Persons	Offences	Resultant action: Whether re-trial	Result of re-trial	Whether *nolle prosequi* entered
11	1	Assault with intent to rob (1 count) Common assault (1 count)	Yes	convicted of both counts	
12	1	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count)	Yes	convicted	
13	1	Assault with intent to rape (1 count) Indecent assault (1 count)	Yes	acquitted on both counts	
14	1	Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (1 count) Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count)	Yes	acquitted of both counts	
15	1	Rape (1 count)	Yes	acquitted	
16	1	Burglary (1 count)	No. (Accused failed to appear on retrial)		
17	1	Burglary (1 count) Theft of motor car (1 count)	Yes	acquitted (both counts)	
18	1	Possession of a prohibited weapon (1 count)	Yes	convicted	
19	1	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count) Assault members of the Police Force in execution of their duty (2 counts)	Yes	convicted of assault occasioning actual bodily harm (1 count) and acquitted of assault members of the Police Force in the execution of their duty (2 counts)	
20	1	Robbery (1 count)	Yes	acquitted	
21	1	Sell drugs of addiction (2 counts)	No		Yes
22	1	Rape (1 count)	Yes	acquitted	
23	2	each accused: inflict grievous bodily harm (1 count) malicious wounding (1 count)	Yes	each accused was acquitted of inflict grievous bodily harm but each accused was convicted of malicious wounding	
24	4	accused 1: rape (3 counts) buggery (1 count) indecent assault (1 count) accused 2; rape (2 counts) indecent assault (2 counts) accused 3: rape (2 counts) accused 4: rape (1 count)	Yes (all accused)	accused 1; convicted of rape (3 counts) and indecent assault (1 count) but acquitted of buggery (1 count) accused 2: convicted of rape (1 count) and indecent assault (1 count) but acquitted of rape (1 count) and indecent assault (1 count) accused 3: convicted of both counts accused 4: convicted	

FRAUDULENT DEBTORS.

(Question No. 982)

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Attorney-General—

1. How many summonses under the Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors Act 1958 were issued during the past year in—(*a*) the Magistrates' Courts; (*b*) the County Court; and (*c*) the Supreme Court?

2. In how many of these cases a fraud order was made?

3. In how many cases in each of these courts a warrant of commitment has been issued because of a default in compliance with a fraud order?

4. In how many cases a debtor has been gaoled pursuant to a warrant of commitment issued in respect of a default in complying with a fraud order?

5. In each of these cases for how long the debtor was actually in gaol?

6. In how many cases a debtor has been imprisoned as a result of a failure to attend a court in answer to a subpoena issued with a fraud summons?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is—

1. No records are kept in any Victorian courts as to the number of fraud summonses issued. However, there are records of the number of fraud summonses listed and this information for the year 1st July, 1977 to 30th June, 1978 is—

Magistrates' Courts	—	14,091
County Court (Country)*	—	23
Supreme Court	—	3

* The records kept at the County Court Melbourne do not distinguish between fraud summonses and summonses for oral examination. The above figures are therefore only for country courts.

2. In relation to the fraud summonses listed as shown in the answer to paragraph 1, fraud orders were made as follows—

Magistrates' Courts	—	1,423 orders
County Court (Country)*		2 orders
Supreme Court	—	1 order

* See note under answer to paragraph 1.

3. Arising from a default in compliance with a fraud order in relation to the orders referred to in the answer to paragraph 2, warrants of commitment were issued as follows—

Magistrates' Courts	— 276 cases
County Court	— 2 cases
Supreme Court	— Nil.

4. One debtor was held in custody during the year ended 30th June, 1978, pursuant to a warrant of commitment issued in respect of a default in complying with a fraud order as follows—

Magistrates' Courts	— 1 case
County Court	— Nil
Supreme Court	— Nil

5. The information about the period the debtor was actually in custody is not available from court records. It has been ascertained that the debtor referred to in the answer to paragraph four was held in the lock-up at a police station for five days 10¼ hours.

6. A debtor has been imprisoned as the result of a failure to attend a court in answer to a subpoena issued with a fraud summons as follows—

Magistrates' Courts	— 18 cases
County Court	— Nil
Supreme Court	— Nil

HOSPITALS SUPERANNUATION FUND.

(Question No. 994)

Mr. LIND (Dandenong) asked the Premier—

1. What steps have been taken, or are proposed, by the Government and the Hospitals Superannuation Board, respectively, to rectify the anomalous situation created by amendments to section 35ZF of the Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965 resulting from the enactment of the Hospitals Superannuation (Amendment) Act 1977 which imposed a six months limit on the break between any past and present service?

2. What solution, other than a refund of contributions has been or will be offered to contributors who, acting on information supplied by the board, elected to contribute for benefits to which they had been led to believe they were entitled?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): The answer is—

1. The amendments made to section 35ZF of the Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965 do not create an anomalous situation. They merely clarify the intention of Parliament in respect of eligibility of persons to have past service recognized for the purposes of the pension provisions of the Act.

That clarification took the form of stating that all past service subsequent to a break of six months in continuous service in a participating institution would be the only service recognized for pension purposes.

Accordingly the Government does not believe that any rectification of the law in this regard is necessary.

2. Having regard to the direction of Parliament contained in the Hospitals Superannuation (Amendment) Act 1977, no action, other than that already taken by the board in respect of refund of contributions, is necessary.

REPORT—ALPINE TOWNS SURVEY.

(Question No. 1008)

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum) asked the Minister of Lands—

Whether he will make available a copy of the study commissioned by the Land Conservation Council entitled *Report—Alpine Towns Survey* undertaken by the School of Business and Social Studies at the Gippsland Institute of Technology?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): The answer is—

This is a matter which comes within the purview of the Minister for Conservation.

In this capacity, I will arrange for a copy of the report referred to by the honorable member together with an assessment by the Land Conservation Council to be made available in the Library.

MATERNITY LEAVE FOR TEACHING STAFF.

(Question No. 1024)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Education—

With regard to maternity leave available to teaching staff in the Education Department—

1. How many women have taken leave each year since the inception of the scheme?

2. What has been the average duration of leave for each year?

3. Whether the scheme is currently under revision?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer is—

1. No records are available prior to the 1975–76 financial year.

The following number of teachers were on maternity leave (as distinct from confinement leave)—

Financial Year	*No. of teachers on Maternity leave*
1975–76	2051
1976–77	2403
1977–78	2433

2. The average duration of leave for financial years were as follows—

1975–76	64·4 days
1976–77	65·2 days
1977–78	64·5 days

3. The whole confinement-maternity leave issue is now under review, with a view to obtaining factual information that will allow for proper replacement policies for teachers on confinement and maternity leave.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH JUNIOR SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN.

(Question No. 1025)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

Whether he has received representation from the Parents and Friends Association of the Princess Elizabeth Junior School for Deaf Children expressing concern at the long period spent by many young children in travelling to and from the school; if so, what steps are to be taken to alleviate the plight of these young children?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 13th June, 1978, as follows—

Yes. The Minister of Special Education has received representation from the Parents and Friends Association of the Princess Elizabeth Junior School for Deaf Children and has forwarded a reply.

The Education Department has recently held a broadly representative seminar of individuals and groups involved in the education of hearing impaired children to review the network of services available and to plan for their further development. Participants have ben invited to present their views in regard to pupils' needs and to forward submissions for future planning considerations. Submissions are still being received.

NEPEAN SPECIAL SCHOOL.

(Question No. 1029)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

1. When tenders for construction of the education and para-medical blocks of the Nepean Special School were—(*a*) called; and (*b*) closed?

2. What are the dates on which construction is to—(*a*) commence; and (*b*) be completed?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 3rd August, 1978, as follows—

1. Tenders for construction of the education and para-medical blocks were called in the week beginning 17th April, 1978, and closed on 9th May, 1978.

2. The successful tender was given possession of the site on 26th July, 1978. The contract provides for completion by 18th October, 1979.

EDUCATION OF DEAF CHILDREN.

(Question No. 1033)

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray) asked the Minister of Special Education—

Whether the current procedures of ascertaining deaf children and advising on the educational needs of children are considered to be unsatisfactory; if so, in what respect; if not, why the present system is likely to be altered?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister of Special Education): The answer is—

The honorable member has been advised by letter dated 29th June, 1978, as follows—

Procedures for ascertaining deaf children and advising on their educational needs were first established on the 19th December, 1950.

From time to time modifications of these procedures have been necessary to cater for the increasing complexity of the range of services and facilities available and the increasing number of children involved.

Current procedures are under review in an effort to improve the services available to hearing impaired children with respect to providing a more efficient review service to those on Visiting Teacher Service, particularly in country districts.

To date no firm recommendations have been made.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, September 14, 1978.

The SPEAKER **(Sir Kenneth Wheeler)** took the chair at 11.6 a.m. and read the prayer.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I refer the Premier to yesterday's statement by my predecessor that he would welcome a full inquiry into allegations against him which are set out in the Jennings report. I ask the Premier whether

he would similarly welcome such an inquiry on behalf of members of his party who are named in the Jennings report, and, if so, what action he proposes to take?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): This matter is the subject of a motion by the Leader of the Opposition himself which will be dealt with later, when the House reaches that, and we will then certainly describe our reactions to this so-called report.

WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): Can the Chief Secretary advise the House which amendments to the Workers Compensation Act which were passed by this House during the autumn sessional period have been proclaimed? When does he plan to have proclaimed the other amendments to the Act which were passed at that time?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): I advise the Leader of the National Party that the administration of the Workers Compensation Act is now in the hands of my colleague, the Minister of Labour and Industry, and, therefore, I am not able to answer these specific questions. My colleague may be able to do so.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): Mr. Speaker, I redirect that question to the Minister of Labour and Industry.

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): Several amendments to the Workers Compensation Act passed in May of this year have not yet been proclaimed. The section relating to the right of the employer to carry the liability for the first $500 on any particular claim, the section concerning the obligation of principal contractors to pay workers compensation premiums on behalf of sub-contractors, and the section dealing with the obligations of share farmers in relation to workers compensation are being closely examined by my department now and a number of matters in connection with each of them are being resolved. I expect, in the near future, to be able to state when they will be proclaimed.

CALDER HIGHWAY.

Mr. McCLURE (Bendigo): Is the Minister of Transport aware of the concern of Bendigo people about the condition of the Calder Highway between Melbourne and Bendigo? Will the Minister accept an invitation from me to discuss this matter in Bendigo with myself and the Bendigo City Council?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The honorable member asks me whether I am aware of the difficulties about the Calder Highway. I do not know of any section of highway which has had more representations about it.

Mr. AMOS: They must have been fairly ineffectual because the road is still bad.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The honorable member for Morwell will cease interjecting.

Mr. MACLELLAN: Naturally, I am aware of the concern that has been expressed.

The honorable member then asks whether I would be prepared to meet the Bendigo City Council. Certainly, but I would hope that the opportunity would be broadened to include all the municipalities that are concerned, and I would expect the Bendigo City Council to be part of that deputation.

HUME FREEWAY.

Mr. CRABB (Knox): I remind the Minister of Transport that legal proceedings have been completed between the Country Roads Board and Galli Constructions and I ask whether the Minister will reverse the decision made by his predecessor and lay on the table or make available to honorable members in the Parliamentary Library the files concerning the Wallan–Broadford section of the Hume Freeway.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): Following the settlement between the Country Roads Board and Galli Constructions——

Mr. WILKES: They have sold out.

Mr. MACLELLAN: If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to add to it, I suppose Apex Quarries Ltd. now has the proprietary interest in the matter. Following the settlement, I have asked the Country Roads Board to provide me with the transcript of the proceedings of the arbitration. I understand that the transcript has approximately 5,000 pages. I have not had a chance to read it because I am anxious, as Minister, to make my own inquiries not in a formal or any other sense, but merely to inform myself on the whole matter. Now that the matter is settled, I have the opportunity to do so.

The honorable member asks me would I be prepared to table the files, and the answer is, "No". I am advised that there are literally dozens of files. Perhaps I have not yet written to the honorable member, but it was my intention to do so. I invite him to indicate those files in which he is particularly interested. If the honorable member wishes I am perfectly happy to discuss the matter with him and I hope to make whatever helpful arrangements I can. If the honorable member is not satisfied, he can raise it again in the House.

TEACHER TRAINEES.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura): Following the statement by the Premier in his Budget speech that no studentships or scholarships will be available to teacher trainees for 1979, can the Minister of Education indicate whether there will be any intake of teacher trainees to State colleges in Victoria next year?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): Yes, there certainly will be. Of course, the size of the intake will be up to the council of the individual college. Each college enjoys a large measure of autonomy and controls its own intake. There would, of course, be no intake of people on scholarships and studentships, but the normal training will proceed.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS.

Mr. COLLINS (Noble Park): I address a question to the Minister representing the Attorney-General. Is the Minister aware of a practice pursued by some real estate agents, particularly those who operate on licences other than their own, of issuing unconditional sale notes in real estate transactions and then refusing to return deposits to vendors who are unsuccessful in obtaining satisfactory finance? I refer particularly to Athnic Real Estate and Investment Company Pty. Ltd. of Brunswick. Will the Minister take up this matter with his colleague, the Attorney-General, and also the Minister of Consumer Affairs, to ascertain whether or not the procedure of using unconditional sale notes should be stopped to protect unsuspecting buyers?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): For a number of years there has been concern in relation to sale notes, not unconditional sale notes but sale notes, which become very much binding contracts and take purchasers by surprise when they sign a document which they believe is conditional, perhaps on advice from their solicitors, on search of title matters, or even clarification of zoning. The Attorney-General has assumed the obligations of administration of the Estate Agents Act from the Chief Secretary's Department. For some time there has been a proposal to rewrite the legislation. I understand that the Attorney-General will be introducing legislation with respect to the particular company named. I do not know anything of the company. However, I am sure that if it is a matter which should be drawn to the attention of my colleague the Minister of Consumer Affairs, that that will be done. Also, I shall make sure that the honorable member's suggestions are drawn to the attention of the Attorney-General.

However, I think it must be said that any practice which is in breach of the law in the real estate agent's field is not limited to any one group of estate agencies. For instance, one particuar form of activity or breach is always associated with people who are operating under the cloak of other people's licences. That is a matter of great concern, both to the industry and to the Government, and there have been consistent representations for the position to be clarified. It is not an easy matter to clarify. I know from my experience as a former Minister of Consumer Affairs that a number of people have been admitted and licensed to practise as real estate agents under a rule operated by the licensing authorities, that is the courts, which has since been found to be *ultra vires*. A number of people have identical qualifications to those who have been admitted but are now locked out. There are people who lend their licences or lease their licences to unqualified or unlicensed operators. I understand that a licence which is held by somebody in East Gippsland is in fact operated somewhere in the west of Victoria. That is usually given as an example of the type of problem. I would hope that the honorable member for Morwell, who is interjecting, might be interested in the problems of the people of Victoria.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I am not worried about the interests of the honorable member for Morwell. I ask the Minister to ignore the interjections.

Mr. MACLELLAN: The other matter is apparently under review, that is, the initial problem of sale notes and unconditional sale notes which later lead to deposits not being returned. This would be an offence and that offence will be investigated if the honorable member will give me details.

BAN ON LOADING OF LIVESTOCK.

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora): Is the Minister of Transport aware that some four or five weeks ago VicRail banned the loading of livestock at Ballan railway station? The ban was subsequently removed last Thursday or Friday. If the Minister is aware of this, can he say whether the removal of the ban is permanent or is it simply for the period leading up to the Ballarat Province by-election?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The answer to the question is, "No".

ADOPTION LAWS.

Mr. McINNES (Gippsland South): Has the Minister for Social Welfare seen a press release dated 25th August from his department stating that adoption laws are to be reviewed by a departmental committee? Is he aware that some of the statements attributed to him may well be pre-empting the decisions and recommendations of a Parliamentary committee? If so, will he ensure that no further action is taken by the proposed committee until a report is formally presented to this Parliament?

Mr. DIXON (Minister for Social Welfare): I am not aware of any statement that I have made which would pre-empt any committee of this House, but if that is the case, I would appreciate it if the honorable member would show me the statement to which he refers. I assure him that I have no wish to pre-empt any committee of inquiry by this House.

PRISON DOG SQUAD.

Mr. RICHARDSON (Forest Hill): Further to the reference in the Budget speech to improvements in prison security, particularly the creation of a dog squad, what action has the Minister for Social Welfare taken in pursuit of this objective?

Mr. EDMUNDS: He has unleashed two dogs—Jennings and Francis.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I ask the honorable member for Ascot Vale to withdraw the reference to any honorable members as dogs.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale): I withdraw it.

Mr. DIXON (Minister for Social Welfare): This morning I visited the Police Dog Squad at West Meadows to ascertain the capacity of the squad to enable a correctional services dog squad to be formed. I was most impressed by what I saw there. There is no doubt that the Police Dog Squad has made a tremendous contribution to search and rescue operations in Victoria. I am certain that the Police Dog Squad would operate firstly as a deterrent to any would-be escapees; secondly, it would assist in ensuring that an successful escapee would be recaptured; and thirdly it would be useful in determining whether there were any weapons, contraband or drugs in the prisons.

I expect that there will be co-operation between the Department of Social Welfare and the Chief Secretary's Department in the training of a prison officer for the dog squad. Governor Quinn from Pentridge accompanied me this morning, as did Senior Officer Ward. Ultimately dogs will be made available for the whole of the correctional service of Victoria. They will eventually be located at Pentridge. I am grateful to the Police Dog Squad for its co-operation.

SOUTH-EASTERN–MULGRAVE FREEWAYS LINK.

Mr. FOGARTY (Sunshine): Is the Minister of Transport aware of a statement by the Premier that traffic reaching the South-Eastern Freeway from the Mulgrave and Gardiners Creek freeways will be siphoned off before reaching Punt Road in the city? If so, where will the siphoning process first commence?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The honorable member for Sunshine has put his own interpretation on the remarks. If he was to join me and the Country Roads Board to obtain some details of the traffic on the Mulgrave and South-Eastern freeways, he would learn that there is a tremendous amount of traffic entering and leaving the existing freeways. At present I am not talking about the proposed freeway connection.

The interjections of members of the Opposition only confuse the matter and make their position more miserable. I am not talking about Punt Road or anything else. Only a small proportion of people who join the Mulgrave Freeway at Dandenong go on into the central business district of Melbourne. I am one of those exceptions. Most people leave that freeway at some stage along the road. They certainly leave it when they reach the area where the C3 route would be constructed.

The implications of the question, and of an earlier remark made in the House by another member of the Opposition during another debate, were that everybody who joined the Mulgrave Freeway would end up at Punt Road, but that is not justified by the facts and figures. If the honorable member is inquiring whether the quantity of traffic at peak times will be greater, the answer is that the South-Eastern Freeway will not cope with more cars at peak hours.

The period of that maximum load may, if the C3 is constructed in about five to eight years' time, lengthen so that it is not only one and a half hours a day but might become two hours a day. That will be a matter for the motorists who go there. What the Premier made clear, and I know the honorable member for Bundoora cannot accept it and I know the honorable member for Sunshine can——

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! There is no necessity at this stage for the honorable gentleman to make reference to what the honorable member for Bundoora said. The question was asked by the honorable member for Sunshine and that is the substance of the question to be answered.

Mr. MACLELLAN: I am confident that I will be able to convince the honorable member for Sunshine be-

cause of his reasonableness. What the Premier said and made clear was that there will be no tunnel under the Domain, there will be no road through the Domain, and that decision is final.

MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballarat South): I direct my question to the Minister for Minerals and Energy and I refer to the Mines (Amendment) Bill which was withdrawn from the House yesterday. Can the Minister inform the House whether and when it is proposed that this Bill will be reintroduced for consideration in this Parliament?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): In accordance with the rules of the House I hope to be giving notice of a new Bill today or next Tuesday.

ALBURY–WODONGA CORPORATION.

Mr. JENNINGS (Westernport): I ask the Minister representing the Minister for State Development Decentralization and Tourism whether he would kindly place on the table of the Library for a limited period the files relating to the purchase by the Albury–Wodonga Corporation of properties from W. J. Phillips and Family, D. A. Wallace, Bethanga Park, and Lindsay K. and Merle S. Wheeler?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I will be pleased to make those inquiries of the Minister and see what attitude he takes. I will advise the honorable member accordingly.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STORES BRANCH.

Mr. JASPER (Murray Valley): Is the Minister of Education aware that despite earlier assurances the operations of the stores branch is being curtailed and many schools are not able to obtain their supplies? Is the honorable gentleman aware that this will operate to the detriment of country schools in particular, and will he investigate the matter to see that corrective action is taken immediately?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): No, I am not aware of any such examples, but I would be pleased if the honorable member would draw to my attention any within his knowledge and I will see that prompt action is taken to ensure the continuation of the high standard of service that has been maintained through the years.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION.

Mr. McARTHUR (Ringwood): Would the Assistant Minister of Health give an assurance to the House that, in the field of pre-school education, his department will give attention to see that Victoria is kept to the forefront in Australia?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): Yes, that assurance will certainly be given. I agree with the honorable member that in respect to all aspects of pre-school education, not just kindergartens, but also in the case of play support, toddler groups and the broad pre-school centre field, Victoria is well ahead of the rest of Australia. The State Government will certainly be doing its best to maintain that standard.

