Tuesday, 9 September 1986

The SPEAKER (the Hon. C. T. Edmunds) took the chair at 2.5 p.m. and read the prayer.

DEATHS OF GEORGE EDWARD WHITE, ESQUIRE AND EDWARD HUGH MONTGOMERY, ESQUIRE

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I move:

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of George Edward White, Esquire, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Mentone from 1945 to 1947 and from 1950 to 1955.

Mr White died on 5 May last at the age of 81 years. He will be remembered by his years of service and by his close involvement with the community. He made a very significant contribution to local government, both as a councillor and as the Mayor of Mordialloc. His service at the local government level continued in that district until he was elected to this House in 1945.

He was a member during those years when elections occurred close together and often there were dramatic changes of members at each election. He served from 1945 to 1947 and was re-elected when the tide turned in 1950 and again in 1952, and served until the tide went out in 1955.

During that time he served on the Egg Marketing Committee and the State Development Committee. He had a background which I believe fitted him well for his service here. He was born in the Western District and received both a rural and an urban education. His career outside the Parliament was in the Victorian Railways and then the Prices Commission. He retired as the office manager of the Federated Ironworkers Association of Australia, so he had a wide range of occupation paths apart from his involvement in the Parliament.

I suppose it could be said that his rural background as well as a variety of occupations gave him broad experience and a background which enabled him to make a very valuable contribution to the Parliament. I express the sympathy of the Government to his daughters and grandchildren.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On behalf of my party I join with the Premier in expressing our regret at the death of George Edward White, Esquire. The Premier has adequately given the background to George White's involvement. It is interesting to note that he was one of a long line of individuals who have served this place and who had previously served at municipal level. There is no doubt that there are many people here who, after they complete their Parliamentary service, return to serve the community in one of many directions.

Having served as a member of the Egg Marketing Committee in those days, Mr White would probably not have noticed that much difference between the deliberations with respect to the egg industry today than when he was a member from 1945 to 1947 and again from 1950 to 1955.

On behalf of the Liberal Party I express the condolences of my party to his family.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in supporting the condolence motion in regard to George Edward White, the former member for Mentone. He had been away from this place for 31 years, which is a long time. He was, as the Premier said, a member of this place when Governments came and went rather frequently and the dates he was here speak for themselves; namely, 1945 to 1947 and 1950 to 1955.

He was very much involved in the troubles of the Labor Party of the day. They were times when members of the Labor Party in this place had to make some very hard decisions. I should like to convey the sympathy of my party to the daughters of the deceased and his grandchildren.

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I move:

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of Edward Hugh Montgomery, Esquire, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Geelong from 1948 to 1950.

Mr Montgomery died on 8 June of this year at the St John of God Hospital in Ballarat. It was also in Ballarat that he was born in 1906 and he spent his lifetime in that area both during the period of his education and then as a schoolmaster during the years leading up to the second world war.

From 1928 to 1940 he was a teacher at the Ballarat Grammar School and from 1941 to 1963 he had an almost unbroken association with the Geelong Church of England Grammar School. He was a foundation master at the well renowned and now well-known Timbertop and he had long years of experience in education culminating in his authorship of a book on the particular aspects of education at Timbertop. His experience as an educator and his capacity as an author had led to him producing an earlier publication in 1930 entitled *The Moderns.*

As I said before, he was a member of this House from 1948 to 1950 and he retained his interest in the electorate by contesting other State and Federal seats covering the area in the years after 1950. The seat which he held in this House—it is interesting to note history when one examines the changed composition of Parliaments—was previously held by one of the first female members of Parliament, the late Mrs Fanny Brownbill, who was a member for a number of years.

Mr Montgomery's time here was short, but very significant, and his contribution in this place on a wide range of subjects was very valuable and learned, especially on the questions of education. I extend the sympathy and condolences of the Government to the members of his family.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—I join with the Premier in expressing our regret at the death of Edward Hugh Montgomery who, as the Premier said, served this Parliament only briefly but, on leaving this Chamber, did not lose his interest or commitment to those philosophies that led him to Parliament in the first place.

It is in the field of education and as an educationalist that Edward Hugh Montgomery is best remembered. He made a contribution to education that would be very difficult to better in any ongoing allegiance to one educational institution. As the foundation housemaster of Timbertop he built up that school to achieve its worldwide reputation. His experiences there and his contribution to education generally throughout Victoria will be very sadly missed.