GARDINER CREEK VALLEY FREEWAY.

Mr. CATHIE (Carrum): I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. The Minister will have seen reports that compensation for noise associated with the Gardiner Creek Valley freeway will not become available until construction of the freeway is completed. Is it a fact that there has been an immediate fall in the value of properties which will ultimately be eligible for compensation? If so, will he agree to pay compensation immediately where sales occur in advance of the construction programme?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The report to which the honorable member refers is generally known as the Gobbo report, and it recommends that a scheme for compensation for noise and other injurious effects of that character

should be considered some twelve months after the operation of a new development. Such new developments are not confined only to roads, but would include such projects as a new railway line or any other similar construction that might cause noise, and thereby problems for the owners of nearby properties. The honorable member invites me to pay such compensation now. I am unable to do that—firstly, because the requirement for compensation has not arisen as there is as yet no noise in the area. The only noise about the C3 has come from the Opposition benches.

HEATHERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. COX (Mitcham): Funds were made available to the Heatherdale Primary School for site works but because the Public Works Department tender was in error the tender has had to be readvertised. The school council is most concerned about the situation and I ask the Minister of Education whether he will take action to make finance available to the school so that this project can continue without delay.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): The answer to the energetic honorable member for Mitcham is, "Yes".

SOUTH-EASTERN–MULGRAVE FREEWAYS LINK.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): Has the Minister of Transport been advised by experts within the Country Roads Board——

Mr. WILKES: There aren't any experts there.

Mr. FORDHAM: . . . and other transport authorities under his control that the Domain link is essential if the link between the South-Eastern Freeway and the Mulgrave Freeway is proceeded with as contemplated by the Government?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): I wish to have it recorded that the Leader of the Opposition said there were no experts in the Country Roads Board. That will make sure that the people at Denmark Street know exactly what the honorable member feels about them. The honorable member for Footscray asked me whether I had received advice that the Domain link was essential. The answer is, "No".

ALPINE STUDY BY THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL.

Mr. SKEGGS (Ivanhoe): Is the Minister for Conservation able to indicate to the House the current state of the alpine study undertaken by the Land Conservation Council?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): The present state of play is that the proposed recommendations have been made public. The Land Conservation Council has received approximately 12,000 or 14,000 submissions on those proposed recommendations and is now giving consideration to that enormous number of differing submissions.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS CULTS.

Mr. FRANCIS (Caulfield): Has the Chief Secretary received a report from a Liberal Party committee on the activities of religious cults; if so, is the honorable gentleman considering tabling the report and can he tell the House whether the Government is contemplating any further legislation in relation to religious cults?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): I have recently received a report on this subject. However, I have not yet examined it and I am unable to give any further information at this stage.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER TRAINING.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong West): Is the Assistant Minister of Health able to advise the House whether the Minister of Health has any control over the number of people who enter training colleges to receive training as pre-school or kindergarten teachers and can the honorable gentleman also advise the House of the present position with regard to the future placing of those who are now being trained?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The Department of Health has, over a number of years, been liaising closely with the councils of the training institutions, particularly the State College of Victoria, to ensure that the intake of pre-school teacher trainees is commensurate with the likely demand in future years. Unfortunately, over the past few years the intake of students training to be kindergarten and pre-school teachers has been considerably in excess of the likely demand. Certainly this year there is a surplus of about 120 trained kindergarten teachers in Victoria who graduated last year; in 1979 there is likely to be a surplus of about 240 or 250, and in the following year a greater surplus.

However, as from last year the intake was reduced considerably following representations from the Department of Health on the likely future requirements in the general pre-school field.

The Department of Health has no control whatsoever over the intake of students into any of the kindergarten training institutions. This matter was considered in some detail by Professor Partridge and was the subject of a section of his report. The Department of Health will continue to make known its general planning programmes in this area so that the intake of students can be made commensurate with future demand.

BICYCLE TRACKS ALONG RAILWAY LINES.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North): Is the Minister of Transport aware that VicRail has refused permission for local councils to construct bicycle tracks along railway alignments? If he is not aware of that—and I assure him that it is true—will the honorable gentleman give a direction to VicRail to change its attitude in line with the Government's stated policy of constructing safe bicycle tracks?

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): I am aware of VicRail's aversion to bicycle paths along the edge of railway facilities, especially tracks. That policy is Railways Board policy, and the board will persist in it until it is persuaded not to do so. I expect it will take a little while to persuade the board, but eventually we will succeed in doing so.

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES IN BABIES.

Mrs. PATRICK (Brighton): In view of the publicity and the deep concern in the community about babies born with physical abnormalities, will the Assistant Minister of Health consider requiring all hospitals to keep full records of all these births and to undertake research to try to discover the causes of all congenital abnormalities in babies?

Mr. JONA (Assistant Minister of Health): The hospitals already maintain statistics in relation to this matter, and they are available through the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

I recall that the present incidence of congential physical abnormalities in Victoria, which is consistent with that throughout Australia and corresponds roughly with the incidence in the rest of the world, is 2·5 to 3 births in every 1,000.

I refer specifically to the genetic research being carried out in Victoria in the Royal Children's Hospital. This research is of world standard, as is also the research being carried out at St. Vincent's Hospital by Dr. Margaret Garson.

This is a continuing study which is receiving the full support of the Department of Health and of the Consultative Council on Maternal and Child Health under the chairmanship of Professor Geoffrey Clark.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I desire to give notice that tomorrow I shall move—

That the Standing Order prohibiting publication of evidence and documents received by a Select Committee before such matters are reported to the House be suspended so far as to allow the release of

such information to interested persons by the Conservation of Energy Resources Committee during the course of its investigation into transport systems and vehicle and engine designs.

This is a special request from the committee because of the technical nature of the inquiry. The permission of witnesses would be obtained before their evidence was submitted to other people, but the committee believes its deliberations would benefit greatly from comment by other experts on evidence given by prevoius expert witnesses.

In view of the unanimous recommendation, the Government supports such an approach.

PETITIONS.

STEEL SPRING TRAPS.

Mrs. PATRICK (Brighton) presented a petition from certain citizens of Victoria praying that the House will take action to amend the law to prohibit the use of the steel spring leg trap used for the capture of certain animals and to provide for an alternative humane device. She stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 320 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

CEMENT SILO FOR CRANBOURNE RAILWAY STATION.

Mr. COLLINS (Noble Park) presented a petition from certain citizens praying that the House uphold the objections of Cranbourne citizens to the installation of a cement silo at the Cranbourne railway station. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 196 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

STATE FORESTS WORKS AND SERVICES BILL.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler) announced the presentation of a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of the State Forests Works and Services Bill.

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister of Agriculture), pursuant to Standing Order No. 169, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to authorize expenditure on works and services and other purposes relating to State forests.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

WATER SUPPLY STATUTORY RULE.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong West): I move—

That sub-clause (1) of paragraph (*b*) of clause 2 of By-laws No. 153: Water Supply —Charges for Special Purposes (Statutory Rule No. 146/1978) be disallowed.

I bring this matter before the House as Chairman of the Subordinate Legislation Committee. At different times, the committee has difficult matters upon which to adjudicate often requiring legal advice concerning regulations, which is this State's system of subordinate law. In this case the committee has decided to make a report on these general grounds.

By law, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is entitled to charge for water for "domestic use", which are the important two words, other than by measure. Honorable members will realize that that means a charge on the property, such as rates. Outside that category there is no need to charge except by measure. The problem facing the committee in this arena was that the board wished to include in the definition of domestic use the supply of water to building sites, particularly building sites where homes were being erected. The board has relied on the supposition that that is water for domestic use. The committee holds a contrary view and this is backed by the best legal advice which it has been able to obtain. To resolve the matter, which is rather legal and technical, the committee has decided to present the substance of this argument to the House in the form of a motion to disallow the regulation.

To sum up, these matters have to be brought to some conclusion; a regulation cannot stay in limbo for too long. In this case, the committee argued with the board that the definition of domestic use should not include building sites where homes were being erected. Domestic use by common law, particularly within the United Kingdom, is not deemed to include that particular use of water at all. That is the best way in which I can explain the motion in non-legalistic language. As I am not a lawyer, I do not like legal terms. Accordingly, I have moved the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS BY MEMBER FOR WESTERNPORT.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I move—

That a judicial inquiry be established to inquire into all allegations contained in the document "Personal Explanation to the Parliament of Victoria by D. B. Jennings, M.L.A., Member for Westernport, September, 1978", referred to by that honorable member in the House on 12th September, 1978.

This paper has now become known as the Jennings report and it is the document that was referred to in this House on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

I move this motion for several reasons. Firstly, I will recapitulate some of the events that led to the document coming to this Chamber. It will be recalled that on Tuesday afternoon, after question time, the honorable member for Westernport attempted to raise a matter in this Chamber and during the course of his remarks, he produced this document. At that time it appeared that the Government was not concerned to allow the honorable member for Westernport to table the document. The Assistant Minister of Health rushed over to the table, picked up that document and handed it back to the honorable member for Westernport. That action clearly indicated the intention of the Government in respect of the document on that day, Tuesday, 12th September, 1978.

After that incident, the honorable member for Westernport wanted the document made available to honorable members in this Parliament and I believe—I will be corrected if I am wrong—he wanted it made available to the media because he wanted to make points about what he thought of this Government and its track record in respect of the land scandals and what was happening with planning in Westernport and the Mornington Peninsula.

That led to the document being placed back by the Assistant Minister of Health into the hands of the honorable member for Westernport. The Labor Party was able to get the document from the honorable member for Westernport and I had your permission, Mr. Speaker, to have the document photostated so that I would have a copy to read.

Mr. BILLING: Why did you not give me a copy?. Why did you not give everyone a copy?

Mr. WILKES: I had no problems whatsoever in gaining a copy because neither the Government nor its party members wanted a copy. They had already demonstrated that they did not want a copy because of the very action of a responsible Minister in picking up the copy and handing it back to the honorable member for Westernport. That was a strange act for a Government that always claims open government is in the best interests of the people.

Yesterday, 13th September, 1978, was marked by several telephone calls from members of the Government inquiring when they could get a copy of the document. Twenty-four hours earlier, they did not want this copy but all of a sudden a change came over members of the Liberal Party and they decided that they would telephone the Opposition.

Mr. HAMER: Why not tell the whole story?

Mr. WILKES: I will tell the whole story. I listened to the Premier yesterday and I was not impressed with what he had to say. A series

of telephone calls was made asking for the document and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition truthfully told the people who telephoned him that he was not in possession of the document, nor was he. The Premier laughs. For a man accused of being a liar, it is strange for him to laugh and snigger.

Mr. TREZISE: He was accused by one of his own colleagues.

Mr. WILKES: One of his own colleagues accused him and that is a matter we will look at. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition truthfully told the people who telephoned him that he did not have a copy of the document in his possession.

Mr. THOMPSON: Who did?

Mr. WILKES: I had a copy. I was never asked whether I would hand over my copy. I was not contacted by any member of this incompetent Government.

Then, honorable members came into the Chamber and at Question Time I asked the Premier about the document, and the Premier messed it up—again. He did not know how to handle himself in relation to the document. Honorable members know what happened after that. When the motion was put that the document be tabled, the Government was still not convinced that that was the best thing to do with it. The Government wanted a copy but it was not sure that it wanted it tabled. It was not sure that it wanted the contents of the document made public, so the Government then procrastinated on precisely what it was going to do.

Honorable members know what happened. The motion was put and carried for the tabling of the document—quite properly within the forms of the House. Then, the Deputy Premier said how keen the Government was that everybody should be able to see this document and defend themselves if they were named or cited in the document. The Labor Party moved that the Government should provide it with the opportunity of testing the Government's bona fides in relation to the document being printed, and the Government did not vote against the motion.

The document was printed, but that is not the end of the story. On that day, that memorable Budget day for this Premier—and during the 21 years I have been a member of Parliament I have never been present in the House on a Budget day that has provided Parliament with more interest than yesterday—none of that interest was in the Budget.

Mr. FORDHAM: His last Budget.

Mr. WILKES: I am not the adjudicator of whether it is his last Budget. Of course, we were concerned not only with that document. Last night—and I have been here a long while but I have never witnessed nor heard of it before—a former member of the Liberal Party, and, because of his record, he was no doubt a respected member of that party, spoke out against the Government. I refer to the honorable member for Caulfield whose entry in *Who's Who in Australia,* 1977, reads—

> FRANCIS, Charles Hugh, Q.C. 1969, B.A., LL.B., B.Comm., M.L.A. (Lib.) for Caulfield, Vic., since 1976; President Australian Military Law Society since 1974; Executive Member International Society for Military Law since 1975; Barrister, Melbourne; Member Vic. Fourth University Committee 1970–72; son of late Dr. S. E. Francis, Melb.; *b.* July 15, 1924, Belgrave, Vic.; *ed.* Melb. C.E.G.S., Melb. Univ.; Frank Pinkerton Scholar; Lectr. Melb. Univ. 1962–76; Chrmn. Monash Electorate Cttee. Liberal Party 1969–75; Pres. Stonnington Br. Liberal Party 1970–73; Memb. Vic. Parlty. Company Takeovers Cttee. since 1976, Vic. Lib. Party Law Reform Cttee. since 1976; R.A.A.F. 1942–45, 37 Sqdn., Air Gunner; Judge Advocate (Wing Cdr. R.A.A.F. Reserve) since 1969; A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen 1974–76;—

I point this out for a specific purpose—

> Memb. Aust. Cttee. Lawasia 1967–68; *m.* Oct. 28, 1953, Babette, d. A. S. Saldanha, 4 s. 4 d.; *recreations,* reading, writing, music photography, swimming; *clubs,* Naval & Military,

That is very important.

Malvern Swimming; *address*, 12 Denham Place, Toorak, Vic., 3142.

That, too, is very important. Members of the Government party are members of the Naval and Military Club and if they regard this honorable member in the manner suggested last night and if they have been reflecting on his character to the extent and depth that they were last night, why do not they do something about having him expelled from the Naval and Military Club? I have not heard any suggestion of that.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I raise a point of order. This material is very interesting and I do not contradict it, but I do not see any relevance to the motion under discussion.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): I am inclined to uphold that point of order. The motion was moved by the Leader of the Opposition and makes particular reference to a document, a personal explanation to the Parliament of Victoria by D. B. Jennings, M.L.A.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows): The document that the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting should be the subject of a judicial inquiry is wide-ranging. The honorable member for Caulfield and many other honorable members appear to be involved in the matter. Last night some attempt was made to place the honorable member for Caulfield in a light which would reflect on his credibility. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition is now establishing evidence which would be beneficial to the House in determining the credibility of the honorable member for Caulfield. The Leader of the Opposition is in order, in passing, and in placing on record material which would enable all honorable members to be in a better position to make judgments regarding the credibility of the honorable member for Caulfield. In that sense the Leader of the Opposition is in order at this point, but I agree that he would be out of order if he were to attempt to elaborate at great detail on the information that he has put before the House. I am certain that is not his intention.

The SPEAKER: I realize that, but I still uphold the point of order. I believe the Leader of the Opposition has made his point.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): The honorable member for Caulfield has had a distinguished legal and military career and indeed, because of his record, is a distinguished gentleman. Any attempt by this Government to discredit him must reflect on the Government and not that of the honorable member for Caulfield.

When one considers the architect of the document, the honorable member for Westernport, one finds that he has been a member of the Legislative Assembly representing Westernport electorate since 1976, and has achieved great success in the pastoral industry in Queensland. He is the son of Sir Albert Jennings of A. V. Jennings, an extremely notable company and is from a notable family which has contributed much to the growth and development of this State. That cannot be denied even by this Premier or shabby Government. However, last night when the honorable member for Westernport was speaking on the motion of want of confidence in this Government, attempts were made to discredit him.

Not only was the honorable member for Westernport the architect of a document which the House will discuss this morning, but the honorable member for Caulfield made the most serious allegations against the Premier of this State that I have ever heard. I doubt whether any other honorable member has heard such allegations. He said that the Premier was corrupt, that he was a liar and a perjurer, and he referred to me, saying that I should have known that. I state most carefully that when allegations of this nature are made, and they are made because of the relationship this document——

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): I raise a point of order. Mr. Speaker, you have already ruled as to the confines of this debate. The Leader of the Opposition is to speak to a personal explanation to the Parliament of Victoria by D. B. Jennings, M.L.A., member for Westernport, September, 1978. The honorable member has already been told by you that he is out of order in his references to the honorable member for Caulfield.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I cannot uphold that point of order because there is a difference. The document under discussion is a personal explanation to the Parliament by D. B. Jennings, M.L.A. When I upheld the point of order of the Deputy Premier, the Leader of the Opposition had just opened his remarks and was giving a long dissertation about a person who was not at that point specifically mentioned. There is a slight difference.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): I am making the point because of the importance of a judicial inquiry and the need for it. Not only is a document concerned but as late as this morning, public statements were made over the radio by the honorable member for Westernport charging the Government with corruption mixed with graft, and describing what was happening in the party meeting and what the former Minister, Mr. Dickie said at the party meeting. These allegations have now been made public over radio and television and even disregarding the document, any self-respecting Premier or self-respecting Government would not hesitate to have the matters investigated by a judicial inquiry. Would it take the Prime Minister as long as it takes this Premier to have a judicial inquiry into the allegations against the Ministers? Honorable members know how Federal Ministers who have had fewer allegations and accusations made against them than on this occasion have fared.

Allegations and accusations of the worst type have been made referring to the Government of the State of Victoria as being corrupt and mixed up with graft. Surely in this day and age any self-respecting Government would want to have a judicial inquiry. The former Leader of the Victorian Opposition who is now a Federal member is today asking for a judicial inquiry because he believes he is entitled to clear his name.

Mr. STEPHEN: He hopes he does not get one.

Mr. WILKES: He does not hope. He is confident his name will be cleared, and I am as confident as he is. I should like to hear the Premier express confidence in the list of people mentioned in the report, a list that will go down in history. It contains these names—R. J. Hamer, Lindsay Thompson, Jim Ramsay, Charles Hider, James Guest, Graeme Weideman, Alan Hunt, Roy Ward, Rob Maclellan, Roberts Dunstan, Vance Dickie, Geoff Hayes, Vern Hauser, Kenneth Wheeler, Lou Lieberman, Vasey Houghton. There is also a list of officials of the Liberal Party containing the names—Joy Mein, John Elliott, Peter Hardie, Joe Davis, Edith Seller, Jim Saxe, Arthur Rankin, Graham Jennings, Harry Sasse, Ray Dorrington and Stan Guilfoyle. Two Federal members of the Liberal Party were mentioned—Barry Simoon and Phillip Lynch—and one Federal member of the Labor Party —Clyde Holding, and then others including John Winneke, Peter Leake, Colin Cooke, P. A. Liddell, Peter Stirling, former Inspector Crowley, Lindsay Wheeler and Bill Thwaites.

I have not heard today on the radio or other media and I have not read in the newspapers, where the Federal member is complaining that he has been maligned.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: I bet he has been on the phone to you.

Mr. WILKES: I am talking about Mr. Lynch. He had not spoken this morning. The honorable member for Melbourne Ports stood up in the Federal Parliament yesterday, but Mr. Lynch did not. Mr. Speaker, you know the import of that, and some of the honorable gentlemen opposite

should know the import of it. The honorable member for Melbourne Ports stood up in the Federal Parliament and categorically stated that it was a lie, he was not involved. If that were proved to be untrue in a judicial inquiry, then he would lose his seat in the Federal Parliament. He cannot take any other action to prove his innocence.

I would like to see some of these gentlemen doing something like that. I would like to see Mr. Lynch stand up in the Federal Parliament and say that he was not involved and that the accusations in the document are not true. He may well be able to do it, but the fact of the matter is, he has not and, therefore, in my opinion to clear this matter once and for all the Premier should now stand up and say "Yes, we will have a judicial inquiry. We will clear the decks once and for all." Members of the public are entitled to that, and nothing less than that. They are entitled to a better deal than the shoddy deal they have had from this Premier and this Government since the land scandal started in 1974, and since this Government started to fall apart. It has not much further to fall, but it should redeem at least some of its credibility by instituting an inquiry to clear some or all of those people which have been cited in this report, and give them an opportunity to stand up in a judicial inquiry and say, "We are innocent." Unless that is done, there is the implication of guilt there and it should not be there. Nor should it be presumed by anybody that they are guilty until such time as they have had an opportunity through a judicial inquiry to clear themselves.

During question time yesterday and again later in the day, I referred to those grave allegations which had been made by the honorable member for Westernport in the report. I believe, if only a fraction of those allegations were true, it would be sufficient to cause any self-respecting Government to resign. There is no doubt about that. All this motion seeks to do, despite what the Premier is saying, is to ensure that the Parliament and the public can ascertain whether the allegations in the document are true or false. I make no statement about their truth, and I said that last evening. I make no statement about why the document was prepared. That is a matter for the person who prepared it. In fact, I make no statement about the honorable member for Westernport other than to say what I have already said in regard to his background.