Some of my colleagues who knew Edward Hugh Montgomery personally will also join in the condolence motion moved by the Premier and, on behalf of members of the Liberal Party, I record our regret at his death and our thanks for his contributions. I offer the condolences of the Liberal Party to his family.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—I join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in support of the condolence motion relating to the late Edward Hugh Montgomery, a former honourable member for Geelong. I can just remember when he won that seat in Geelong against impossible odds as at the time it was very much a Labor Party seat. If I remember rightly, he won the seat by a handful of votes and, two years later, when going to the poll, not unexpectedly he lost it: it was one of those freak results that occurs sometimes in politics—sometimes the personalities of the candidates bring it about and sometimes it is the result of particular circumstances of an election. As has been said, he was in Parliament for a very short period.

It is quite interesting that he wrote two books, for which he could not have had two better known co-authors in the State of Victoria. One was a former Premier, Mr T. T. Hollway, and the other was Sir James Darling, perhaps one of the best known educationalists in the State.

Edward Hugh Montgomery will be remembered in this State as the first housemaster of Timbertop. I was reading an obituary concerning Mr Montgomery a few days ago and I noted that Sir James Darling had said to him at the time, "Go buy me a mountain". The story goes, somewhat irreverently, that the site was chosen by him because of the quality of the water—those who were with him tasted the water in the creek and were of the opinion that it could go suitably with whisky! So, Timbertop was born.

He is known, of course, to thousands of old Geelong Grammarians and their families, first as a master of Geelong Grammar and later as the first housemaster of Timbertop. He was a remarkable, rugged character, who undertook very positive initiatives in education in Victoria. On behalf of the National Party, I extend sympathy to members of his family.

Mr AUSTIN (Ripon)—I add my remarks to those of the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party. I knew Hugh Montgomery and found him always to be an extremely exciting man and one who did not follow the normal conventions of schoolmasters in every way and all the time. That allowed him to make an even greater contribution than he might otherwise have done. He was a master of the Ballarat Grammar School for many years and later at Geelong Grammar School and he was the foundation housemaster at Timbertop, which was a new concept in education at that time.

He was chosen for that task because of his ability to get on with people and with boys, to understand them and to bring out the best in them. He had a magnificent sense of humour. Those who knew him would think back now and remember that wonderful smile that used to come over his face when we talked on various matters about which we, as pupils, being so much younger than he was, had not his knowledge, experience and understanding. He knew far more and had a much greater insight into life than we had, obviously.

The Leader of the National Party referred to the book that Edward Hugh Montgomery wrote with Sir James Darling and the various contributions that he made.

Hugh Montgomery was the sort of person who never took on the easy task. He was in Parliament for probably little more than two years because the seat of Geelong was not expected to be won by the Liberal side of politics. Nevertheless he was always willing to take on a challenge.

If one looks at the history of the other seats that he contested, one soon realises they were electorates where no one else was prepared to pick up the hard ball. It was a great honour for me to have known Hugh Montgomery. I should like to join in the condolences that have been expressed and to pass on my deepest sympathy to his family.

Mr PESCOTT (Bennettswood)—I express my deep regret at the death of Edward Hugh Montgomery and pay tribute to a man who had a great influence on my life, particularly during my teenage years.

As other speakers have said, Hugh Montgomery was the foundation headmaster at Timbertop, a school that is well known throughout the world. I was a student at Timbertop in 1961 when Hugh Montgomery was already a legend at an institution that had been founded only eight years earlier.

Hugh Montgomery was a big man physically, and a big man in every way. He had a large frame and a slight stop, and held quite a presence amongst the students and staff at Timbertop. Undoubtedly he was seen as very much the leader in a very small community which was fending for itself, to some extent, in the foothills of the Victorian Alps.

The responsibilities that he shouldered at Timbertop were immense. There were some 135 boys, most of whom were about fifteen years old, all eager to find their way into trouble. At the weekend they would be sent for two nights away from the school to fend for themselves. During summer the potential threat of snake bite and forest fire affecting the charges whom Hugh Montgomery was looking after was always present. In winter the cold and the snow made conditions treacherous. But Hugh Montgomery took these responsibilities seemingly easily.

He was always able to listen to the smallest problem as well as take on the big issues. He built up the school to be a significant contribution to education in Victoria and an institution which became acknowledged widely throughout the world.

By coincidence, Hugh Montgomery came from Ballarat where my parents live. I saw him there in recent years during his retirement. He still had the familiar ability to look on the bright side of life and above all was able to share a joke. He was someone who was a friend to all who knew him. He was a man who held the highest principles and yet was never prepared to be sanctimonious or virtuous about what he did or what he taught.