All I say in the long term is that the document contains allegations of corruption, manipulation, stand-over tactics, cover-ups, disunity, and instability on a scale unprecedented in Victoria's history. Because of the events that led up to it, we have been able to realize where these allegations and assertions came from. As I pointed out, if only one-quarter of them were true, it should be sufficient for a self-respecting Government to resign. Every Cabinet Minister but one—and I have read out the list—is involved, according to the report.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: Who is the one?

Mr. WILKES: I will let the honorable gentleman name himself. Backbenchers here, and in another place, have been named in the document; the Federal Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party has been named in the document; the honorable member for Melbourne Ports, the former Leader of the Opposition, has also been named in it.

Mr. RAMSAY: What about the allegations? They are allegations that do not exist.

Mr. WILKES: Isn't he excited?

Mr. JONA (Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs): On a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is consistently referring to Ministers, members and people outside the Parliament who are named in this report. He is trying to create the impression that they are all named on the basis that allegations have been made against them. He knows perfectly well that is not true. Their names

have been thrown around willy-nilly in the report and there is no suggestion that they were involved.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): That is not a point of order. This is in the cut and thrust of the debate. The honorable member has said it and it can be refuted.

Mr. WILKES (Leader of the Opposition): But is not the Minister getting excited? I can understand his sensitivity. Elements of his own organization, according to the document are alleged to have behaved in a deplorable and corrupt manner, and that is what he is frightened of. It is in the document. Let him get up and refute it. That is why the Opposition wants a judicial inquiry. As the Minister just said, you cannot just dismiss those allegations. That is what the Premier likes to do under the table. That has gone; the public outside will not accept it. No one can pretend that these allegations do not exist. For the sake of integrity in Government, and the reputation of the people named, the Premier knows the proper course to take. There must be no more whitewashes, no more cover-ups. There must be a full, thorough and exhaustive judicial inquiry.

The frontispiece of the document states—

> Personal Explanation to the Parliament of Victoria by D. B. Jennings, M.L.A., Member for Westernport, September, 1978.

It is 65 pages long and the last page has attached to it a photostat signature of Doug Jennings and it is dated 11th September, 1978. There are so many allegations in the report that I cannot cover the whole lot of them today. However, I draw attention to 40 or 50, perhaps, of the major allegations.

The member for Westernport said he prepared the document in view of the number of incorrect, purposely misleading and untruthful statements which have been made, to provide a brief report of the circumstances, background information and reasons for his actions.

The first two pages outline the course of the so-called Westernport branch stacking allegations. The honorable member for Westernport said in the document that it is essential for this whole matter to be aired, together with the reasons behind it. I agree completely and I hope everyone in the Parliament agrees. There is a reason, and there is a need to know.

The honorable member for Westernport said that Mrs. Mein, Mr. John Elliott, Mr. Hamer and the other people involved, including the previous president, Mr. Peter Hardie, have been responsible for trying to hide an era of some of the lowest behaviour—not political behaviour—possible in any political party. This is the political party that Sir John Anderson said was the weakest Liberal Party in Australia, and they are having an inquiry into it. If there was an inquiry into the Labor Party one can imagine that it would be across the pages of the newspaper. But here is an inquiry being carried out, according to Sir John Anderson, into this weak branch of the Liberal Party and we hear no explanation at all. No explanations were given. There were no explanations as to what it is about. There is to be another inquiry by the faceless men behind closed doors and apparently the public is not entitled to know.

The honorable member for Westernport alleged that he had a private meeting with the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the then Secretary of the Cabinet on 12th September, 1977, at which discussions took place about his possible expulsion. In other words, they were ready to kick him out. The honorable member for Westernport says of that meeting and subsequent events—

> I was then shocked to hear of some of the Premier's evidence at the Privileges hearing, which breached the confidentiality of these private meetings.

That is what he said about the Premier. It is not as serious as the allegations made by the honorable member for Caulfield, who claimed

that the Premier had perjured himself. The honorable member for Westernport continued—

> Later, when I read the Premier's evidence, it was so obviously distorted that I sought to make a personal explanation to Parliament on 9th May, 1978, which was refused and I was also refused permission by the Speaker to raise the matter in the Adjournment Debate, 10th May, 1978.

The honorable member is accusing the Premier of having given distorted evidence to the Privileges Committee, one of the most serious charges that an honorable member can level at another honorable member in this place. That was also adverted to by the honorable member for Caulfield. I do not know why the honorable member for Westernport did not immediately raise the matter in the proper form, but the fact remains that he did not. However, whether he did or not, the matter still stands and it ought to be investigated.

The next series of allegations dealt with the Westernport stacking saga. The honorable member for Westernport said—

> The Westernport stacking allegations were the result of a conspiracy which traces back to a set of circumstances which started in August 1973, and involve falsified receipts, misappropriation of campaign funds, the land deal rackets——

The honorable member for Westernport described them as "rackets". I describe them as "scandals".

> . . . the land deal rackets, disclosures and other deals not disclosed.

The honorable member for Westernport is not in any way alleging some common or garden Liberal Party failure or conspiracy, he is alleging a conspiracy—and the Premier should know this better than anyone else—that smacks of criminal activity. That must be denied, at least, and it must be determined by a judicial inquiry. It would be wrong to allow an allegation of a conspiracy that smacks of criminal activity to remain.

The honorable member for Westernport then alleged that the Flinders electorate paid organizer, Mr. Don Fowler, approached him in August, 1973, and told him that he had a job for the honorable member to do in a couple of nights' time. The organizer said that he wanted the honorable member to become the chairman of the Flinders electorate finance committee. The reason alleged was that it was to prevent continued irregularities in campaign finances in the area.

On page 6 of the document the honorable member for Westernport alleged that after the election in 1976 Mr. Fowler told him—

> During previous elections, I was directed by Edith Seller, Joe Davis and Graeme Weideman—

and Mr. Weideman will have the opportunity of speaking on this—

> with the knowledge of Philip Lynch, to work two receipt books—

That is what happened, according to the honorable member for Westernport, but it is worse than that. No doubt some people might want to have two receipt books in case they leave one at home. If that happens one would still have the other book in one's pocket, but it is worse than that—

> . . . two receipt books and threatened that if I did not do it they would have me sacked from the Liberal Party.

He was doomed at that stage. That is obvious.

> When the money came in during a campaign—

and we know how much that was because the honorable member for Niddrie told us in the debate last year that more than $1·3 million was in the Liberal Party slush fund. The Opposition had the document to prove it and it was not disputed or refuted by any member of the Liberal Party, the Parliamentary party or the executive.

> When the money came in during a campaign, they would give me so much money for which I would write out receipts and pay the money into the Party Fighting Fund. Then they would give me another list of names and amounts for which I had to write out receipts in another official book which they kept.

If that does not need investigating, I do not know what does.

> The receipts would be sent out to the donor with my signature and the donor would naturally think the money had been paid into the Fighting Fund which, of course, never happened.

No dough went into the fighting fund. Where did it go? That is what the honorable member for Westernport wants to know. Where did the money that was receipted from the second receipt book go? He is entitled to know that. It is playing on his conscience.

After the campaigns, the second receipt book would always disappear and Joe Davis and Graeme Weideman would dispose of the money into what I thought must have been a private account.

Mr. Cox: Do you believe that?

Mr. WILKES: I want it proven to me that it is not the case. A lot of people will believe it unless it is proved that it is not right. Does the honorable member for Mitcham believe it?

Mr. Cox: No. I do not!

Mr. WILKES: The honorable member does not believe it. Well, there is one member of the Liberal Party who does not believe it!

The first allegation relating to the integrity of the Premier was a very serious matter indeed. The allegation of misappropriating funds is equally serious and I believe—and I am sure that the Premier would believe, because I know him well enough to know that—an investigation must be carried out into those allegations.

The honorable member for Westernport further recounts a comment Mr. Fowler is alleged to have made about the Minister for Local Government and his campaign funds. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt, that Sir Gregory Gowans made a comment about the Minister for Local Government and campaign funds in his report. The allegation is not new. It was confirmed by Sir Gregory Gowans. Almost incidentally, the honorable member for Westernport continues—

It was not long after this that Roy Ward, M.L.C., told me that the M.P.'s were worried because we were making the branches and their members too active and they were asking too many questions and causing problems.

They did not want the branches to be advised of this in the Liberal Party. No wonder Westernport is in a mess. I admit that beside the other allegations this is almost irrelevant, but I include it to illustrate the attitude some members of the Government party apparanely take to questions of party democracy—a contemptible attitude if the allegation made by the honorable member for Westernport is to be believed.

On page 8 the honorable member for Westernport then alleges that he warned the Federal Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of the involvement of the Minister for Local Government with Messrs. Leake and Cooke—the two distinguished gentlemen named in the Gowans report; the two $13,000 men. Of course, the Premier said it would have been better if the amount had gone into the fighting fund instead of into the local campaign fund, but it was justified, according to the honorable gentleman, because it was collected from all the land dealers, not just one. That apparently made it all right.

If he had collected it from only one or two land dealers, the Premier might have got a bit upset about it, but because it went right across the board the Premier and the Minister said, " That's all right; you can collect it from the lot of them but don't collect it from any single two."

The honorable member for Westernport alleged on page 8 of the report that he warned the Federal Deputy Liberal Leader of the involvement of the Minister for Local Government and Messrs. Leake and Cooke, two names which became very familiar in connection with the land deals. Mr. Lynch is alleged to have replied to the honorable member for Westernport—

We don't want to get involved in that at all.

I would think that any citizen in a position of trust and authority would not have wanted to become involved, but would have felt a deep obligation to be involved. Perhaps, as will be seen later, Mr. Lynch was involved in other ways.

The honorable member for Westernport alleged that during 1975 he also raised details about Melton and Sunbury with Mr. Lynch and that he received similar answers. It was alleged in the report that the then Leader of the Opposition did nothing about Melton.

I took the trouble of examining the files this morning, and, for the benefit of honorable members, I inform the House that the Leader of the Opposition did quite a good deal about Melton at the time. He was most critical of the Government's attitude in Melton. He went to the trouble of making personal and public statements about Melton. If honorable members want to know why he did not make any statement in the House, it was because that was in June, 1974, and this lazy Government was not meeting during the winter recess.

The Federal member for Melbourne Ports has nothing to hide and nothing to be ashamed of in relation to his actions at the time in criticizing this miserable Government on the Melton deals, and that is on the record. Anyone who wants to see evidence of what the Federal member for Melbourne Ports did can do so, because that will be provided.

I have just been advised, quite rightly, by the honorable member for Niddrie that the infamous Crowley report, with which the Premier is very familiar, also suggested that Mr. Holding had been active in his opposition to the Melton land deal. There is no doubt about that. It was further stated that rumors of unfair or crooked dealings were fairly widespread in the area, and that these had been stimulated by recent inquiries made by journalists and also by Mr. Holding. Inquiries were also made by a man named White, now the honorable member for Doutta Galla Province in another place, who was then a research officer for Mr. Holding. That was in September, 1974. I have seen no refutations of these matters by any of the gentlemen that have been involved. At least that shows Mr. Holding's attitude to the Melton land deal.

On page 11 of the report prepared by the honorable member for Westernport, he alleges that he met Mr. Jim Saxe, a Liberal Party organizer, in the upstairs lounge of the Sovereign Hotel, Frankston—not a bad place for a meeting—on 10th January, 1976. He alleges that at that meeting Mr. Saxe said to him—

> Of course I will have to burn the Westernport sheets.

The Labor Party could learn a lot from the alleged activities of members of the Liberal Party. Mr. Saxe allegedly said—

> I would have to burn the Westernport selection sheets as we wouldn't want another Caulfield down here.

Mr. Saxe is alleged to have further said—

> The whole convention was checked out by headquarters so don't worry any more about it.

Headquarters had checked it out; they knew the headquarters members who have been cited in the report, and they did not have to worry about it. These were two rather contradictory statements on their face. If it checked out, why was there any need to burn the sheets? Another very serious allegation was made, this time about voting irregularities, and I believe they also ought to be investigated.

For another few pages the honorable member recounted various petty internal wrangles in the Liberal Party and the Westernport area. Then he alleged that after 28th June, 1976—

> We received anonymous advice over the telephone that there was no doubt that the Westernport pre-selection convention was stacked, but not for me. It was stacked for Rob Maclellan who had already told people that R. J. Hamer had asked him to stand against me although he had been endorsed for Berwick.

Once again, the National Party and the Labor Party could learn a lot from these allegations, if only a quarter of them are true. That was another serious allegation involving

a Minister of the Crown and, indeed, the Premier himself, and that must be investigated.

The honorable member for Westernport then made an allegation which staggered me. He said—

> The Liberal Party hierarchy know how to use the judicial system in a way to suit their own ends. Most Q.C's appreciate the position that the Liberal leaders appoint judges and they don't want to be left out in the cold.

That is a grave allegation; even the Premier would realize that, because it casts aspersions on the entire legal profession.

Mr. HAMER: Do you believe that?

Mr. WILKES: I do not adopt any of the allegations; I have made my position quite clear. I place no truth in the allegations and I am asking the Government to prove that the allegations are untrue.

I do not know what prompted the honorable member to make that allegation, but it ought to be investigated for the very reason that it casts aspersions on the whole of the legal profession in this State.

I turn next to the Dunstan allegations.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: What about the other three speakers?

Mr. WILKES: I did not fix the time for the debate. The Government uses the Sessional Orders in the House to suit itself. Any attempt the Opposition has made to alter the Sessional Orders has been opposed by this rabble, and now when the Opposition wants to lay a case on the line, the Government wants to suit the wishes of some Government supporter. Let the Government debate it next week or this afternoon—the Opposition will accommodate it.

The Government can move for the suspension of Sessional Orders now. I intend to put on the record in the interests of the people of Victoria what ought to be put on the record. I am not interested in these Ministers, because when they had a chance last night, what did they do? The record will show what they did.

Let us examine the Dunstan allegations. The honorable member for Westernport then recounted a long conversation that he alleges took place between himself and the member for Dromana, then the Minister of Public Works. This is referred to at page 16 of the report. The conversation is said to have taken place between 6.30 p.m. and 10 p.m. on 23rd May, 1977, at the home of the member for Dromana. The honorable member for Westernport alleges that the former Minister said—

> The main people who wanted to get rid of you were Lynch, Hamer and Hunt, and they made most of the bullets and I helped them fire them by organizing Ray Dorrington to work with Jim Saxe.
>
> They decided you

Meaning the honorable member for Westernport—

> would be a danger as a member of Parliament because of your support in the Flinders electorate and your persistence with the accusations that the land deals were corrupt and that the people responsible should be exposed and that there was something wrong with the finances in the Liberal Party.

Three senior Ministers, two of them in this Government, are alleged to have attempted to get rid of a man because he tried to expose corruption. The honorable member for Westernport was courageous enough this morning, through the public media, over the radio, to state categorically that the Government was corrupt and that it was involved in and mixed up with graft. They are serious public allegations and some credence must be given to the statements, particularly when the honorable member is prepared to make them publicly.

Mr. BILLING: When did he say that publicly?

Mr. WILKES: The honorable member for Westernport said it on three radio stations.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I am finding it difficult to hear the Leader of the Opposition with all the interjections, particularly from the honorable member for Keilor.

Mr. WILKES: There can be no doubt about what the honorable member for Westernport said because the Opposition can produce tapes of his remarks.

Mr. MACLELLAN: Have you got the tapes?

Mr. WILKES: No, I have not.

Mr. MACLELLAN: But there are tapes?

Mr. WILKES: The Opposition is able to produce tapes of the interviews this morning on the radio stations with those honorable members, including myself, who made any comments about the matter. The Opposition has the means available to monitor radio broadcasts and surely there is nothing sinister about that. Obviously, the Government has the same facilities available to it but the difference is that it does not know how to use them.

The honorable member for Dromana is alleged to have continued with comments about internal party politics, including a rather bitter statement about the Premier which I will not repeat, and a comment about the Premier seeking to set contenders for the Liberal leadership succession at each other's throats. This goes on in the Liberal Party, but that is a matter for members of that party, as I said yesterday.

Another major allegation then emerges. According to the honorable member for Westernport, the honorable member for Dromana said, in answer to a question about the Pinmore deal and Melton, that it was fixed. He used an adjective to describe well fixed.

The honorable member for Westernport says that he asked the honorable member for Dromana why no one woke up to it and the honorable member for Dromana is alleged to have replied—

> Look, if they wake up, it pays them to shut up because they have the Cabinet perks—

I do not know what they are; I have not been in the Cabinet.

> so why should they rock the boat, so they just go along with Dick.

I assume the Dick to whom he refers is the Premier.

Here is an allegation that a Cabinet Minister admitted that two major land deals were fixed and that the Cabinet knew about them and yet the matter has not been investigated. There is no indication from the Premier that it will be investigated.

The conversation is then alleged to have roamed over the subject of the secret Liberal Party Westernport branch stacking investigation. That report has never been made public and I suspect that it is time it was. Again, I can do nothing about that. I suspect it should have been made available to a judicial inquiry at the time of the investigation into the land deals, with a view to seeing what light it could throw on the investigation by Mr. Justice Gowans, but the Premier chose otherwise. I return now to some of the allegations.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: We have only fifteen minutes.

Mr. WILKES: I will not go through that again.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition not do so because of the limited time available.

Mr. WILKES: I merely point out that the Government could alter the situation so that both the Leader of the National Party and the Leader of the Opposition were not inhibited in making their comments. The Sessional Orders that have been imposed on this Parliament to suit the Liberal Party and to suit the Government are a denial of the rights of members to be able to speak. Every honorable member knows that. I have complained about it on many occasions.

Mr. THOMPSON: Members have more opportunities to speak now than ever before.

Mr. WILKES: In the circumstances, I will try to be brief. I acknowledge the necessity for the Leader of the National Party to be able to say what he wants to say. I again return to some of the allega-

tions directed at the Deputy Leader of the Federal Liberal Party. During the conversation with the then Minister of Public Works, the subject of Mr. Lynch is alleged to have arisen again, and the honorable member for Westernport reports, at page 16—

> Dunstan told me that Philip Lynch was particularly concerned with me and my position as Flinders electorate chairman. . . . . Lynch, Davis and Weideman were worried that if we were able to prove Lynch's involvement in the misappropriation of Liberal Party funds that I would try to push him out.

This allegation is serious enough to be investigated and on page 57 of the document the honorable member for Westernport alleges that—

> Not many people appreciate the circumstances surrounding the disclosure that Philip Lynch was involved in the Stumpy Gully Estates deal with Peter Leake.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> During the time when Peter Leake was on the Westernport Regional Planning Authority, of which he was also chairman, most or all these old subdivisions were frozen, but not Stumpy Gully Estates.

Mr. SIMPSON: Grosvenor Nominees.

Mr. WILKES: That is so. The document continues—

> Quite obviously, anyone in the know, and Peter Leake was certainly in the know, would realize that Stumpy Gully Estates would automatically be increased in value when all the other old subdivisions were made worthless.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> It would also not be difficult for someone in Peter Leake's position to organize that the previous owner of Stumpy Gully Estates be encouraged to sell at a cheap price on the basis that if he didn't, he might find his land frozen.

That was the allegation.

> So, for reasons known to themselves, Phillip Lynch was cut in on the deal.

Surely the allegation is clear: That a person in authority used his position of trust in a way to profit himself and others. Again, the allegations should be investigated.

I have one comment, because I am only halfway through the allegations.

The document also makes a serious allegation about a member in another place, Mr. Charles Hider, which ought to be investigated. Honorable members know that the gentleman was a director of a company, Development Underwriting, which sold land to the Housing Commission for more than $5 million. That he was a director of the company is an established fact. The honorable member for Westernport says that Mr. Hider was quite vehement in his criticism of him and defended Cabinet members when the land deals were raised in the Party room. It is terrible to have to consider what is said in the Liberal Party room. The honorable member for Westernport claims that in this land deal—

> The Housing Commission probably paid at least $2,000 to $3,000 more per block than they needed to.

The party knew about it because it was discussed in the party room, but what did the members and the Premier do? The document continues—

> Of course, the enormous cash sales to the Housing Commission bailed Development Underwriting out of a financial crisis.

This allegation states that the Housing Commission paid too much for land in that particular deal with a company of which Mr. Hider was a director and the Opposition believes it ought to be investigated.

Finally, I come to the land deals involving Mr. Hauser, M.L.C. The honorable member for Westernport alleges that on 13th September, 1977, Mr. Hauser came into his office at 11.45 p.m. and talked until 1.00 a.m. I have to edit Mr. Hauser's comments because I see no need for Parliament to waste its time with language of the type alleged to have been used by him on this occasion, and public decency prevents me from using that language.

The document alleges that the conversation went this way—

> He said, "There's nothing wrong with Pinmore, it's a—
>
> word deleted—
>
> good deal." I said "Yes, for the rotten—
>
> word deleted—
>
> in it." He said, "I know that, but that's what it is all about up here and until you wake up you won't get anywhere."

The honorable member for Westernport alleges that Mr. Hauser went on to say—

> I was able to get away with the Tamar Holdings land sale to the Urban Land Council because I know what to say and when.

Mr. Speaker, you will remember that Tamar Holdings Ltd. sold land at Keilor to the Urban Land Council and that amongst the directors of that company is Mr. Hauser's partner in the stockbroking firm of Mellor and May. Mr. Hauser is not mentioned as a director of that firm but an allegation has been made that a member of Parliament fixed a land deal with the Urban Land Council. That allegation must be investigated.

As I am only a quarter of the way through the sordid allegations in the document and I wish to honour the desire of the Leader of the National Party to speak to this motion, I shall conclude by saying that if this is not sufficient evidence for the so-called responsible Premier to responsibly initiate a judicial inquiry into the whole of the allegations made about him last night by the honorable member for Caulfield and this morning by the honorable member for Westernport, then this State does not deserve a Government like his. The Premier ought to get out and let the people decide. There is no excuse for this Government not to hold a judicial inquiry. In the interests of decency and good, honest government in this State, I commend a judicial inquiry to the Premier. It is what the Premier should do.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): Obviously, the situation that faces this Parliament cannot rest where it now is. An incredible series of accusations has been made, and made under privilege. This is serious. Dozens of people are involved. No doubt some are innocent, perhaps all—I do not know. That is the great unknown. But on the obvious assumption that some are innocent, why should the names of those people be bandied about in the media and in this Parliament? The matter obviously cannot rest there. I can see no way that it can be put straight other than by a judicial inquiry.

This matter goes back to the original branch stacking in Westernport, and an inquiry would go a long way towards deciding whether there is anything in what the honorable member for Westernport has said. If the report of that branch stacking was made public by the Liberal Party, that would certainly be of interest to me and it would help me make up my mind on whether there is any validity in what the honorable member says. If the Liberal Party does not bring that forward, one must have doubts about the party.

The other question is, if it does, we will have to look closely at legal representation. The day has passed when any member can be given an open cheque to pay for his defence. The incredible situation exists where Mr. Hunt received legal representation, which for him alone must have cost between $60,000 and $70,000. Here, 20 to 30 members are involved and, in a similar situation we will have to consider whether they should all be on the same bases of costs.

I suggest that in future a different attitude should be taken about defending members of Parliament, whatever party they belong to. It has been accepted that the Minister for Local Government got himself into trouble because of a stupid indiscretion. This sordid situation has developed from a domestic feud in the Liberal Party, the members of which were very sensitive last night. I did my best to choose my words carefully and to be fair, but it is hard to put up with Government abuse from people like the honorable members for Warrandyte and Forest Hill. I accept that there was no evidence against the Premier.

Mr. RICHARDSON: You will cop it from me every time.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: That sums up the attitude of the honorable member for Forest Hill. He does not know how good or bad the situation is; he has made up his mind in advance. I

am making my personal position clear. I certainly have an open mind about these accusations. What concerns me is the seriousness of them and that they are made under Parliamentary privilege. I can see no further point in this debate about the Jennings report continuing. Nothing new will come forward. We need to decide whether there will be a judicial inquiry. If the Government wants to clear itself, and in fairness to the individuals who are named it has no choice, it should set up a judicial inquiry that can determine the validity of the most serious accusations made by the honorable member for Westernport.

On the motion, by leave, of Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education), Sessional Orders were suspended so far as to allow the debate on the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition to continue until 2.30 p.m. this day.

The sitting was suspended at 12.57 *p.m. until* 2.3 *p.m.*

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): There is one thing about this motion and about this debate that should concern all of us in the first place. That is the proper use, and I believe in this case the abuse, of the privilege accorded to documents tabled in this House. Whatever else emerges from all this, I believe we should look at the rules of this House that govern the tabling of documents and the privilege given to them, because now we have a document which names many people, some in the House, some outside the House and some in the Federal Parliament, most of whom have had no prior knowledge and opportunity of studying what has been said about them and making any comment about it. This privilege to publish is a precious one. It ought to be exercised with due caution and with due regard to the rights of other people. It is a matter of responsibility, as somebody pointed out. If that responsibility is abused, we must look at how that responsibility arises, and the rules governing it.

I shall recount a little of what happened because I believe the Leader of the Opposition did not give the full story. This matter arose out of a "personal explanation" which, after consultation with the Speaker, was to be given by the honorable member for Westernport. As I understand it, it was to relate to two articles in some Young Liberal paper. At the end of his remarks in his personal explanation the honorable member for Westernport laid this document on the table of the House and the Speaker ruled that it was not necessary or open for him to do that, his explanation having been completed and having been reported in *Hansard*. At that time the document had no status. It was not thereafter seen by any member of the Government party.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The Premier is attempting to make a contribution to this debate and he has a limited time. I require honorable members to cease interjecting and to listen in silence. If honorable members will not adhere to that I will have no alternative than to name them.

Mr. HAMER: It was not thereafter seen by any member of the Government party, but an announcement was made that the Leader of the Opposition proposed to quote extensively from this document in a motion of want of confidence of which he had already given notice. It was therefore reasonable to ask, as it was well known that members of the Opposition had copied the document and as it was to be made the subject of debate, for a copy to be made available. However, the Opposition went through the charade of not knowing where the document was by saying, "I have not got it" and that somebody else had it. Having done that, the Opposition moved that the document be tabled and ultimately printed. The Government supported it. It believed that this was a document, although members of the Government party had not seen it, relating to some personal explanation that the honorable member for

Westernport was making and was brought forward by him on that basis. It was considered reasonable that it should be made a document before the House.

The document turns out to be something quite different. It consists of 65 pages, mostly of conversations with a wide range of people.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: Alleged conversations.

Mr. HAMER: Alleged conversations. I thank the Leader of the National Party for that correction. A lot of people both here in this House and outside the House have not read what the alleged conversations were claimed to be. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned that his predecessor knew about it. The former Leader of the Opposition knew about it because the Leader of the Opposition as a first step, and this is one reason why he did not want to make it available, took it to Canberra.

Mr. WILKES: I did not take it.

Mr. HAMER: You told him about it long before anyone here had seen it.

There is a 65-page document consisting mainly of alleged conversations and some comment, a great deal of second, third and fourth-hand gossip and a lot of very vague hearsay. It is difficult to distil out of it anything that could be called even an allegation. It is impossible to find in it any substantiation for the inferences and claims that are made. I remind the House that what is set out here is a series of conversations bearing on a number of matters upon each of which the honorable member for Westernport had ample opportunity to enlarge, and to bring forward any claims he had. He not only had many opportunities but also many challenges to do so. The member for Westernport could have brought these things forward—they extend back 2, 3 or 4 years—and he could have brought them forward in this House. He could have brought them forward in the party room, and in fact he was invited many times to do so, both in public and by his colleagues. Many of his colleagues said, "If you have something, bring it forward." He had the opportunity at the board of inquiry held by Sir Gregory Gowans but he did not appear. Therefore, one is entitled to regard a document like this, which does not have anything specific in it and which has no substantiation of the various innuendos and inferences, with some considerable suspicion.

It is fair to issue a challenge to the honorable member for Westernport to bring forward his evidence. He has been talking about these things and he should now substantiate what he has said, not with vague inquiries and discussions, not with what he has learnt through hearsay and not with vague insinuations about corruption, but with some evidence which would form the basis for an inquiry.

Mr. WILKES: How should he do that?

Mr. HAMER: Either the honorable member has a basis for what he is saying, or he has not. I challenge him to produce the basis.

Mr. WILKES: How should he do it?

Mr. HAMER: I will tell you. I challenge the member for Westernport now to produce whatever substantiation he has for the suggestions made in this document to the Solicitor-General so that he can evaluate what the material is and so that the Government can make a fair and reasonable decision on the whole matter.

Mr. WILKES: A Moscow trial!

Mr. HAMER: This motion calls for a judicial inquiry. I make it clear that the Government has always agreed to have an inquiry where there is substance, a reason, and a basis for such an inquiry; but there should be some substance, some substantive evidence or support. We are not prepared in all circumstances, because somebody makes a claim or allegation, to hop in and have that investigated right away.

I come now to the whole question of this motion. It calls for a judicial inquiry, without saying what that is.

Mr. WILKES: Whatever you choose.

Mr. HAMER: I understand that probably the Opposition believes a board of inquiry should be held into allegations. It is quite unthinkable that a 65-page document should be laid before a board of inquiry or a Royal Commission. Somebody has to frame some terms of reference; somebody has to determine what the questions to be investigated are. This is the natural course of events. This is absolutely inescapable, and I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition——

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! I will not warn the Leader of the Opposition again. I gave him protection when he was making his 55-minute contribution and I ask him to listen in silence.

Mr. WILKES: That is the first time you have warned me.

The SPEAKER: I will not warn you again.

Mr. HAMER: I was saying that it is just impractical and unthinkable to give to a board of inquiry or a Royal Commission something of that sort.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: You would not put that before a board of inquiry.

Mr. HAMER: I agree it could not be put before a board of inquiry. It would be necessary to set terms of reference for the inquiry and set out precisely what was to be investigated.

The Leader of the Opposition started to quote from a document. I was listening intently and following the document. It was not clear to me what precise allegations he was talking about. It is a vague and generalized document, and he would be the first to agree. It has a lot of material that has nothing to do with any claims of impropriety. It is just gossip. Out of all this—if the time of a board of inquiry or a judicial inquiry is not to be wasted—there has to be some evidence to support what has been said. Above all, one has to ask the accuser—and that is what the member for Westernport is—to substantiate what he is saying. He has dragged into this document, and got privilege for it, a whole host of people, and those people are entitled to protection just as the document itself is, and they are entitled to fair treatment.

The first thing that ought to be asked is, what precisely are they said to have done that is improper, because it is not good enough in any sense of justice or propriety or fair play, to ask a person to say whether the claims in this document are true or whether the conversations occurred, or whatever it was. One simply cannot say, "These are the allegations. What have you to say to them"?

The document in the main is not even adopted by the honorable member for Westernport. He brings it forward as a self-justification, and in support of a personal explanation. He is not saying, "These things are true." He is setting out what people told him indirectly. He does not even vouch for it; he does not support it. When the Leader of the Opposition took up this document he did not vouch for it; he did not claim it was true or likely to be true. He said that he did not know. The only exception was that he said that his predecessor was innocent. I accept that wholeheartedly, and a lot of other people who are not in this House are saying the same thing right now, and for all I know, the other people who have not even heard about all this will say the same thing. It is only reasonable if one person is given advance notice and stands up in the Federal Parliament and says that he is innocent —and I believe it—and that is accepted, then other people's attitudes should also be accepted. It is not fish for one and fowl for another. If the Federal member for Melbourne Ports says, "I am innocent of this

charge", and it is accepted, it should be accepted for a lot of other people, too.

Mr. WILKES: He invited Mr. Lynch to join him, and he refused.

Mr. HAMER: The problem about this document is, first of all, its lack of substance; secondly, its lack of precision and, thirdly, its lack of any visible support. I again invite the honorable member for Westernport to bring forward support for his allegations. Let him produce his documents if he has any.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: The stacking—could not that be brought forth by you people?

Mr. HAMER: Let us have whatever evidence he has. We make this plain to the House that we are prepared at all times to have a public examination of matters which require investigation and which require enlightenment. We are prepared to do it if there is something substantial to investigate. We are not making a final decision on this matter now. A more reasonable approach is at least to give the people named in the report some chance of reading it, examining it and commenting upon it.

The Government proposes to do that. My proposal to the House is that after this debate is adjourned today it should be resumed at the earliest possible opportunity. The Government wants to give those honorable members who wish to speak on the motion a chance of doing so. It will have the report examined in some detail to ascertain what, if anything, in its contents calls for a proper investigation.

I reiterate for the third time that I call on the honorable member for Westernport to produce whatever evidence he has to enable a proper appraisal of the situation to be made. Nothing could be fairer than that. A proper examination will be carried out by an independent officer of the highest repute. This has been done on two previous occasions. It was done once in connection with allegations initiated by Dr. Wainer, when the Government asked a barrister to investigate the situation to ascertain the material upon which the allegations were based and to decide whether the matter was proper for investigation.

The same thing will be done in this case, and I hope that the honorable member for Westernport will cooperate in this by providing the material on which he must have been basing all these claims. I stress again that the honorable member has had his chance on many occasions. Now the Government is giving him another chance. I hope it is the last chance. Let him put up or shut up.

I assure the House that when this debate is resumed the Government will be in a position to know exactly what the proper course of action is, and the Government will take that proper course of action.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): The House and the people of Victoria have been placed in an extraordinary position by the Premier's statements here this afternoon. First of all, the Premier said, "No, the Government will not have an inquiry because the document is just a series of statements and unsubstantiated comments by the honorable member for Westernport." Obviously the Premier changed his mind in the course of his own contribution because in the last three or four minutes of that contribution the honorable gentleman decided that perhaps the door has not yet been closed.

Once again we see an example of the Premier, as leader of this State, vacillating simply because the Government is so utterly divided on what action it should take on this motion. The Premier eventually said. "We cannot make up our minds on this motion yet, so we will talk it out." If the Premier is serious in saying that we need to hear further contributions from members, then we should amend the Standing Orders yet again and continue the debate through the afternoon. Of course, the Government will not do that. The debate today is to finish at 2.30 p.m.

It is an outrageous situation for the dozens of people who have been named in this report, and the Leader of the Opposition has recounted many of those names, which include members of this House, members of another place in this Parliament, members of the Federal Parliament, individual members of the Liberal Party, mainly from the Westernport area, and many others. Serious allegations have been made about the proprietary of these people and their actions over a significant period of time. Where do these people stand now? The Premier talked about the rights of other people and the responsibility Parliament has to those people. I agree with that principle, but surely no fair-minded person could come to any conclusion other than that if we are serious about the rights of the people named and if we do feel responsible about their rights and prerogatives, the motion now before the House should be carried.

The Premier, in his opening remarks, made a couple of side swipes at the actions taken by the Opposition. Those matters ought to be clarified for the sake of the public record. The reality is that the honorable member for Westernport offered this report and laid it on the table in the interests of those honorable members who would choose to examine it. However, instead of it being allowed to lie on the table, we saw this impetuous, schoolboy-type Assistant Minister of Health pick up the document and, making another of his frequent blunders, throw it back at the honorable member for Westernport. How can the Opposition be blamed for the actions of one of the Government's own Ministers?

Mr. RICHARDSON (Forest Hill): I raise a point of order. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is continually referring to this document as a report. I suggest that that terminology is wildly inaccurate. By definition a report is an account of some factual event, yet this is not an account of a factual event. It does not even describe itself as a report or as an account of factual events. It is called a personal explanation. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to give this document some credibility, but I suggest that the word "report" gives it a degree of credibility that it does not warrant. It should be called something else.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Order! The word used by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is simply a matter of terminology and interpretation. There is no point of order.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I have clarified the first point I mentioned. The second point is that it has been suggested that the Opposition somehow or other surreptitiously obtained a copy of the report and was able to fly it up to Canberra yesterday afternoon. I deny that. A copy of the report was sent to Canberra at 7 o'clock last night, but it was not sent yesterday afternoon. It was sent to the Federal member for Melbourne Ports, and clearly this should have been done. I should hope the Premier took similar action on behalf of the Federal member for Flinders. I do not know whether he did, but it is not all that important.

The Premier talked about the need for substantial reasons before an inquiry of the sort referred to in the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition could be held. "Substantial reasons" were the words used by the Premier. If the case so well argued by the Leader of the Opposition did not constitute what most honorable members on both sides of the House would regard as substantial reasons for having a judicial inquiry I do not know what could convince this Premier and this divided Government. One can only reach the conclusion that the Government is fearful of holding an inquiry. Mr. Lynch, in Canberra, made the same response today. He refused to join with Mr. Holding in calling for a judicial inquiry. In fact, he has been running away from the press all day.

There needs to be a judicial inquiry into these very serious allegations made by a member of the Parliament of the State of Victoria. The Government cannot hide from those allegations. If they cannot be substantiated that fact ought to be made known to the public of Victoria in the interests of the dozens of people whose names are mentioned. If the allegations cannot be substantiated, those persons will not have to bear this stain for the rest of their lives. In the interests of those people, who come from both sides of the House and from all aspects of political persuasion, this inquiry needs to be held and it needs to be held as a matter of urgency.

I hope the public pressure already evident in the media today will continue to grow and will convince this Government that it can no longer avoid the fateful move that is now hanging over it. This inquiry must be held and the truth of these matters must be brought out. It is the truth the Government is fearful of bringing out. It is the truth the Government has attempted to hide over the past few years when these matters have been raised. The truth must come out. If the Government is not fearful of the truth, let it hold this inquiry and let it do so without any further delay.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): The time allotted for General Business has now expired. I now call on Government Business, Orders of the Day.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura): I raise a point of order. If this matter goes on under General Business, Notices of Motion, next Thursday, will it take precedence over the other matters on the Notice Paper?

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): Before I answer that question, I shall call on the Leader of the House, who possibly will make a statement that may satisfy the honorable member.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I thank the Deputy Leader of the National Party for his query on how this debate can be resumed on Tuesday next. It will be brought on under Government Business at the appropriate time, and a motion can be drafted to allow that to take place, so the debate will be resumed on Tuesday.

GAS AND FUEL CORPORATION (MUNICIPAL RATES) BILL.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Gas and Fuel Corporation Act 1958 so as to exempt the corporation from payment of municipal rates on land used for the purposes of the corporation with the exception of land used to carry on the business of trading in gas appliances. Because of the subject-matter of the Bill—municipal rate exemption—consequential amendments are needed to the Local Government Act 1958.

The corporation, as a public authority of the State, has consistently objected to payment of municipal rates on its gas mains. However, in 1958, as a result of discussions on questions of rating in general with representatives of approximately 50 municipalities, the corporation agreed to make an *ex gratia* payment of $2,000 to be apportioned between those municipalities through which its gas mains were laid in accordance with the gas sales revenue derived from each.

In 1973, following the takeover of the Colonial Gas Association Limited, a private company which had previously paid municipal rates on gas mains, the City of Williamstown assessed the corporation in the 1973–74 year for rates on gas mains on the same basis it had previously rated Colonial Gas. The corporation objected to this assessment but advised the council that it would be prepared to make an *ex gratia* payment in line with the practice it had adopted with other municipalities since 1958.

This arrangement was not acceptable to the City of Williamstown and, when it disallowed the corporation's objection to the rate assessment, the corporation filed a notice to have that objection treated as an appeal for determination in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Appeals were also lodged by the corporation with respect to subsequent assessments received from the City of Williamstown and to assessments received from a number of other municipalities that were not prepared to continue the previous system of *ex gratia* payments.

These appeals have not yet been determined so that the extent of the corporation's liability if it were to be required to pay rates on mains has still to be established. On the other hand, if the corporation's contention that its mains have a nil value for rating purposes is ultimately upheld, no benefit will accrue to the municipalities concerned.

I must emphasize to honorable members that the corporation has always maintained that its gas mains have a nil value for rating purposes and, prior to 1973, its contention was generally accepted by the municipalities who were party to the 1958 agreement providing for *ex gratia* payments with respect to gas mains on the basis of gas sales revenue.

In view of the appeals against the valuations and the fact that it was not possible to achieve agreement with all municipalities, the corporation terminated its *ex gratia* payment scheme from 30th September, 1976.

To test whether or not its gas mains were "rateable property" within the meaning of that term in the Local Government Act, however, the corporation, in August, 1977, took proceedings in the Supreme Court of Victoria seeking, *inter alia*, a declaration that its mains were not rateable.

On 19th June, 1978, the late Mr. Justice Harris found that the corporation's gas mains were "land" within the meaning of section 251 (1) of the Local Government Act 1958 and consequently were "rateable property". All costs involved in this action will be met by the corporation.

So the situation today is that the court has found that gas mains are rateable but the vital question of their value for rating purposes remains unanswered and indeed can only be determined by further costly litigation.

The Gas and Fuel Corporation has a duty under its Act to ensure a safe, economical and effective supply of gas to the people of Victoria. The universal imposition of municipal rates on its gas mains would add significantly to its costs and these would have to be passed on to its consumers who, in the majority of cases, are already paying rates to the municipal authorities concerned. Gas consumers would thereby be unfairly penalized with respect to the payment that they would be called upon to make to municipal funds.

A similar situation arose in 1968, when the South Melbourne City Council assessed the State Electricity Commission of Victoria for rates from which the commission considered it was exempt. The council's action was challenged but was ultimately upheld by the High Court.

On that occasion, the Parliament, recognizing the peculiar position of the commission as a public utility, passed the State Electricity Commission Act 1968 which, broadly, exempted the commission from payment of municipal rates, except on land that was vested in the commission and used wholly or partly to carry on the business of trading in appliances.

Considering the role of the corporation as a public utility supplying a major part of this State's energy needs, the Government believes that it should be granted the same exemption from payment of municipal rates as that provided for the State Electricity Commission in 1968. The Bill therefore parallels the State Electricity Commission Act

1968. It will exempt the corporation from municipal rates, except where it uses land to carry on the business of trading in gas appliances.