As all honourable members know, this House sees many people come and go; not all of them attain high office. Hugh Montgomery was one such man to whom I regard it an honour to pay tribute as a person, for what he stood for and for his contribution to education in this State.

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth)—Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity of contributing to the motion moved by the Premier and supported by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party. There are a few honourable members in this House who are, in part, products of Montgomery. He instilled in us a sense of community service and spirit, which were ideals he held strongly.

Hugh Montgomery also had some nineteenth century ideas on inculcating some of his educational knowledge into students. At school he was often affectionately known as "Basher" Montgomery. Despite that, his methods were quite effective.

Some of the more colourful stories about Hugh Montgomery came about as a result of his campaigning around the industrial areas of Geelong. His then bachelor friend, John Barber—who was also a master at Geelong Grammar—went along with him and they were fully equipped with car, trailer and copious quantities of beer. That was in the days before fringe benefits tax and legislation preventing one from encouraging people to vote by giving them something.

John Barber and Hugh Montgomery would go to a street corner and, as fast as he could, John Barber would pour beer for the two of them and anyone else who cared to turn up. The result was Montgomery's success in winning the seat of Geelong, although it was short lived because of a redistribution.

On one occasion when returning to Geelong Grammar School, Montgomery and Barber found themselves in the rowing pond and, on another occasion, Hugh Montgomery was unable to decide which room was his study and which was his bedroom because the students had changed them around. All of that was taken in Hugh Montgomery's typical good humour, which, I understand, he brought to this place.

A fitting tribute to him was the attendance of some of the people at his funeral, which was held early in June. People attended who had not seen him for many years and with whom he was associated when he was housemaster at Timbertop. Some twenty years after he retired from that position, those people, many of them old, travelled from the Mansfield and Mount Buller area to pay their last respects to Hugh Montgomery.

I am sure Hugh Montgomery brought colour and distinction to this place, as he certainly did to Geelong Grammar School. His inculcation of standards and community service ideals to his students will remain with us and stand us in good stead for ever. I express my

personal sympathy to his relatives, especially his sister, and I support the motion moved by the Premier.

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon)—I express my support for the motion as an elected member for part of the Geelong region. Mr Edward Hugh Montgomery was an outstanding member for the electorate of Geelong from 1948 to 1950. Previous speakers have referred to his brilliant career at Geelong Grammar School. However, his beginnings were at Ballarat Grammar School, where other outstanding politicians were educated, namely, Mr T. T. Hollway and Sir Henry Bolte.

During his long career, Hugh Montgomery served his church in the very important post of registrar of the Anglican diocese of Rockhampton from 1965 to 1974. Not only did he leave records of his work in education by being a co-author of some books on education but also he will be remembered by members of the Anglican Church, especially in Northern Australia, for his outstanding work as a church administrator. He brought to the task his many and varied skills not only as a Christian but also as a man of the people.

I place on record the thoughts and memories that people in the Geelong district have for this former member of Parliament and join with other honourable members in placing on the record my respect for this man's memory.

The SPEAKER—Order! Before putting the motions to the House, I should like to pay my tribute to George Edward White, Esquire, and Edward Hugh Montgomery, Esquire, as former members of the Assembly and express condolences to their families on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.

The motions were agreed to in silence, honourable members signifying their unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I move:

That, as a further mark of respect to the memories of the late George Edward White, Esquire, and the late Edward Hugh Montgomery, Esquire, the House do now adjourn until 3 o'clock this day.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.32 *p.m.*

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3.5 p.m.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—I address my question to the Minister for Local Government. I refer the House to the Government's defeat at the hands of the Opposition and local communities throughout Victoria over the matter of forced council amalgamations and I ask the Minister: will the Government now bring on for debate and pass in this House no later than 18 September the Opposition's amendments to the Local Government (General Amendment) Bill which will guarantee that communities will have the final say by referenda in any restructuring proposal?

The SPEAKER—Order! The first part of the question is out of order.

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The Government has not changed its position on the restructuring of local government. However, those municipalities that make application upon common seal or upon a request by 10 per cent of affected residents,

under the provisions of the Local Government Act, will be dealt with in accordance with the Act.

In addition, the Government has announced a Bill in principle which will rewrite the Local Government Act. It contains a comprehensive list of principles that will assist councils to develop in conformity with that approach.

The Local Government Department has a group of officers who are touring Victoria explaining those principles.

If the Leader of the Opposition requires a further explanation of those principles, I shall arrange for him to attend a seminar.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—I address a further question to the Minister for Local Government that refers to the very sudden and somewhat unexpected backdown by the Government last Wednesday on forced council amalgamations.