The Bill is straightforward and consists of only three clauses. Clause 1 sets out the title of the proposed Act and the principal Act. It also provides that the Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on 1st October, 1973—the commencement of the municipal rating year 1973–74, the first of a number of rating years in respect of which the corporation objected to rate assessments on its gas mains and upon which it sought declarations in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Clause 2 introduces a new section into the Gas and Fuel Corporation Act 1958, section 30A. Section 30A (1) deems—subject to sub-section (2)—land used for the purposes of the corporation to be used exclusively for public or municipal purposes within the meaning of sections 251 and 267 of the Local Government Act 1958. Section 30A (2) limits the operation of sub-section (1) of that section by excluding land that is used wholly or partly by the corporation to carry on the business of trading in gas appliances. Section 30A (3) simply defines "gas appliance".

Clause 3 makes a consequential amendment to section 251 of the Local Government Act 1958. Under section 251 (2) (c) (iii) of that Act, land is deemed not to be used exclusively for public or municipal purposes if it is used for the purposes of the Gas and Fuel Corporation. This provision cannot logically stand with the proposed section 30A in clause 2 of the Bill. Accordingly, section 251 of the Local Government Act is amended in the manner set out. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday, September 21.

PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to amend provisions of the Petroleum Act—

1. To enable the storage of petroleum in natural underground reservoirs.

2. To eliminate unnecessary references to the Mines Act.

3. To cancel provisions relating to petroleum prospecting licences which are now superfluous.

4. To provide exemption for petroleum operations from certain inappropriate provisions of other Acts.

Legislation to enable the storage of petroleum underground in natural reservoirs will provide a means by which both producers and marketers could smooth out daily and seasonal supply peak demands for their products.

When the Act relating to petroleum—Mines (Petroleum) Act—was passed in 1935, petroleum had not been found in commercial quantities and the need to store quantities underground to meet peak requirements without the need to construct unnecessarily expensive refining and transport facilities was probably not even contemplated. Since then of course, oil and gas has been found in Bass Strait and the daily and seasonal peak demands are causing a considerable strain on existing refining and distribution facilities, particularly during the cold winter months when natural gas is used extensively for domestic heating.

The practice of storing natural gas underground to meet such peak demands is common practice overseas and the Bass Strait operator company has advised that it would be interested in studying such a storage proposal. If gas can be produced and stored when the demand is low and then recovered and used when demand rises stress on plant is relieved and the need to install costly additional plant to increase capacity to meet peak requirements is obviated.

It is possible also that a need will arise to store other products which are derivatives of petroleum, such as liquefied petroleum gas. The Bill, therefore, in amending the leasing and other provisions of the Act to allow underground storage and recovery, extends the provisions to include what is referred to in the Bill as a prescribed petroleum product.

The references to the Mines Act by which that Act is linked to the Petroleum Act are being eliminated because they are unnecessary and undesirable. The connection arose because at the time the 1935 petroleum legislation was passed mineral oil and natural gas were minerals under the Mines Act. The new Act was called the Mines (Petroleum) Act 1935 and was to be read and construed as one with the Mines Act. It made separate provision for the mining for petroleum because of the special nature of the mineral but procedures under the Petroleum Act were to be adapted to procedures under the Mines Act so far as they were applicable and capable of being applied.

Subsequently the definition of "mineral" in the Mines Act was amended by the Mines (Amendment) Act 1949 and petroleum was no longer included. The effect of this was that the Mines (Petroleum) Act stood essentially on its own so far as the administration of petroleum was concerned. This severance with the Mines Act applies also to the Petroleum Act 1958 which was the successor to the Mines (Petroleum) Act. Most of the references to the Mines Act in the Petroleum Act therefore no longer have any relevance and these are being deleted.

The provisions dealing with petroleum prospecting licences are being deleted also because they are unnecessary and obsolete. At present the Petroleum Act provides for exploration for petroleum for large areas under a Petroleum Exploration Permit, for reduced areas under Petroleum Prospecting Licences and for production under Petroleum Mineral Leases. The three stage process is unnecessary. It is reasonable and practicable to go from a permit to a lease. No licences have been issued for many years and the licensing provisions in the Act have become redundant. The necessary amendments are provided for in clause 19 which takes up the last six pages of the Bill.

The Bill also provides that procedures associated with the exploration for and production of petroleum will be exempt from the provisions of certain other Acts. The Lifts and Cranes Act will not apply to plant used solely for drilling for petroleum; the Scaffolding Act will not apply to plant and structures used in connection with petroleum exploration and production; and the Pipelines Act will not apply to gathering lines, that is pipelines wholly within an area held under petroleum lease.

Draw-works, derricks and associated equipment used for drilling oil and gas wells are peculiar to the petroleum industry and have long been accepted as being not appropriate to fall within the provisions of the Lifts and Cranes Act.

Pipelines which are within an area held under lease and which connect well to well, or well to plant, or plant to plant, will not be subject to the Pipelines Act because they have to be sited in positions determined by the occurrences of petroleum. It is not practicable to allow them to be subject to the normal procedures that apply to other pipelines where proposed routes may be altered to overcome objections that have been lodged. They will, however, be subject to the Minister's approval with regard to construction, alteration, reconstruction and operation. These gathering lines are, in effect, private pipelines which must be located in the positions most suited to the circumstances under which the petroleum is obtained and processed. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday, September 28.

LAND (AMENDMENT) BILL (No. 2).

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to make nine amendments of the Land Act 1958 which is the principal Act.

Four of the amendments arise from suggestions contained in the final recommendations of the Land Conservation Council in respect of the Mallee study area although they were under consideration as part of the general review of the Land Act. The matters involved have been brought to notice primarily in regard to Mallee land but they could also apply to varying degrees in other parts of the State. It is therefore appropriate that any amendments be made of the principal Act generally and not in respect of Mallee land only.

In this regard, I might mention that the Land Act presently includes fairly extensive special provisions for Mallee lands. However most of these relate to types of leases which were granted some time ago, but which would not normally be granted nowadays.

Land dealt with in the Mallee in the past 20 years or so would mostly have been handled under legislation which is applicable throughout the whole State, such as the provisions relating to improvement purchase leases. This is indicative of the current trend towards legislation regarding Crown land being uniform and consistent throughout the State, but with sufficient alternative provisions to allow the most appropriate course to be adopted in any particular circumstances.

The amendments arising from the Land Conservation Council recommendations are those set out in clauses 2, 3 and 4 of the Bill.

The first amendment is the insertion of a provision for the Minister to constitute a Local Land Advisory Committee for any area. Such a committee would comprise representatives both of relevant Government bodies and of the local farming community, and its purpose would be to encourage co-operation between all concerned with the care, management and use of Crown land occupied under cultivation leases or grazing licences or agistment permits. The committee would also advise the Minister on any related matters, and this would no doubt often include advice on whether or not specific areas of Crown land should be made available for use for these purposes at any time. The district advisory committees constituted under the Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act may be well suited for the foregoing purposes. However, it is considered to be preferable for there to be a committee separately constituted under the Land Act. It is of course quite possible, and indeed probable, that in some areas there would be persons who would be members of both committees. This could apply to both Government and community representatives.

The second amendment is the insertion of a new section providing for the granting of agistment permits. This arises following a suggestion by the Land Conservation Council that light grazing of native and volunteer pastures might be permitted on certain classes of uncommitted land. In many instances this could be done by the issue of grazing leases or licences, but there could also be circumstances where it would be better for any grazing to be on an agistment basis. The issue of agistment permits is well suited where the areas to be grazed are small, the grazing demand intermittent or grazing is used as a management tool.

The third amendment also flows from a suggestion of the Land Conservation Council, and its purpose is

to provide for a new form of leasehold tenure which could be used in dealing with land where erosion or salting hazards are great enough to rule out the issue of an improvement purchase lease or any other tenure leading to eventual freehold. There are a number of areas where, despite the hazards, it is possible to achieve worth-while production from cropping and grazing provided that is carried out under good management and subject to adequate supervision.

To some extent, it could probably be said that this new type of lease will regularize some of the general practices which in past years have been carried out on land held under either grazing lease or grazing licence, neither of which was really appropriate for the purpose. The main features of the proposed cultivation lease would be that it would be for a term not exceeding 35 years, that it would not confer any right to freehold, and that it would include specific provision for supervision and, if necessary, direction to the lessee in regard to management of grazing, cultivation and cropping operations. It would also be possible to direct that native vegetation be retained on specified areas, and that appropriate reclamation works be carried out on eroded areas.

Mr. WHITING: What is going to happen on the F2?

Mr. BORTHWICK: I would have to look at that. The initial rental would be determined by the Governor in Council and would be subject to review by the Minister at intervals of five years. The other conditions of the lease would be generally similar to those of other leases under the Land Act.

The final amendment arising from a Land Conservation Council suggestion relates to the existing provision for grazing licences. At present, the maximum term for which such a licence may be granted is seven years, although in actual practice the vast majority of licences are issued for one year only, with renewals being offered each year except where there are reasons to the contrary. In some areas, however, the conditions are such that longer security of tenure is desirable in order to justify necessary expenditure by the licensee on fencing or water supply, and to encourage good long term management practices.

The Bill accordingly provides for the maximum term of a licence to be increased to 21 years. It also inserts specific provision that the Secretary for Lands may issue directions to licensees with regard to grazing management, stock numbers, erosion control, reclamation and related matters.

The next amendment is of a general nature and is made necessary by the fact that changes in the economic situation tend to occur rather more rapidly than was the case when the existing legislation was framed. There are many leases of Crown land for industrial or commercial purposes, without any right of freehold, and for various terms of years up to 50 years or even 99 years in special circumstances. These leases include provision for the rental to be re-appraised at the end of each ten year period. In the present economic climate, it is considered that review every five years would be much more realistic, and the Bill provides for the period to be five years in respect of all future leases. The reduced review interval will not apply to existing leases during their current term.

The next three amendments are to repeal provisions of the principal Act which have become obsolete with the passing of time and changing conditions.

The Mallee Lands Act 1896 provided for the raising of a separate account known as the Mallee Land Account, into which was to be paid all money received from the sale, leasing and licensing of land in the Mallee country. That legislation also provided that money in the account was

to be set aside for repurchase or redemption of Victorian stock or debentures and not used for any other purpose.

As indicated earlier, the present general policy is for Mallee land to be dealt with under ordinary or State-wide legislation in preference to using the older provisions designed specifically for Mallee country. In fact it is likely that a large proportion of existing special Mallee legislation will be recommended for repeal in the near future.

In the meantime, it is considered desirable to repeal the requirement to maintain a separate Mallee Land Account, as such repeal will save a considerable amount of unnecessary accounting and related administrative procedures. The State Treasury has agreed to the proposal. All moneys received in respect of Mallee land after such repeal would of course simply be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

I understand that at the time of drawing up that special legislation the Mallee Land Account was designed to reduce the State's so-called national debt. I have often thought that the honorable member for Mildura and I were bowed in carrying such a high proportion of the State's indebtedness for so long. The Mallee people are strong and hearty.

Part III. of the Land Act 1958 comprises provisions relating to River Murray settlements. It originated as the Murray Settlement Act 1907, and provided that areas of Mallee country might be subdivided and allocated under lease as holdings referred to as homestead allotments.

In the original legislation it was envisaged that a holding would comprise a homestead allotment not exceeding 20 hectares situated near the River Murray, together with a Mallee farm allotment more or less remote from the homestead. In 1921 the legislation was amended to delete the references to the Mallee farm allotments, and subsequent leases were all in respect of the homestead allotments, which were mostly developed for irrigation with water from the River Murray.

No leases have been granted for many years, and there are no leases now current. However, the leases included certain conditions forbidding any person to hold more than one holding, but subject to a proviso that the Minister of Lands might allow limited aggregation of holdings in certain circumstances. Similar conditions also applied to the Crown grants which issued when the leases were made freehold, and from time to time applications are received for the Minister's consent to enable various dealings to be accepted by the Office of Titles.

There is no real advantage in maintaining a control of this nature in respect of freehold land under present day conditions, and repeal of the legislation will save unnecessary concern and correspondence in connection with transfers of the freehold allotments concerned. Most such allotments would be in the vicinity of either Merbein or Swan Hill. The Bill accordingly repeals the whole of Part III. of the principal Act.

Part VI. of the Land Act 1958 deals with village communities and labour colonies. The legislation for village communities originated in the Settlement on Lands Act 1893, and was intended as a means of providing homes and substance for the large number of unemployed persons at that time. The original Act had three parts. The first part related to village communities, whereby an area of Crown land was subdivided and applicants were granted leases for separate allotments. The second part related to homestead associations, and provided for the granting of larger areas to societies which were to operate as a co-operative unit. The third part provided for the establishment of labour colonies.

There was considerable activity under all three parts particularly during the period from 1893 to about

1907, and I mention a few items gleaned from the annual reports submitted to Parliament during those years.

By June 1894, nine months after the Act came into operation, over 4,000 applications for leases had been received, of which over 2,000 had been approved. The 1894 report lists over 80 localities in which areas of Crown land were made available. The size of individual allotments varied considerably, but the average was about 23 acres. It is reported that the Richardson Village Settlement at Lyonville was started on 5 May, 1893, that each man admitted to the camp brought a pass ticket from the Public Works Department, and that on presenting his ticket he was supplied with a tent, 1 axe, 1 saw, 1 maul, and 2 wedges.

In that particular settlement, employment was largely the cutting of firewood much of which was sold to the Railway Department, whilst a considerable trade was also done in mining props. The settlers also improved their own blocks, and the 1894 report anticipated a heavy return in the next potato season.

French Island is mentioned as one area having a number of homestead associations. Kardella and Korumburra also had settlements whose members had been working on the co-operative principle, and had erected very comfortable slab huts with shingle roofs, with a small garden attached for each respective member. Other early village communities were established at Monbulk, Neerin, Warburton and Yarragon. Only one labour colony was established, and this was at Leongatha, on land containing some 800 acres. This colony was wound up in 1919.

Although the early reports on all phases of the legislation were optimistic, later reports make it clear that a number of the settlements were attempted on land or in locations which were not really suitable for the purpose. The general project must be regarded as only moderately successful, at least in respect of some localities. However it was a positive contribution towards coping with the problems of the time.

The legislation has long since served its purpose, and there is no point in retaining it. The Bill accordingly repeals the whole of Part VI. of the principal Act.

The final amendment relates to section 362A of the principal Act which provides for the removal of easement-type conditions from Crown grants. At the present time such a condition may only be removed as to the whole, and there is no provision for removal as to part only of the land in any grant.

Experience has shown that there are cases where removal as to part only would be of great assistance to all concerned, particularly where water channel easements are involved, and where later changes have rendered unnecessary part but not all of the original easement.

It is of course vital that there should be certainty as to the extent of the land to be freed from the easement-type condition, and the Bill accordingly provides that a partial removal may be effected only in respect of land which is the subject of a separate certificate of title.

Clause 1 of the Bill cites the short title and provides for the commencement of the legislation.

Clause 2 inserts a new section 37A in the principal Act to provide for the constitution of Local Land Advisory Committees.

Clause 3 inserts two new sections, 133A and 133B, which provide for the granting of agistment permits and cultivation leases respectively. It also inserts a new section 133C which provides for forfeiture of a cultivation lease in the event of non-compliance with the conditions.

Clause 4 amends section 130 so as to increase the maximum term of a grazing licence from seven years to 21 years, and also so as to empower

the Secretary for Lands to issue directions to a licensee in regard to grazing management and related matters.

Clause 5 amends section 134 so as to reduce the period between reviews of rental of non-freeholding leases from ten years to five years.

Clause 6 repeals the provision requiring the keeping of a separate Mallee Land Account.

Clause 7 repeals Part III. relating to Murray River Settlements.

Clause 8 repeals Part VI. relating to village communities and labour colonies.

Clause 9 amends section 36A to provide that easement-type conditions in Crown grants may be removed as to part only of the land if such part is the subject of a separate certificate of title under the Transfer of Land Act.

Clause 10 makes consequential amendments to the Table of Parts Divisions and Subdivisions in section 1. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. CATHIE (Carrum), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

QUEENSCLIFF LAND BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to grant security of tenure to the Port Phillip Sea Pilots Service of its site at Queenscliff.

The Port Phillip pilot service came into existence over 120 years ago. It has occupied a site on the foreshore at Queenscliff since 1853. The foreshore land is permanently reserved for public purposes.

At present the strength of the pilot service consists of 41 master mariners licensed to pilot ships into and out of the ports of Melbourne and Geelong. Vessels are serviced by launch from the pilot jetty at Queenscliff.

The buildings on the site consist of a pilots' waiting room and store building, the service boatbuilders home, a boat building workshop and boat shed. The pilot service proposes to construct a modern pilot station which will blend in with the environment and which would include accommodation for seven pilots, chart and radio rooms and caretaker accommodation. This development may necessitate the reconstruction or removal of some of the present buildings.

It is essential for safety that the pilot station be close to the pilot jetty so that pilots are able to board their pilot launch with the least possible delay, particularly when an unexpected vessel arrives at the heads.

The Queenscliff Borough Council, which is also the committee of management of the foreshore reserve, has no objection to the continued occupation of the site. Indeed, it wishes to continue its long and happy association with the pilots service.

Clause 1 of the Bill cites the short title and provides for the commencement of the legislation.

Clause 2 provides that notwithstanding anything in any Act the Governor in Council may grant leases of the land shown on the plan in the Schedule for the purposes of a sea pilots station.

The Schedule contains a plan showing the site presently occupied by the sea pilots service. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. STIRLING (Williamstown), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday, September 21.

SURVEYORS BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to update the law relating to surveyors, as presently enacted by the Land Surveyors Act

1958. The Land Surveyors Act 1958 is mainly concerned with title surveying now universally called cadastral surveying, and protecting the public by ensuring confidence in the title system of land registration. It set up a licensing system whereby a person obtaining the necessary educational standard, completing the course of training and passing the board's practical examinations could be licensed by the Surveyors Board to carry out cadastral surveys.

That Act also made provision for examination and courses of training in what it termed the special branches of surveying, namely, engineering, mining, topographic, geodetic and hydrographic surveying. It provided for the Surveyors Board to issue to any person a certificate of competency in any special branch of surveying but the board had no control over the operations of any such person.

The changes in educational standards, professional practice methods and the technological advances that have occurred over recent decades have now made it necessary to review the laws relating to surveyors.

The methods of educating and training surveyors have undergone great changes as a result of the introduction of approved surveying courses in tertiary institutions. Entrance into the profession is now restricted to graduates of a recognized university or equivalent institute of learning.

In addition to his traditional role in cadastral surveying, the professional surveyor's role today includes engineering surveying, geodetic surveying, mapping and photogrammetry. His education and training is formulated accordingly.

It is appropriate today that the public be given some protection in respect of the profession of surveying as a whole. Survey work can involve large amounts of money and mistakes can result in heavy costs. Accurate surveying and proper professional advice will thus save both time and money on any project.

The provisions of the Bill are set out in the explanatory memorandum and I shall now explain and enlarge on the main features.

In the definitions in clause 3, as I have explained earlier, the term "cadastral survey" replaces the former term "title survey". In order that the Surveyors Board of Victoria may enter into reciprocal arrangements with any country, Malaysia being of particular interest, the term "reciprocating country" replaces "reciprocating State". Finally, training agreements will replace indentures of apprenticeship in order that prospective surveyors may obtain a wide range of practical experience with a number of practising surveyors.

The constitution of the Surveyors Board as in clause 4 is that already constituted under the Land Surveyors Act 1958.

The powers and functions of the board as set out in clause 8 now includes the prescribing of degrees and diplomas for qualification of a person desiring to be registered as a surveyor. This will enable the board to make proper use of the courses offered at the tertiary educational institutions. The board will keep a register of surveyors with the special provision for endorsement of the register in regard to any person authorized to carry out cadastral surveys.

Clause 10 provides for the board to issue a certificate of competency in surveying, excepting cadastral surveying, to a qualified person, whilst clause 11 provides for the issue of such a certificate in cadastral surveying.

An important new feature is contained in clause 12. It provides that a person holding a certificate of competency in surveying may apply to the board to be registered as a surveyor. All licensed surveyors under the 1958 Act will automatically become so registered. Clause 16 provides for a person holding a certificate of competency in cadastral

surveying to apply to have the register endorsed to the effect that he may be authorized to perform cadastral surveys. He would then become a licensed surveyor.

It must be expressly pointed out that non-registration will not preclude any engineer or any person from carrying out any engineering, topographical or any other type of survey except any cadastral survey. The intention is simply to enable persons who have appropriate qualifications and practical experience to be registered as surveyors so that the public will be aware of who is qualified by the Surveyors Board standards. The introduction of the system of registration will protect the public and at the same time have no adverse effect on any individual.

Clause 23 provides that no person shall carry out a cadastral survey unless he is a licensed surveyor. This necessity to preserve the title system of land registration is, of course, an obvious one.

Clause 24 is a new provision and deals with the structure of a firm or corporation which carries out as the whole or part of its business the practice of cadastral surveying. It provides that proportions of the members, directors or shareholders of the firm or company shall be licensed surveyors and members of appropriate professional institutions. The provision will ensure that members of the public obtain expert advice and service from such bodies.

Clause 26 retains the power for a licensed surveyor to enter any land at any reasonable time for the purposes of any survey but the surveyor will now need to advise the occupier of the land of his intention to so enter.

In clause 33 the regulation-making powers of the board are extended to allow regulations to be made prescribing the fees that registered surveyors may charge and for generally regulating and controlling the making of surveys by registered surveyors. I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. Borthwick.

On the motion of Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday, September 28.

VICTORIA CONSERVATION TRUST (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this rather brief Bill is to correct a drafting error in the Victoria Conservation Trust Act 1972 as amended by the Victoria Conservation Trust Act 1978.

Honorable members will recall that during the autumn sessional period legislation was enacted to slightly broaden the functions of the Victoria Conservation Trust and, more particularly, to empower the trust, with the approval of the Minister, to enter into covenants with the owners of land which the trust considered to be ecologically significant, of natural interest or beauty, of historic interest or of importance to the preservation of wildlife or native plants.

Such covenants would run with the land and would bind the owner as to the development or use of the land or any part thereof or the preservation or care of any bushland, trees, rock formations, buildings or other objects on the land.

It has been brought to my attention that a drafting error has occurred in section 3A (10) of the Act which would have the effect of preventing the trust from enforcing a covenant against persons deriving title from the original owner. This Bill will correct the error by substituting the words " deriving title from that person " for the words " deriving title from that land " in paragraph (*c*) of section 3A (10) of the principal Act.

I am sure there is no need for me to add that the Bill does not change either the intent or the substance of

the legislation that has already been enacted by the Parliament. I commend the Bill to the House.

To put the record straight, I must admit that at the time honorable members and I came to the conclusion that the wording in the previous Bill was correct. That was an incorrect interpretation by me and I apologize to the House for that.

On the motion of Mr. CATHIE (Carrum), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday, September 21.

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is a Bill to consolidate and revise the legislation relating to the care, management and preservation of the monument known as the Shrine of Remembrance in the City of Melbourne and the other memorials erected on the shrine reserve.

Recently the Shrine of Remembrance trustees, under the then chairmanship of Sir Edmund Herring, requested that the Government give favourable consideration to the preparation of new legislation that would relate solely to the powers and responsibilities of the trustees and the administration of the shrine. The trustees drew attention to the complicated state of the Acts pertaining to the shrine, particularly the principal Act of 1933. It was the wish of the trustees that a precise piece of legislation be prepared which would contain all the administrative agreements entered into and which could be easily understood by future trustees.

Indeed, the 1933 enactment contains a lengthy preamble, and schedules relating to the establishment of the Shrine of Remembrance reserve which are no longer necessary.

At this juncture I would like to pay a tribute to the leadership of Sir Edmund Herring as chairman of the trustees over a long period of time. Sir Edmund was appointed a trustee and as chairman in 1945 following the death of the first chairman, Sir Henry Chauvel. For personal reasons Sir Edmund resigned as chairman in June of this year, but to the delight of his fellow trustees will continue to serve as a trustee.

I am sure all honorable members will join with me in wishing Sir Edmund well and in expressing our delight that he has seen fit to continue to serve on the trust. Sir Edmund Herring is one of this State's most eminent sons and he has had a distinguished career in many fields. It is a matter of note that from the time the shrine was built until just recently there have only ever been two chairmen of trustees, both of whom were extremely distinguished persons, and the people of this State are indebted for their great service.

The Bill re-enacts the existing provisions of the present shrine Acts with certain additions. Firstly the number of trustees is increased from thirteen to fourteen to allow for representation from the wars after the second world war.

Provision is made that the trustees shall present their annual reports to the Minister of Lands. The trustees agree that it is only proper that these reports be so presented. The penalties for breaches of any regulations made by the trustees are increased to bring them in line with modern costs.

The Council of the City of Melbourne has for many years agreed to provide appropriate secretarial and administrative services to the trustees. This agreement is written into the Bill. Further, since the installation of the perpetual flame, the Gas and Fuel Corporation has provided gas free of cost, and, again, statutory backing is given to that arrangement.

The annual financial contribution by the Melbourne City Council to the maintenance of the shrine is presently $4,500 and the relevant provision in the Melbourne Market and Park Lands Act 1933 is amended accordingly.

Under the provisions of that Act the city council will continue to be responsible for the improvement and maintenance of the public park and gardens on the shrine reserve.

Clause 1 cites the short title and provides for the commencement of the legislation.

Clause 2 provides that a reference to the Shrine of Remembrance in the Bill shall include a reference to all memorials within the shrine reserve.

Clause 3 provides for the constitution of the Shrine of Remembrance trustees.

Clause 4 sets out the powers and duties of the trustees.

Clause 5 prohibits unauthorized publication or replicas relating to the shrine.

Clause 6 provides for the making of regulations by the trustees.

Clause 7 provides that the Melbourne City Council shall supply the necessary secretarial and administrative services to the trustees.

Clause 8 authorizes the trustees and the Gas and Fuel Corporation to enter into agreements for the free supply of gas for the operation of the perpetual flame.

Clause 9 makes appropriate amendments of the Melbourne Market and Park Land Act 1933.

Schedule One includes a plan of the shrine reserve.

Schedule Two repeals the present Acts relating to the shrine.

I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. LIND (Dandenong), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday, September 21.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT (CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS) BILL.

Mr. RAFFERTY (Chief Secretary): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The many amendments proposed by the Bill are the result of a long and careful re-examination of the law governing the conduct of Victorian Parliamentary elections. They are designed to facilitate the more efficient conduct of the elections.

Although the Bill contains more amendments than any other electoral Bill of recent years, many of the amendments are of a purely administrative nature or are intended to clarify the meaning of certain of the provisions of the Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958. Therefore, the number of alterations to principles is not as great as would be suggested by the fact that the Bill contains 62 clauses.

To assist honorable members in their understanding of the Bill an explanatory memorandum has been prepared. It is circulated with the Bill.

The amendments fall into three main categories, namely, administrative matters, matters related to the most recent petition to the Court of Disputed Returns, and alterations to principles. The various clauses of the Bill have been grouped into these categories in the explanatory memorandum.

Reference to the first two of these categories in the memorandum will show, in respect of each clause, the effect of the proposed amendment and the section of the Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958 amended by the clause.

Some of these clauses clarify provisions which have been administered in accordance with a legal opinion or a decision of a court of disputed returns whilst others seek to remove doubt as to the intention of particular provisions of the law.

In some instances, the periods prescribed by law for carrying out certain functions have been extended, as it has been found that it has not been possible to commence, and in some cases to complete, the action required within the time prescribed.

However, the amendments altering principles are those with which honorable members will be most concerned; some make quite substantial alterations to the manner in which Victorian parliamentary elections are conducted.

Whilst the explanatory memorandum lists each of these clauses of the Bill and shows its effect on the present law, I feel that I should refer more fully to the major alterations so that honorable members will appreciate the extent of the changes proposed by the Bill.

Since 1961, general elections for the Legislative Assembly and periodical elections for the Legislative Council have been held together on the same day, as a conjoint election, and, on each occasion, special legislation was enacted to enable a conjoint election to be held.

As this is now accepted practice whenever the Legislative Council periodical election and the Legislative Assembly general election are due to be held at about the same time, it has been decided to include the provisions relating to the conduct of a conjoint election as a permanent part of the Act.

At the same time, the Bill provides that, for the purposes of holding a conjoint election, the Legislative Council periodical election may be held up to twelve months in advance of the retirement of the members concerned.

This is similar to the provision relating to the holding of Senate elections, as stated in section 13 of the Commonwealth Constitution, that—

> The election to fill vacant places shall be made within one year before the places are to become vacant.

I would mention that in Western Australia, periodical elections of members of the Legislative Council are held before the members concerned are due to retire.

The Bill will also prevent any person being elected to both the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly at a conjoint election.

In their examination of the Bill, honorable members will have noticed a provision under which it shall not be necessary to hold a by-election to fill any vacancy in the Legislative Council occurring less than three months before the end of the term of office of the member concerned.

If the place of a member of the Legislative Council becomes vacant less than three months before the member's term of office expires, the member elected at the by-election, if contested, would not take his seat until the term has almost expired and, for this reason, it is proposed that it shall not be necessary to issue a writ for a by-election to fill any such vacancy.

The Government has given careful consideration to the many representations which have been made for a reduction in the hours of polling and considers that to close the polling at 6 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. would not disadvantage electors. This view is supported by experience in other States when polling hours were reduced, and it is proposed that, in future, polling at Victorian Parliamentary elections will close at 6 p.m.

Postal voting will be affected in a number of ways by this Bill. The most important alterations are those which extend the grounds upon which an elector may apply to vote by post to include persons in prison, persons attending a sick or elderly person who cannot be left alone, and persons who are prevented by their employment from attending personally to vote. Provision is also made for a returning officer to supply an envelope in which the elector can return the declaration envelope containing his postal vote.

The Bill also acknowledges that some electors have been unable to vote because of a physical disability which prevents them from attending a polling place, and are denied the right to vote by post because they cannot sign their name in their own handwriting. One of the amendments will allow these electors to vote by post by accepting their mark as their signature.

The penalty for failing to vote will be increased to a maximum of $10, being the same maximum penalty as is prescribed under Commonwealth law. At the same time, the Chief Electoral Officer will be given some discretion in requesting explanations from persons who fail to vote. It is the desire of the Government that this power of discretion will be used where the reason for failure to vote is known and, also, to free aged or infirm electors from anxiety following receipt of a notice requesting an explanation for failure to vote, should they be unable to attend a polling booth on election day.

There are two other amendments of major substance to which I would refer particularly and, of these, one specifies that any elector who is in prison shall be enrolled for his residential address prior to his conviction. It is considered that electors in prison should retain their interest in a particular area with which they were associated, and to which they may return, rather than direct their interest to the community in which the prison is located.

The second of these amendments affects honorable members and their obligations to submit declarations and returns of their electoral expenses following each election.

The list of items upon which a candidate may spend money has been extended to include additional items common to most campaigns, and the maximum amounts which can be spent have been increased to $3,000 for a Legislative Council election and to $1,500 for a Legislative Assembly election.

Other matters of principle contained in the bill relate to authorization of electoral matter, both in newspapers and on radio and television, and the method of voting by electors interstate and overseas.

After studying all of the clauses of the Bill, I am sure that honorable members will appreciate that the Government's intention is to assist electors to record the vote to which each is entitled and, at the same time, to ensure the proper conduct of an election to give effect to such votes.

I believe the amendments contained in this Bill are sensible and, in some cases, represent long overdue changes and alterations to the law governing the conduct of Victorian Parliamentary elections. It is hoped that the changes will help all those associated with an election, whether as an official, a candidate, or as a voter who relies upon the fact that, in this State, there is an impartial and efficient system of conducting elections which will ensure the election of the Government desired by the people. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. EDMUNDS (Ascot Vale), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday, September 28.

COUNTRY ROADS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It makes provision for a number of amendments to the Country Roads Act 1958 to amend and clarify the street-lighting provisions, to extend the board's by-law making powers regarding the preservation and protection of land owned by the board, to increase penalties under the Act, to strengthen Ministerial control over the Country Roads Board, and to assist the board in the administration of the Country Roads Act.

Transport is a complex industry with many facets. The objective of the Ministry of Transport is to make the best use of transport resources. Section 4A of the Country Roads Act provides that the board shall administer the Act "subject to the general direction and control of the Minister". Clause 3 of the measure amends this section to provide that the board shall administer the Act subject to the general direction and control of the Minister and any specific directions given by the Minister in relation to a matter or matters specified in the directions.

The Country Roads Board is the road-construction authority for Victoria and as such is substantially involved in planning improvements to the transport system. It is necessary for the benefit of the community that the work of the board be related to all aspects of transportation and to community life generally. The Minister's role of co-ordination suggests that this power should be available.

Under the provisions of sections 60 and 108 of the present Country Roads Act, the board's power to make by-laws regulating activities on State highways, freeways, main roads, tourists' roads and forest roads cannot be exercised until the road has been constructed and declared for use as a public highway. Clause 5 of the Bill extends the Country Roads Board's by-law making powers to enable the board to regulate the use of its land before and during construction of a highway.

Honorable members will appreciate that the board purchases land to provide improved road facilities to meet the community's future travel needs. Often the land is obtained in developing areas—to relieve specific cases of hardship and to assist future planning. The land may be purchased some years in advance of road construction.

Local residents have, from time to time, complained about noise from land owned by the board. This may arise from the unauthorized use of board land by people for such purposes as riding motor bikes and go-carts and the flying of powered model aeroplanes. The board has experienced difficulty in controlling this problem because the board's present by-law making powers do not apply until the road has been constructed. This provision amends section 60 of the principal Act to enable the board to regulate the use of lands, owned or under the control of the board, in the period prior to and during the construction of a road.

Clauses 6 and 7 refer to the street-lighting provisions of the principal Act. Honorable members will be aware of the Government's scheme to assist local councils and shires with the costs of street lighting. The scheme is administered by a three-man Street Lighting Committee which was established in 1971. The members are nominated by the Country Roads Board, the State Electricity Commission and the Municipal Association of Victoria.

The scheme provides for the costs as approved by the Street Lighting Committee of installing street lighting, improving existing street lighting and of operating and maintaining these facilities on State highways and main roads being shared equally by the Country Roads Board, the electric supply authority and the municipal council concerned. To date some 220 installations, covering over 238 kilometres of State highways and main roads have been approved for cost sharing.

The present total annual lighting tariff for these installations amounts to over $907,000 of which one-third is borne by municipal councils, one-third by the State Electricity Commission or the electric supply authority and one-third by the Country Roads Board.

The proposed amendments to section 72 of the principal Act make it clear that all costs associated with street lighting on State highways and

main roads approved by the Street Lighting Committee shall be shared equally between the parties concerned. These amendments overcome the problems which have arisen in the past from the narrow interpretation of the existing street-lighting provisions and provide that the cost of improving an existing lighting installation to the standard laid down by the Street Lighting Committee shall be shared equally.

Clause 7 includes provisions to assist the operations of the Street Lighting Committee by extending the functions of the committee and provides for the appointment of acting members and the removal and replacement of members. I am sure honorable members recognize that the Street Lighting Committee has made a valuable contribution to road safety by the installation of better street lighting on many sections of State highways and main roads throughout Victoria.

Clause 8 makes provision for safer motoring on main roads by extending the board's powers to impound cattle. Under the principal Act, the board has power to impound cattle on State highways, freeways, tourists' roads and metropolitan bridges. However, this power does not, at present, apply to main roads.

Occasions have arisen in the past, where the board's stock inspectors have been unable to take action to impound unattended cattle on main roads which may stray on to State highways. The proposed amendment to section 73 contained in clause 8 will overcome this difficulty by extending to main roads the board's power to impound cattle. Honorable members will appreciate the need for this amendment.

The Bill also includes provision to assist the board in the administration of the principal Act by—

1. Amending the present definition of " highway " to include forest roads, freeways and tourists' roads.

2. Increasing the penalties for overloading, obstructing roads, obliterating survey markers and certain other offences under the Act. Most penalties under the principal Act were fixed many years ago. With the inflation that has occurred over recent years, it is appropriate that these penalties be increased. Clause 9 increases a number of penalties under the present Act by 100 per cent.

3. Deleting the present requirement for board members to obtain Ministerial approval for any absence from duty for a period of fourteen consecutive days or more.

4. A number of consequential amendments arising from the new street lighting provisions, the repeal of section 61 in 1972 and the amendment to section 21 (2) in 1969.

The Country Roads Board has an important role throughout the State. This measure includes a number of amendments to assist the board in carrying out its responsibilities as the main road planning and construction authority in Victoria. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. CRABB (Knox), the debate was adjourned.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): I move—

That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 21.

Mr. CRABB (Knox): Previously, the Opposition considered that an adjournment of one week would be sufficient, but now that the Bill has been presented it is clear that it contains some significant amendments, of which I was unaware, concerning Ministerial directions. I ask the Minister to agree to an adjournment of two weeks to enable the Opposition to investigate the proposed substantial amendments to the Act.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): If the honorable member for Knox, or indeed the spokesman for the National Party, cannot digest the Bill sufficiently to resume the debate in one week's time, with my usual generous nature, I shall be

happy to discuss the matter with them and perhaps extend the period of adjournment, if necessary. It is undesirable to delay legislation for two weeks when that may not be necessary. If it is necessary, I assure honorable members that I will do my best to assist them, but I believe an adjournment of one week will be sufficient. If it is not, an extension of the period of adjournment can be considered.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned until Tuesday, September 21.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY BILL.

The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the motion for the second reading of this Bill was read.

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): By leave, I move—

That, on the Bill being committed, it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to consider a new clause which will—

(*a*) allow a trash and treasure market to be conducted at the Queen Victoria Market site;

(*b*) permit licensed second-hand dealers to carry on business at trash and treasure markets;

(*c*) clarify the provision relating to special trading hours in holiday resorts;

(*d*) add to the list of shops in the Fifth Schedule to the Labour and Industry Act 1958—

(i) which are allowed to open on Saturdays and Sundays; and

(ii) whereby the occupier of such shop and stated members of his family may receive adult employees as boarders or lodgers or may have a share or interest in the keeping of a lodging house in which such employees may board or lodge; and

(*e*) add to the list of factories, shops and warehouses which by virtue of the Seventh Schedule to the Labour and Industry Act 1958 are permitted to open on Anzac Day.

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir): Will the Minister indicate why the proposed legislation was not initiated before?

Mr. RAMSAY (Minister of Labour and Industry): The House will recall that the Labour and Industry Bill was introduced in the Parliament in April, 1978. In the ensuing months prior to the spring sessional period these small and relatively unrelated matters came to the attention of the Government. It would be helpful if they were included in the Bill honorable members are now considering, thus enabling relatively minor amendments to be made to the principal Act without the necessity of introducing a new Bill. I undertake that adequate time will be given in the Committee stage for consideration of the amendments.

The motion was agreed to.

The debate (adjourned from September 12) on the motion of Mr. Maclellan (Minister of Labour and Industry) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. KENNETT (Burwood): I welcome the opportunity of debating legislation in this House. The events of the past two days have been stifling. They lead me to wonder whether new people will want to come into the House or even put themselves forward as candidates.

This Bill has not had continuity of debate. Parts of it are most important. I briefly remind the House that the proposed legislation can be basically divided into four parts. The first part might be considered corrective surgery to the existing Act to bring it up to date and to delete those parts that are no longer relevant. The second part deals with clause 8; the third part deals with clause 9 and the fourth part deals with clause 10, which relates to the provisions of long service leave. Four honorable members have spoken on this Bill, the former Minister of Labour and Industry who introduced the Bill in the last sessional period, the honorable members for Reservoir and Gippsland South, and the present Minister of Labour and Industry. The least that can be said about the contribution made by the honorable member for Gippsland South is that he seemed to base his entire remarks

on clause 8 of the Bill and, more particularly, he obviously had not researched the legislation in any great depth because he was most repetitive. At the beginning of his speech he said that he was totally opposed to the legislation, but at the end of his speech he said that he supported the Bill with the exception of clause 8.

The honorable member for Reservoir led the debate on behalf of the Labor Party. He directed his whole abilities into attacking this Bill, based on what he called the supposed attack on unions in general and unionists specifically. Again, his speech referred to clause 8. However, nowhere in clause 8 are unions mentioned. Clause 8 refers entirely to industrial organizations, be they employer or employee.

I will go through the Bill quickly to make public my own experiences and to support the Minister of Labour and Industry who has moved foreshadowed amendments. When the honorable member for Reservoir commenced his speech he relied heavily on clause 8, as I have said, and more particularly on the dispute within the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board which, it is hoped, has been successfully concluded. He forgot that in looking at the provisions that any legislation introduces—and I believe the debate on this subject is recorded in *Hansard*—there is no better example in this State of a Socialist organization than the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board. The honorable member for Reservoir was critical of the board and its actions concerning Miss Biggs but he forgot to mention that the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board is one of the few private or public organizations in this State that has worker participation at board level. Not only has the board worker participation at board level but during the recent dispute not one word was heard from any member of the board who is supposed to represent the employees. In keeping with any Socialist organization, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board runs at a great loss. These are side issues. The only reason I mention them is for the accuracy of the public record.

The first part of the legislation is corrective surgery. I will comment on clause 8. I do so knowing that the Minister of Labour and Industry, because of the representations from all sections of the community, has foreshadowed a motion that this clause be deleted at this stage until he has met with representatives of those groups. I am personally glad that this clause should be withdrawn, not only for that reason, but for reasons of enforceability and the whole nature and spirit of the legislation as it was drafted. I do not believe the proposed legislation has anything new to offer employers or employees. I reiterate my earlier remarks, that in introducing this clause, withdrawing it and hopefully considering the reasons, a more effective clause will be introduced later. Of course, as I said before, not once are trade unions mentioned in clause 8. The Government is predominantly interested in protecting the right of the individual to decide whether or not he or she wishes to join an industrial organization, regardless of what that industrial organization may be. As drafted, the Bill did not ultimately protect the individual, for many reasons.

I was dismayed to think that if a person legally exercised the right to seek exemption, that person had to pay to the registrar a sum of money equivalent to the industrial organization fee to obtain a certificate of exemption. That is not freedom of choice in any form. I believe the intent of the Bill was to give the individual two options, firstly not to join a union, and secondly, to join an industrial organization. However, the Bill provided that a member of a union who wanted to opt out could do so only after the payment of a fee. That is no option. It is tragic for a

Government, particularly one of the flavour of the Victorian Government to say to an individual, "You have the right to exercise your choice but if you wish to do so you must pay the equivalent sum to us so that we can issue you with a certificate of exemption".

At any time in the future an industrial organization could mount a massive membership drive whereby, by applying pressure to employees in this State, instead of people having three options, firstly, of being members of an industrial organization, secondly, of objecting to joining such an organization and therefore being out of the system totally and, thirdly, being members of the Government organization, only two options would remain—either of being members of the Government industrial organization or members of a private industrial organization. That would be tragic. It is the real threat of this clause. The only reason for my drawing the attention of the House to these points is that I hope in the not too distant future the Government will introduce substitute legislation and that it will not be based upon the type of legislation that is now before the House.

Mr. McINNES: Do you support compulsory unionism?

Mr. KENNETT: No. The House is not discussing compulsory unionism but rather membership of an industrial organization.

As drafted, this clause did not correctly address itself to the problem of people who at this stage are not members of an industrial organization; it appeared to be basically concerned with people who are already members of an organization.

The last point that concerned me about the Bill was that it did not seem to be enforceable in any way. There is no point in introducing legislation that cannot be enforced. This clause was said to mirror Federal legislation which has not worked, and I am sure that if this Bill were passed the Victorian legislation would also not work. Clause 8 of the Bill does not do what it was intended to do, namely, to give an individual the right to choose his or her employment and the right not to join an industrial organization of any sort. The choice should be left to the individual.

I mentioned the Federal legislation and I think it is important that the Victorian Government should admit the shortcomings of that legislation. The Federal enforcing agent is the Industrial Relations Board which was set up in March of this year and which has been proved to be an abyssmal failure. It cannot act quickly enough to protect people's rights when through legal means they have secured certificates of exemption. If a person obtains a certificate legally but the Government of the day cannot provide the protection through legislation, the legislation should be withdrawn. The Federal Government has a real responsibility at this point to reconsider its legislation and should not pay lip service to the most important thing in any of our lives—our individual rights. I hope that in the not too distant future the Victorian Government will have the courage to introduce a Bill to replace this clause and provide a basic right to work, giving individuals the right to exercise freedom of choice of whether or not they join an industrial organization.

An industrial organization should be no different from any club. Its membership should not be protected by law, or by government regulations. The membership should be voluntarily based on the ability of the organization to attract membership by the programmes, activities and/or philosophies that the industrial organization puts up. I hope the Victorian Government, if necessary, will take a lead in this issue and has the courage to act and initiate legislation which is enforceable.

I am sure that the Victorian Government will come to grips with the issue and that the Federal Government will realize that it cannot continue to pay

lip service to this democratic right of everybody. It is up to the Government to respect the views of the majority and to have the courage to introduce the relevant legislation which provides the individual with protection of his or her rights.

The Minister of Labour and Industry has foreshadowed that he will be withdrawing this clause, for reasons that he has already given, after representations from various sectors of the community. I have given my reasons for being glad that the measure is to be withdrawn.

I shall briefly comment on two other sections of the Bill. The Minister has again foreshadowed that clause 9 will be withdrawn as a result of the Minister's understanding of the situation in private enterprise, the employment opportunities created by private enterprise and the taxing structures that are already putting tremendous restrictions on private enterprise. Clause 9 provides for an increase in shop fees, and I commend the Minister for being sufficiently in tune with reality to realize that any increase in the financial restrictions on private enterprise today is not desirable in the long term regeneration of this section of the community.

Finally, clause 10 deals with long service leave. It puts the onus on employers to ensure that their employees take their holidays when they are due. If they do not, it then works two ways: If it is the employer who suggests that the individual cannot take his leave, then the employee is to be paid at the rate applicable at the time he takes his leave. On the other hand, if the individual, in negotiation with the employer, says that it is not convenient for him to take his leave when it is due, then he will be paid at the rate applicable at the time his leave was due.

This Bill does not deal simply with clause 8 and unionism. It deals with other important matters. The honorable member for Gippsland South said it was a hotch-potch Bill. This Bill brings the current master legislation up to date, and it addresses itself realistically to some of the requirements of the majority of this community and those employees who are presently members of industrial organizations will have an option or a choice to exercise their individual rights. The possibilities of clause 8 for people of this State and this country are almost limitless. There has to come a time when an individual's right is totally recognized, and it will probably be recognized not through an industrial court but through a civil court. An individual's right to work, and his right to join or not join an industrial organization is not a matter, as I see it, for industrial conciliation but a matter of civil liberty. The only place where these things can be properly decided is in a civil court.

I commend what is left of the Bill to the House. More particularly, I commend to the House and to the public, the spirit of the Bill as set out in clause 8. I suggest that members of the community should start to seriously consider their individual rights, and the rights of their children and grandchildren, and what we may all have to do at some stage in the future if we are to ensure that those rights are totally recognized as they should be in a democratic society.

Mr. CULPIN (Glenroy) : On listening to the honorable member for Burwood I came to the conclusion that the new Minister of Labour and Industry could well be called the " withdrawal " Minister. The honorable member spoke of an individual's right to work. There are hundreds of thousands of people in Victoria seeking a place to work, so in some respects that is a play on words.

The main issue in this debate has been clause 8 of the Bill. Honorable members saw what happened recently in what might be called the " Miss Biggs " case. When this Bill was introduced into Parliament I referred it to the Trades Hall Council. A Minister should be realistic when dealing

with the trade union movement, and I now refer to the previous Minister of Labour and Industry. I quote from a memorandum from the Trades Hall Council which states—

> The Minister did not give any indication as to what he proposed prior to the second-reading speech. He did not consult with the members of the Committee—nor the Labour Advisory Council, nor the office of Industrial Co-ordination.
>
> He has attempted to impose something on all the participants in the industrial relations system in Victoria—the unions, the employers, his own department and other key government departments, without being requested to and without seeking their views.
>
> This action has shown that he cares little for consultation and all that implies. Three years of work by employers, unions and his own department has largely been ignored, and has been misrepresented. The intentions of the committee were to place the onus of proof onto the conscientious objector—the Minister's proposal provides for no such thing—the onus of proof is placed onto the union.

That is the sort of thing that has to be spelt out. It is to the credit of the new Minister of Labor and Industry that he has seen fit to withdraw this clause.

Clause 8 may come back at a future date. It may be dressed up to look different, and that is of concern. It could be that the political climate is not right at this stage to bring in this type of legislation. With Fraser Federalism it is common to bash unions. It is cold and as factual as that. I have never before seen a situation cause so much inconvenience as that concerning Miss Biggs.

Mr. SIMMONDS: They do not want to know about it.

Mr. CULPIN: That is right. The problem has not been solved yet. There has been reference to the "Lunatic Left". People involved in unions, regardless of what terminology is used for political expediency, have basically one principle, and when a situation occurs such as happened recently with Miss Biggs, it binds the trade union movement on a matter of principle. As we all know, Miss Biggs lacks credibility. Not only was the Government sucked in by her, but also the Reverend Norman Hill. In an article in the *Age*, he had the audacity to nominate Miss Biggs as woman of the year. In all fairness and honesty, how could anybody in their right mind do that?

Mr. SIMMONDS: Did he meet her in Japan?

Mr. CULPIN: He could have, I do not know. I am referring to the article in the *Age*, and this reverend gentleman nominated her for woman of the year. I am sure that if she was on the Queen's honours list she would be off it now. About two days later someone felt they should put Mr. Biggs on the man of the year honours list. They complemented each other in some respects because they were both involved in transport; Miss Biggs in trams, and Mr. Biggs in trains. The reverend gentleman was misguided. The point was made quite clearly by the honorable member for Reservoir that it may be the easiest thing in the world to get this type of exemption—much easier than winning Tatts. The situation was laughable as it was only intended for political expediency.

I reiterate that it is regrettable that the Trades Hall Council was not consulted. The disturbing fact is that neither the Trades Hall Council nor the employer organizations were consulted. The problem of proper consultation must be dealt with. The present Minister has indicated that he will discuss this matter with the appropriate people. There is no way that a provision with a similar flaw would be accepted because its intention would be to bash the unions. There is unanimous agreement that the clause should be withdrawn.

In the past, members of the National Party have expressed concern about compulsory unionism, but I believe they are not really considering the situation where a worker does not wish to join a union because of a conscientious objection. Members of the National Party are probably thinking about a situation in which a worker decides that if he has to

pay his money he might as well pay it to the union, rather than pay it into the public purse to be spent by the State Government. It is that situation that I believe members of the National Party are regarding as compulsory unionism.

My history in trade unionism goes back many years. I was a member of the Electrical Trades Union of Australia for more than twenty years and was a shop steward for a long time. I have a basic understanding of the situation, having seen it from the grass roots level. During those twenty-odd years I worked in different areas, such as Melbourne, Coburg and Brunswick, and during that time I came across only one case of a person who refused to join a union.

Although this person used the typical terminology and said that he did not want to join a union, when it came to the crunch that man simply did not want to pay his money. He was a person who considered that he had to hold on to every quid he had. I am sure all honorable members would agree that it is desirable for people to save their money, but in this person's case that was his real reason for not wishing to join the union. He simply did not want to meet his commitments. Ultimately, all the members of the union got together and then spoke to him about the matter. The man then agreed that perhaps he should join the union and the problem was solved. The point I am making is that in more than twenty years' experience as a shop steward I came across only one case in which a person did not wish to join a union, and that was only on the basis that he did not want to meet his obligations.

People who really understand the way in which unions work and their purpose wonder where members of the working class would be today if it had not been for unions. Many of us are members of different associations or organizations and we all know that those organizations are formed because unity is strength—although that is lacking in the Government party today. That concept is the whole basis of the trade union movement, of people working together in the same craft. It is no wonder that trade unions object to a clause such as clause 8, which would hit at the very basis of trade unionism and allow an individual to cause problems for the people working together within the trade union system. We have seen what happened with Mr. Kane, Mr. Krutulis and Miss Biggs. The disturbances caused by those people achieved nothing but problems and inconvenience for others.

The new Minister of Labour and Industry has acted responsibly in suggesting the withdrawal of the clause. I am sure he will continue to act responsibly in relation to the consideration of any similar clause in the future and that he will ensure that proper consultation takes place. The previous Minister paid no attention to consultation and three years of work by employers, unions and his own department was largely ignored and was misrepresented. I hope the present Minister remembers my words, which were said for only one purpose—they were said in the interests of obtaining good industrial relations. I do not believe the Government really intended to attempt to bash the unions and I am sure that it really hopes to be able to work with the unions. I support the withdrawal of clause 8 from the Bill and commend the Minister for acting responsibly.

Mr. MACKINNON (Box Hill): I have listened with some interest and care to the words of the honorable member for Glenroy but I am still not clear just where the honorable member stands on the issue. He seems very concerned that there was inadequate consultation before clause 8 was drawn up and introduced to the House. He may or may not be right on that point, and I shall deal with that later, but the honorable member seemed to me to imply that he supports the concept that pro-

vision should be made for exemption from unions. He did not suggest that he was totally opposed to the concept. He merely indicated concern about adequate consultation. I gained the impression that if there were adequate consultation, a satisfactory formula could be arrived at. That is yet to be proved, and it is the point at issue.

The honorable member went on to say that the clause was introduced at a time when the climate was not right. That suggests that he is in favour of this type of provision but that he would like to see it introduced at another time because he thinks the unions are too stirred up at present. Perhaps the honorable member for Glenroy knows what is going on inside the unions. I presume he does, because it is his business to be informed about what is happening within the unions. He would know whether professional stirring is taking place, and presumably he is of the opinion that it is. Professional stirring is used as a means of arousing emotion inside trade unions and whenever trade unions have an ulterior motive for pushing ahead with a particular scheme, first of all they stir up the emotions of the union members. That is their regular tactic.

I return to my point that I am not clear about just where the honorable member for Glenroy stands on the issue. The same situation applies with many members of the Opposition. Just where they stand on the rights of the individual is far from clear. There is no doubt where members on this side of the House stand on this matter—we are in favour of the rights of the individual. However, I reiterate that I am not clear about members on the other side of the House. It seems that they are operating under the "I'm all right, Jack" system.

The honorable member for Glenroy continually referred to union-bashing "Fraser legislation". That, once again, is the sort of emotive material members of the Opposition like to put forward from time to time. I do not think they have given real and careful consideration to the aims and objectives of the well-considered legislation put forward by the Federal Government. That legislation may not provide all the answers we are seeking, but it goes a long way towards an improvement in industrial relations.

The honorable member for Glenroy later referred to Miss Biggs. I notice that when members of the Opposition are short on material they are long on character assassination and I suppose this is just another example, so I am not surprised that that element was brought in.

The honorable member for Glenroy suggested that trade unionists, when they discuss a matter at shop floor level, are understanding. He said that during all his time as a shop steward only one person had come forward and said that he did not wish to belong to a union, but that he had arranged for that person to be given a good talking to and that some other arrangement was made. The person either left the employment or joined the union; I do not know which happened.

That is the distinction between the honorable member for Glenroy and the honorable member for Reservoir. The latter has a much more compassionate point of view and has a real consideration for worker participation. I noticed with interest that he said when a similar situation arose while he was a shop steward that he explained to his fellow workers that consideration of an individual was involved.

Mr. SIMMONDS: The fellow workers explained to the person concerned!

Mr. MACKINNON: I understand that after the discussion the workers came to the conclusion that they had to arrive at an accommodation to allow these two workers to continue. The honorable member for

Reservoir apparently believed that provision should be made for exemption in one form or another, but I understand he would prefer to see the solution arrived at on the shop floor. Those are different elements one sees in the concept of worker participation.

It is far from clear how to accommodate those who have genuine objections to joining an industrial organization. It is tragic that people should be so concerned with their various points of view and with winning or losing that the rights of individuals who genuinely hold these objections should be overlooked. Those people do exist, and only last week-end I spoke to a lady for whom this was a real problem. She had to move regularly from job to job to find a position in which somebody who did not wish to join a union could be employed. Her reasons seemed to be quite reasonable; she came from a country from behind the Iron Curtain and had seen intolerable situations there. One might say that those situations do not exist in Australia, but her views are quite understandable because it is an emotional issue.

When considering what should be done in this area, one must first respect the right of the individual to have freedom of choice and ask within what framework this shall be provided.

I am concerned about the reasons for an industrial organization stating that it is opposed to any form of exemption being granted. I should hate to think it was due to a need to exercise intimidation or leverage over the membership. I should be horrified to think that the only reason the organization took this view was because it believed that in this way it could stand over its members. This view was taken by various industrial organizations, in cartels and in manufacturing groups before the restrictive trade practices legislation was introduced. In the case of the manufacturing organizations, the problem was dealt with because the community saw that it was necessary. Still I believe the community sees that it is equally necessary to overcome the problem in other industrial organizations.

It is strange that some industrial organizations, particularly unions, believe they are beyond the limits of civil law. They wish their affairs to be conducted within the ambit of industrial courts with special provisions that favour their views.

The honorable member for Burwood said that consideration should be given to the exercise of civil rights in civil courts, and that view must be carefully examined. There is real opposition to this concept, and I can only suggest that those industrial organizations that are opposed to it regard themselves as being beyond the law.

This is a complex issue on which the House must proceed with care and consideration. I agree with those who made the point that it is not an issue that should be bulldozed through. Concern and respect must be given to the wishes of the people who are affected and for whose benefit the provision is being made, because they seem to have been totally ignored.

I hope that in the ensuing months legislation will be drawn up to provide the remedies that I particularly wish to see and which will incorporate the strong view held by Government supporters that the individual should have freedom of choice.

I pass briefly to the other points raised in the Bill. Clearly the withdrawal—referred to as a deferral—of clause 9 shows a sensible understanding of the present economic climate and the difficulties faced by small businesses. Clause 10 has merit because it encourages long service leave to be taken when it falls due and also preserves the genuine rights of both the employer and employee.

The additional clauses that have been foreshadowed cover the expansion of the range of shops that may

open at week-ends and on Anzac Day. These are sensible provisions, and each case is being taken into account as it is brought to notice.

I welcome the opportunity of speaking to the House on this very important matter of freedom of choice for people to decide whether to join industrial organizations. This is a matter which must be pursued, and I hope that will be done at an early time.

Mr. REMINGTON (Melbourne): I oppose the Bill because, as it is intended to stand, it personifies the ideals of the Liberal Party in Parliament and in the State. The Bill illustrates that the Government is full of procrastination, indecision and delay. The malady that strikes the Premier runs through the very legislation that his party has produced.

The Bill was introduced some months ago and there was procrastination over its introduction. Long delays and indecision have since occurred. It reminds me of a bird that is progressively being plucked of its feathers; some are pulled out here and others are poked in there.

In the debate last night, the Opposition could well have used this Bill as a basis for attacking the Government on its qualities of vacillation, indecision, the incapacity to make decisions, and even when decisions are made to follow them through and make them effective.

The Bill was introduced with a fanfare of trumpets, beating of breasts and great gusto. However, as soon as an industrial dispute arises involving the ramifications which flow from a Federal Act and which would flow from this measure, the Government scuttles away because it is too hot to handle. It then proposes to delete the very clause which sets out to achieve the Government's purpose. Undoubtedly, it is the Government's policy to establish an industrial commission and to embrace an industrial relations bureau which sends out the policemen to attack the union movement. As soon as it gets into the slightest trouble, the Government deletes clause 8 from the Bill. Naturally, the Labor Party welcomes the move, and indeed congratulates the Government.

It goes without saying that members of the Opposition have a different attitude from honorable members opposite on many issues. Many members on this side of the House have been involved in the union movement. Indeed, until just a few months ago, I was the Federal president of a union comprising some 67,000 members. Having been involved with the trade union movement, members of the Labor Party have a better understanding and appreciation of its role. Honorable members will recall that, in 1971, the late Pope Paul said that the important role of the union organization must be admitted. Whenever members of my party mention the trade union movement there is a lack of recognition by members of the Liberal Party of the movement's true worth. Clause 8 seeks to attack the union movement.

Certainly, I can speak from experience as the Federal president of a union with a closed shop industry. Nobody can obtain employment in any private bank in Australia unless he is a member of the union. What a horrendous crime that is! Who suggested to the Australian Bank Officials Association, as it then was, that the industry should be a closed shop?

The Government might be interested to know that it was not the Socialist left which members of the Government tremble about. It was the executive, the administrators, the representatives and the general managers of the private banks who approached the union to make application for the introduction of a closed shop in the banking industry. The employers recognized the necessity

for a closed shop. Members of the Government are in limbo. They are not the employers and in many respects none of them would rank as executive officers and very few of them would win a board position. Admittedly, some of them would, but the vast majority are neither flesh nor fish—they are not of the union movement and they are not of the top echelon of management. They are in this area of limbo.

Whilst many members of the Liberal Party will not embrace the philosophy of a closed shop, one of the most powerful employer organizations in Australia approached the union suggesting that if the union asked for a closed shop, the request would be granted. To ensure that the union accepted the proposition, the employers also agreed to deduct employees' union subscriptions from their salaries without cost to the union. That is how one of the largest employers in this country felt about a closed shop in the banking industry.

Mr. STEPHEN: Who were they?

Mr. REMINGTON: They were members of the Australian Bankers Association. They could see the advantages of the situation. Members of the Government Party are having a bad time at the moment with their immense tensions and pressures.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): The honorable member should relate his remarks to the Bill.

Mr. REMINGTON: I am, because clause 8 is an attack by the Government on a closed shop situation. This is Liberal Party policy, but I am explaining to the House that one powerful group of employers support the principle of a closed shop. The union cannot refuse any resignation by any member of the union. But the banks, in terms of the agreement, must refuse to employ that person. This is slightly different from the tramways union situation, but that is the tenor of the agreement between the Australian Bankers Association and the union.

I think it is fair to tell the full story of why the bankers did this. Some years ago, in a case affecting the oil industry, the Federated Clerks Union obtained preference for union members. Wishing to preserve the rights of the individual, the employers rushed to the High Court to argue that it was beyond the powers of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to grant preference to unionists. The employers lost. Of course, my union lodged a claim with the Arbitration Commission, and it would have won it and a far different type of situation would have arisen.

Even if the Government does not want a closed shop, it must give preference to unionists because the trade union movement gains rewards for the workers. The activities of the union movement results in conditions of employment being prescribed in an industry and if the workers, through the unions, are going to win these conditions, then it is fair that even if one does not subscribe to a closed shop, one must give preference to unionists. Can honorable members imagine there being non-union members in that situation? In the banking industry, if two people applied for the one job, the unionist must get it because it is the union movement that has determined the salaries and conditions and made the position one to be sought after. If preference was given to unionists, the parasites who talk about freedom of conscience and do not want to join the union would flock in and become a part of it.

The union movement has been the whipping horse of the Liberal Party at all levels throughout the country. For a while, it was a case of kick the dole bludger. In the time of the late Sir Robert Menzies, it was nothing more than kicking the red can. When the red paint wore off the can, it was then a matter of kicking the unions.

The attack has now been diversified and sometimes it is bash the dole bludger. Now that the red paint has worn off the new can, it is no longer becoming popular to bash the unions.

I am sure that members of the Liberal Party received the message from the public reaction in the most recent incident. I am not particularly interested in the background of the individual involved, but the principle is extremely important. In all of the letters to editors of the newspapers and comments emanating from within the general community, there was strong opposition to the stand taken by the employee in this instance.

In his desire to snatch the headlines, the Premier rushed gallantly to her aid but, when he became aware of her background, he dropped her like a hot potato. As I said, I am not particularly interested in the woman but in the principle involved. Would this woman have worked for 75 per cent of the present rate? That was the rate before the union movement won equal pay for women. Would she have been prepared to work for more than 40 hours a week, without overtime payment? Would this same objector have been prepared to take only one week's leave like many workers in the United States of America today, or would she have wanted her full four weeks' leave? Miss Biggs would have to have been extremely foolish. She simply would not have done so. In the other clause of the Bill, the Liberal Party goose-steps along with Malcolm Fraser's infamous Industrial Relations Bureau, which comes out of the deep south of America. This is reflected in Liberal Party policies, as it is in American companies. I was in America for a month last year and I visited the southern States of America. I saw the conditions of poverty under which people work. In Atlanta, the unemployment rate is 17·5 per cent. In the State of Georgia one person in four is illiterate or semi-illiterate and one in two do not graduate from high school. This is the famous right-to-work country.

The Industrial Relations Bureau has been imposed upon Australian employers who do not want it and the union movement which does not want it. It emerges from the influences of the southern States of America. The Liberal Party should know and recognize that.

The other part of the Bill dealing with penal provisions is offensive to me. Sir Richard Kirby made the observation that many deputy presidents of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission have made statements that penal clauses do not solve disputes but only encourage them. When the Minister of Labour and Industry introduced the Bill he was on cloud nine. He spoke of the wonderful industrial relations that exist and said that there was very little conflict. I have been a leader in the union movement for more than 20 years. It is an adversary situation. Conditions for employees would not be won if the union did not take a strong stand, because without its strength employees would get nothing. As it is now, without action, we get only platitudes. It is a silly system, and it is bad for employees, the union movement and employers. Until such time as this country, at Government level, employer level and union movement level properly embraces the philosophies of worker participation as practised in the Soviet Union, China, West Germany and European countries, where people are vitally involved in the industry in a totally participatory way, the country as a whole can only suffer.

The House divided on the motion (Sir Kenneth Wheeler in the chair)—

Ayes	33
Noes	19
Majority for the motion ..	14

AYES.

Mr. Balfour	Mr. Maclellan
Mr. Birrell	Mr. Rafferty
Mr. Borthwick	Mr. Ramsay
Mr. Collins	Mr. Reese
Mr. Cox	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Crellin	Mr. Scanlan
Mr. Dixon	Mr. Skeggs
Mr. Dunstan	Mr. Stephen
Mr. Ebery	Mr. Templeton
Mr. Francis	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Gude	Mr. Weideman
Mr. Hamer	Mr. Williams
Mr. Hayes	Mr. Wood
Mr. Jona	
Mr. Loxton	
Mr. McArthur	*Tellers:*
Mr. Mackinnon	Mr. Coleman
Mr. McLaren	Mrs. Patrick

NOES.

Mr. Cain	Mr. Simmonds
Mr. Culpin	Mr. Simpson
Mr. Edmunds	Mr. Stirling
Mr. Fordham	Mrs. Toner
Mr. Ginifer	Mr. Trezise
Mr. Hann	Mr. Wilkes
Mr. Kirkwood	Mr. Wilton
Mr. McInnes	*Tellers:*
Mr. Ross-Edwards	Mr. Remington
Mr. Sidiropoulos	Mr. Crabb

PAIRS.

Mr. Austin	Mr. Whiting
Mr. Billing	Mr. Evans (*Gippsland East*)
Mr. Kennett	Mr. Fogarty
Mr. Lacy	Mr. Cathie
Mr. Lieberman	Mr. Lind
Mr. McCabe	Mr. Roper
Mr. McClure	Mr. Mutton
Mr. Smith (*South Barwon*)	Mr. Doube
Mr. Suggett	Mr. Amos

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Progress was reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

VOTING AT DIVISIONS — UNIFORM BUILDING REGULATIONS—CARTOONS —GOWERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL— REFERRAL OF MATERIAL TO SOLICITOR-GENERAL — SWIMMING POOL SAFETY—ESTABLISHMENT OF TAFE BOARD—BURNLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL —DERAILMENT OF TRAIN—POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO TROTTING.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. SIMPSON (Niddrie): I direct my remarks to you, Mr. Speaker. There is a practice whereby a door that leads from the members' bar to the laneway through which honorable members who have offices in the grounds of Parliament House pass has been locked for security reasons. Difficulties sometimes occur when members may not have their keys on their person and are running late for a division. It would be unfortunate if any member were to miss a division because he did not have his key on his person.

I have mentioned this matter to members of the Government party and I request that you look into it. I am not sure how the problem can be overcome and security retained, but it should be important for honorable members to be given every opportunity of reaching the House if they have forgotten their keys.

Mr. McINNES (Gippsland South): I address the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government concerning the Uniform Building Regulations. A former constituent of mine, Mr. Michael Gannon, who is now living in Melbourne, is erecting a residence in the city of Malvern and, as part of a move towards energy conservation, proposes to include insulating foam in the building. He applied for approval but in mid-July, was rejected under the Uniform Building Regulations by the Malvern building surveyor. He appealed to the Building Regulations Committee and has today received a rejection without the reason for the rejection being specified.

In an age when endeavours are being made to conserve energy, when the Gas and Fuel Corporation, the Housing Commission and so forth are expounding on the virtues of houses with insulation, and the Conservation of Energy Committee has made that recommendation, I am surprised that city municipal councils are rejecting applications such as this. The decision has put my former constituent to a great deal of expense and delay of about three

months. I ask that this matter be drawn to the attention of the Minister for Local Government, to ascertain whether the building regulations can be modified to ensure that applications of this nature, and specifically this application, can be approved and expedited without delay.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party): I draw to the attention of the Premier a matter of which I was reminded by today's cartoon in the *Herald*. It was a magnificent cartoon but I shall not go into that now. Over the years newspapers have produced some marvellous political cartoons which have caused all honorable members to suffer and be maligned from time to time. I believe the press is very even-handed in this regard. I suggest to the Premier that it would be in the best interests of this place and this State if an even-handed collection were kept and perhaps placed in a particular room, possibly in a reception room off the new bar room, where the cartoons could be enjoyed by visitors to this place. It seems a pity that although the public obtains tremendous enjoyment and amusement from excellent cartoons, and the standard has traditionally been high in Melbourne, those cartoons are a one-day wonder and soon forgotten. I ask the Premier to consider finding a home for them where they can be placed on display and enjoyment can continue to be obtained. Perhaps they will be enjoyed more in the future than at present.

Mr. KIRKWOOD (Preston): I draw to the notice of the Minister of Education matters relating to Gowerville Primary School in Preston. A petition has been signed by people expressing concern because the school toilets need upgrading. There is no hot water, no disposal unit for the use of young girls and there is an open drain behind the boy's urinal that enters into the stormwater drain.

On 27th May, 1974, the Minister gave his authority for site works to be carried out by the Public Works Department. On 9th April, 1975, approval was given by the department for improved drains, re-sheeting of existing asphalt areas, and improved parking areas. Tenders were expected to be called and the work was supposed to commence in the near future. That was 1975 and it is now 1978.

After a survey visit to the school the Education Department stated that it would be prepared to recommend that painting of the school, both inside and out, be carried out as soon as possible.

In November, 1976 as a result of a request from a cleaner the Public Works Department was asked to furnish a report, and stated in a letter that it would be prepared to have hot water available for him to clean the toilets, but nothing was done. For the past five years parents at the school have been requesting that water be provided for fire prevention purposes. They are afraid that the children and the teachers might be in a great deal of trouble if a fire occurred in that school, as it is situated in Bell Street. Again, a request was made to the department, but the school council or the school administration staff have heard nothing.

The noise level at this school does not make for good work for either the students or the teachers. The requirements of the school have been on the priority list since 1975. I should like to know on behalf of the school council in that area what is going to be done.

Mr. CAIN (Bundoora): I draw a matter to the attention of the Premier. I refer to the Premier's suggestion during the debate this afternoon on the Jennings document that the Solicitor-General, as I understood him, should be the receptor, or the filter whereby these complaints could be better substantiated. I have considered that suggestion and it seems to me an entirely inappropriate use

of the functions of the Solicitor-General. As I perceive his office, it is that of chief legal adviser to the Government. This is not a matter that concerns just the Government. It is a matter that is the subject of the suggested inquiry in the motion, and a matter that concerns this Parliament.

I therefore suggest that, having regard to the office the Solicitor-General occupies as chief Government legal adviser, he would not be seen to be an objective and dispassionate filter for the placing of additional material. I feel quite strongly about that and I believe the Premier ought to reconsider the suggestion that he has made.

The second reason why the Solicitor-General is not appropriate is that if it were found that matters required proceedings of a criminal nature, it would ultimately rest with the Solicitor-General to determine whether a presentment should be brought before the courts. He has the last word in respect of those matters. The persons involved in the allegations are members of this Parliament; they are associated with it, and with the Government of the day. It would be ultimately improper, and a prostitution of the office of the Solicitor-General, were he to be compromised at this preliminary stage and thus prevented from exercising the function which he might ultimately be called on to exercise in determining whether a presentment should be filed. It is an important function and it is vested in him alone, and he is the person who has to exercise that discretion.

I put to the Premier that there ought to be a reconsideration of this matter. If there is to be a filter—and I believe it is wrong—some person on whom the onus rests whether this case is to go to an inquiry, the Solicitor-General is not appropriate.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): This is going beyond the original question.

Mr. CAIN: The suggestion is that the office of the Solicitor-General should be used for a particular purpose. I suggest it is inappropriate that the Solicitor-General should be called upon to make a value judgment, a decision, on somebody in this place or somebody associated with this Government. With all the objectiveness and dispassionateness that he can bring on such a question, to involve him at this stage would be completely wrong.

Mrs. TONER (Greensborough): I draw a matter to the attention of the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government. It concerns the fact that a young child was drowned in a backyard swimming pool in Eltham this week. Earlier this year I placed a question on notice in relation to safety requirements for swimming pools, and I drew the Minister's attention to the fact that in 1974 a commitment had been made to introduce legislation on swimming pool safety when the Standards Association of Australia approved relevant standards. That association released standards AS 1926 in 1976 and AS 2020 early in 1977, but the Government has consistently evaded making a decision about the matter.

I am sympathetic to the family concerned and I believe the State Government should be taking the lead in this matter. By continuing to treat the matter lightly, the Government is leaving the way open for further tragedy.

The Minister for Local Government replied to my question at length and stated—

> The question of possible or desirable safety measures is one that has received the constant attention of senior officers during more than eight years, my frequent and thorough personal study and repeated consideration over the years by Cabinet itself, as well as by the Government Party.

Yet nothing has been done. The Minister made mention of compulsion in his letter when he stated—

> I trust that you share the view which I have expressed that it would be grossly irresponsible for the Government to apply compulsion unless the measures chosen were practical and universally effective.

To me it is grossly irresponsible that nothing has been done.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS: Has your party got a policy? It is difficult, you know.

Mrs. TONER: I am talking about young children, not parents who make a choice. According to a Queensland study which was done a couple of years ago, children are the innocent victims in almost all immersion cases involving them, and the evidence from the Queensland study and a similar study in Canberra indicates that the provision of effective safety barriers would cut the child-immersion accident rate by a factor of at least five, and almost certainly by a factor of ten. That is from *Choice*, December, 1977.

It seems iniquitous to me that the Government has taken no action and I sincerely hope the Minister will examine the problem and take action before the next swimming season, to avoid further tragedy.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray): I draw a matter to the attention of the Minister of Education concerning the recommendation in the Partridge report regarding the desirability for the establishment of a Technical and Further Education Board in Victoria. This was one of the major recommendations of the Partridge Committee and it saw a new relationship developing within technical and further education in Victoria, and the breaking away of the bonds that were seen by the committee and many others as bonds of restraint on this aspect of education whilst it is within the Education Department proper.

The Minister from time to time has said that consideration and a final decision on this matter is not likely to be made until the commission has been appointed. It is now some time since the Partridge report was tabled, and the commission still has not been appointed. I understand that the matter is still under consideration. Applications have been received for the position of full-time chairman.

I ask the Minister to give an indication on what time-table will be followed for the appointment of the TAFE board, and what preliminary steps have been taken to consult the wide range of groups and bodies in technical and further education in Victoria to ensure that there is no inordinate delay in the appointment of this board following the appointment of the members of the commission itself.

Mr. SIDIROPOULOS (Richmond): I bring a matter of deep concern to the attention of the Minister of Education regarding the Burnley Primary School. The original building was condemned some time ago and plans were drawn up in 1976 for a new school. This has been shelved by the Education Department owing to lack of finance. In 1977 a further plan was submitted. Unfortunately, it was again shelved by the department. Earlier this year, the department submitted a further plan involving the construction of an administrative core supplemented by seven portable classrooms. This was a far cry from the department's original promise. In the meantime, owing to the proposed demolition of the old building and the promised rebuilding of the new complex, it was necessary to find alternative accommodation for the children.

After discussions with the Public Works Department and the local council, arrangements were made for a temporary complex to be situated in Burnley Park. The council gave permission on the condition that the maximum time of occupancy would be eighteen months from the date the school commenced on the site.

The Minister himself officially opened the temporarily located school in the park and I was also present at the opening. Since that time the department has refused to be responsible in this matter and give a definite answer on whether the new school will be built.

The temporary occupancy will expire in only eight months' time and this matter is causing great concern to the parents, teachers and children of the school. Several teachers are considering resigning at the end of this year because of the uncertainty of the situation. The general feeling is one of frustration and disappointment over the uncaring attitude of the department. This history of events is a typical example of how this Government treats the public at large. I ask the Minister to give his assurance and a positive answer relating to the future of the Burnley Primary School.

Mr. CRABB (Knox): As the Minister of Transport is not present I raise this matter with whichever Minister is looking after his interests. The matter concerns the derailment yesterday evening of a red train near Mooroolbark. The accident has been reported in the press. The aspect of the matter that concerns me, and which I bring to the particular attention of the Minister, is that I have been informed that the railway staff have complained on a number of occasions that insufficient maintenance has been carried out on the line. I do not know whether the derailment was connected with any lack of maintenance, but it is deeply disturbing to think that there is even a possibility that that could be so. As it happens, no one was injured in the accident, but we all remember the tragedy that occurred at Granville in New South Wales, and one would want to be able to assure everyone who travels by Victorian Railways that adequate maintenance is being carried out to ensure that no future derailment will take place.

I understand that an interdepartmental inquiry of some sort is to be held into this derailment, and I ask the Minister of Transport to ensure that that investigation includes an inquiry into adequate maintenance and that when the results of the inquiry are to hand they are made available to honorable members.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North): I raise a matter of importance for the attention of the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation. The matter has apparently been spoken of around the corridors of this place today, as well as in public places around Melbourne. I ask the Minister to what extent police investigations are being conducted into the running of the trotting industry in Victoria.

In view of the fact that millions of dollars of public funds are invested on all types of racing in Victoria it is most important that the rumors that there are police investigations taking place into the running of trotting should be answered. I hope the Minister will be able immediately to explain to the House whether there is a police inquiry and that the honorable gentleman will be able to ensure that any inquiry is completed as quickly as possible so that the high standard of the trotting industry can be maintained.

In summary, I ask the Minister whether a police investigation into the operation of trotting in Victoria is taking place and, if so, whether he will ensure that the matter is cleared up as soon as possible in the best interests of trotting and the public of Victoria.

Mr. HAYES (Minister of Housing): I shall direct to the attention of the Minister for Local Government the matter concerning the Uniform Building Regulations that was raised by the honorable member for Gippsland South and the matter concerning the safety of swimming pools raised by the honorable member for Greensborough. I shall ask the Minister to reply to both honorable members direct.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer): I took note of the suggestion of the Leader of the National Party that a collection of suitable cartoons should be gathered together. I believe the honorable member suggested an even-handed selection, and there is much to be said for his idea.

I see no reason why it would not be possible to start a collection and then confer with the House Committee on a suitable place to keep them.

I do not agree with the honorable member for Bundoora that the Solicitor-General is not a suitable repository for whatever material may be brought forward to support the document that was debated earlier today. The Solicitor-General after all will be consulted when and if terms of reference are drawn up. I cannot see that having the material before him will do anything other than help him in that duty. It is important that whatever is done should be done in a fair and even-handed way. The Solicitor-General is the highest law officer of the Crown, and he has a magnificent reputation in which I have the greatest confidence.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education): I noted the earlier remarks of the honorable member for Preston about the Gowerville Primary School. I apologize for having to leave the Chamber briefly while the honorable member was speaking. If the honorable member says that the toilets at the school need attention, we had better have a look at them. We had also better have a look at the aspects of hall maintenance standards mentioned by the honorable member.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the recommendation of the recent Partridge report about the establishment of a Technical and Further Education Board, and asked when that board would be established. The general role to be carried out by such a board is now largely carried out by the State Advisory Council on Technical Education. I have already had some consultations with that council and I have extended the present terms of office.

The big question is whether, in view of the fact that the Government is establishing a Post-Secondary Education Commission, we need, on the one hand, a special Technical and Further Education Board and, on the other hand, a State conference of Victoria Institute of Colleges councils, or whether greater authority should be given to the Post-Secondary Education Commission to allow it to become the co-ordinating authority in the secondary field in Victoria. The Government is proceeding as quickly as possible to the appointment of a chairman of that commission, which is a most important position, and we want to ensure that we get the right man.

The honorable member for Richmond referred to the temporary premises being occupied by the Burnley Primary School in the park at Burnley. I well recall the official opening of the temporary complex and I commend the honorable member for his dancing exhibition at that opening. I assure him that I have not forgotten the interests of the school. There has been some delay because of the financial position but I am well aware of the school's needs and not long ago I prevented the building of flats on the old school site because I could see that such a building would restrict the construction of a decent school in future years.

I reiterate that I am well aware of the needs and interests of the school and I assure the honorable member that as soon as it is possible to give exact times for the calling of tenders, I shall do so, but I wish to be sure of those times before I do so.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport): The honorable member for Knox referred to the derailment of a train on the Lilydale line. He indicated that he considered that the question of track maintenance might be involved and that he understood there was to be a railways inquiry. I shall certainly make sure that any railways inquiry includes the question of track maintenance. If the honorable member has any information in relation to track maintenance possibly being involved in the accident I should be grateful to have those details.

Mr. DIXON (Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation): Some time ago allegations were made to me concerning malpractice in the trotting industry which could involve members engaged in that industry. I regarded the information as being serious, and asked the Director-General of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation to listen to that information, which he did.

We then consulted with the Chairman of the Trotting Control Board, Mr. Graeme Cochran, and decided it was important that a police investigation be held. It was decided to have a police investigation in such a way that there would be some chance of apprehending the persons who may have been guilty of alleged malpractice. In other words, this whole matter was to be handled in complete confidence.

The honorable member who raised this issue spoke to me about it last night, as did an honorable member from the National Party, and I suggested to both honorable members that the matter should not be raised because I believed the police investigations would be prejudiced if that were done.

I can understand what motivated the honorable member for Geelong North because apparently there has now been some talk about an investigation. I regret that this has been the case, because I had hoped that until the investigation was successfully concluded, it could have been handled in such a way that it would not have had to be disclosed until the allegations were either validated or not validated.

Mr. TREZISE: I did it in a nice way.

Mr. DIXON: I do not know whether there is a nice way of doing this, but nevertheless the honorable member raised the matter. I have not yet received a report on the investigation, and as soon as I receive it, I shall inform the House.

The SPEAKER (Sir Kenneth Wheeler): The honorable member for Niddrie raised a matter with me. I can imagine his embarrassment when he knocked at the door and it was not opened to him. This matter has also caused some embarrassment to other honorable members today, and I will have it attended to.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.33 *p.m. until Tuesday, September* 19.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, September 19, 1978.

The PRESIDENT **(the Hon. W. G. Fry)** took the chair at 4.48 p.m. and read the prayer.

POUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government), was read a first time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.

The Hon. C. A. M. HIDER (Monash Province) (*By leave*): Mr. President, I wish to make a personal explanation.

I refer to pages 25 and 50 of the so-called—

" Personal Explanation " to the Parliament of Victoria by D. B. Jennings, M.L.A., Member for Westernport.

Mr. Jennings alleges that I was a director of a company which sold land to the Housing Commission for an allegedly excessive price of $5·2 million and that my motives in opposing and disagreeing with Mr. Jennings were therefore improper and suspect and that I improperly used my position as a member of Parliament. I reject and deny these allegations.

I was not, and never have been, a director of the company which allegedly sold land to the Housing Commission for $5·2 million in June of 1977. That is a fact which Mr. Jennings could easily have verified either