Can the Minister advise the House whether the Government has determined what the activities of the Local Government Commission will be in the weeks ahead and, if so, have specific instructions been given to the commission about how it will occupy its time?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—I have had discussions with the Chairman of the Local Government Commission relating to the arrangements of the Local Government Commission's work following the Government's announcement last week.

The Local Government Commission has applications for resubdivisions from some twenty municipalities which have been held up pending the commission's work in surveying council boundaries throughout the State and in holding public hearings. That work will continue, as will the commission's work which is described under the Act so that the commission will be supportive of local government. That work will fully occupy the staff of the commission.

Considerable work needs to be done in consolidating the information that has been gained over recent months and in due course that will be of great value in determining the best method for restructuring local government so that local government can serve Victoria and its citizens more effectively.

BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

Miss CALLISTER (Morwell)—I ask the Premier to advise the House of submissions made to the Government during the Budget preparation processes and what action the Government has taken regarding requests for increased expenditure.

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I have in the past made reference to the extravagant requests that have been received from members of the Opposition for increased spending in a wide range of areas. This is despite the frequent public statements and requests that Opposition members made about the need for restraint and reductions in spending. The Leader of the Opposition indicated only last night that taxes should be reduced.

Based on requests received from Opposition members of Parliament, the Government would be required to spend an additional $1·2 billion out of this year's Budget just to meet the requests that have been made.

Let me take a rough sample of some of the schemes that have been put to the Government: the honourable member for Benambra, who on any view should be in the shadow Cabinet, asked that at least 10 per cent of all hospital beds in Victoria be reserved for psychiatric patients. The cost of such a proposal would be $20 million.

The honourable member for North Western Province, Mr Ken Wright, asked that the Government continue hospital-based training for nurses in addition to college training. The cost of that would be $138 million.

The honourable member for Brighton, the expert on third-party insurance, wants to subsidise third-party insurance costs and this would cost $74 million.

The honourable member for Hawthorn, the so-called shadow spokesman on business, wants decentralisation grants to industry to be restored despite the very obvious results from our decentralisation—regional industry policies. This would cost $62 million. Half of what the honourable member for Hawthorn wants to give to industry would go to the Commonwealth in taxation.

The Leader of the Opposition, by interjection, refers to Yakka (Aust.) Pty Ltd, which is a good example of targeting grants to industries in Shepparton—in the electorate of the Leader of the National Party. It will provide 80 jobs in Shepparton, and we will get one job a week for the next two years. It produces a product that is competitive by Australian and international standards because it is a company with good management, determined to use the best methods and using good local labour.

Yakka (Aust.) Pty Ltd at Shepparton highlights the success that this Government has had in targeting industry assistance to those industries that are winners and are developing our regional areas in the way that they should have been developed years ago.

I return to the requests from members of the Opposition: the honourable member for Polwarth—again he should be in the shadow Cabinet—he is another one who has been excluded. He wants to remove all fuel taxes at a cost of $456 million. He stated that at a public meeting in Mortlake. That is only a sample! I can only conclude that the honourable member for Polwarth did not expect that his comments would be reported.

The honourable member for Higinbotham Province, Mr Connard, wants a six-lane freeway between Edithvale Road and South Road at a cost of $100 million. All of these requests come from a party that prides itself and holds itself out as being concerned about spending and establishing a smaller Government.

How can it be taken seriously when that is a sample of what the Treasurer and I have had to put up with in preparing the Budget? Despite all that rubbish, it will be a first-class Budget, I can assure honourable members.

COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

Mr COOPER (Mornington)—I refer the Minister for Local Government to the Government's defeat at the hands of the Opposition and local communities on the question of forced council amalgamations and I ask: will the Government now guarantee that it will not apply discriminatory funding or other forms of financial blackmail as a backdoor method of forcing councils towards amalgamations?

The SPEAKER—Order! The former part of the question is out of order.

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The Government's support for local government funding is well recognised throughout Victoria. The State Government annually distributes approximately $176 million directly through its various departments to local government. The Hawke Federal Government distributes approximately $265 million in addition to $147 million of the Victoria Grants Commission which will shortly be distributed.

On that basis it is ridiculous for anyone to suggest that this Government has been other than totally supportive of local government in Victoria.

RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Mr HANN (Rodney)—I direct a question to the Minister for Education and ask: is it a fact that the records of the Ministry of Education show that at the end of July this year salary overpayments amounted to $2·5 million and underpayments amounted to $1

million? If so, can the Minister advise the House whether the Ministry is abiding by the audit requirements of the Auditor-General to ensure that these overpayments are recovered from persons who have received them and that any underpayments will be made up to the persons concerned?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—I am certain that the Ministry is abiding by the audit requirements of the Auditor-General. Officers of the Ministry seek at all times to recover overpayments, but obviously there are some cases where that cannot be done as they are unable to find the individuals because of the time involved. I am certain that honourable members would recognise that that is a fact of life.

On some occasions the amount of money is so small that it is not worth the amount of time and money required to chase it up.

These matters are reviewed on a regular basis, and we are currently reviewing the total position. There is approximately $5 million still owing to the Ministry of Education as a result of funds from the old studentship schemes that the former Liberal Government failed to recover from people. The Government is now pursuing those people in an attempt to achieve a maximum return.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN VICTORIA

Mrs GLEESON (Thomastown)—Can the Treasurer inform the House of the latest available data showing that business investment in the Victorian economy is growing more strongly than in Australia as a whole?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I thank the honourable member for her question. Victoria's outstanding economic performance is now being widely acknowledged throughout Australia. The *Australian Financial Review*, which is a Sydney-based organisation, recognises that Victoria's economic performance has been the best of any State in Australia, and I am sure all honourable members would be proud of that fact.

I also point out to honourable members that throughout 1985–86 Victoria maintained the No. 1 position in respect of unemployment. It had the lowest unemployment rate of any State for every month of that year, which is a tremendous performance.

I also point out that the Australian Chamber of Manufactures has recognised the top performance of the Victorian economy by acknowledging that Victoria is performing better than any other State in Australia.

It is interesting to examine how the private sector has flourished since the Cain Government came to office. In 1981–82 Victoria's share of private investment in Australia was 22·7 per cent. In 1985–86 Victoria's share had moved to 26·2 per cent, which is a significant increase in the share of private investment occurring in Victoria.

When one examines the manufacturing sector one notes that in 1981–82 manufacturing investment in Victoria was only 23·8 per cent of the Australian total. By 1985–86 it had moved up to 37·7 per cent.

I would also like to look at the finance sector, a sector that has been greatly encouraged by the Victorian Government. In 1981–82 the Victorian share was 22·5 per cent. By 1985–86 it was 27·1 per cent. That is obviously a very large increase in the share of private investment occurring here in Victoria, and that is at the expense of other States in Australia.

I also point out that the Australian Bureau of Statistics has published estimates of expected investment in 1986–87 and in accordance with those figures the outstanding record in Victoria will continue in 1986–87.

In fact, the Australian Statistician is expecting a 3 per cent faster growth rate in private investment in Victoria than the average for the rest of Australia.

It is clear from those figures that Victoria has an outstanding economic performance. Victoria is particularly strong in the area of private investment and this shows that the private sector is flourishing in this State.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Mr JOHN (Bendigo East)—I direct my question to the Minister for Local Government. I refer to the Government's intention now to encourage local government restructuring through the power of the purse. I ask: will the Minister guarantee that the statement by the honourable member for Monbulk in favour of maximizing property taxes will not be put into place as a result of any council restructuring?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—I am not aware of the detail of the question.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr SIMMONDS—The reason I am not aware of the detail is that it was difficult for me to hear the content of the question. I therefore ask the honourable member to repeat the question so that I can understand what he is talking about.

HOLIDAY LEAVE LOADING

Mr JASPER (Murray Valley)—My question is directed to the Premier. Recognising the need to review inappropriate work conditions and also the need for economy in Government expenditure, is the Government prepared to support the removal of the 17·5 per cent holiday loading from all Government employees and support its removal from all State awards?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I believe the Minister for Labour and I have made clear on a number of occasions the Government's position in relation to wage policy. We support a system of centralised wage fixing, and to those who wish to depart from it I say only this: if unions on the one hand or employers on the other hand believe they are in a powerful position today, they may be able to get a better deal. In the jungle of free bargaining, which the Leader of the Opposition wants, they may be able to get a better deal for their industry or firm in the short term. However, those people who are—almost as flavour of the month—espousing some different proposition about wages, are doing a great disservice to those in this country, and the nation as a whole, who wish to see a stable industrial and economic situation.

Centralised wage fixing and the accord have injected a capacity for predictability, centainty, and a capacity for all to plan. I will not support any proposition that would seek to remove from that package some component that happens for the moment, in the eyes of some, to be unfashionable. That is what I am being asked to do.

To anyone who is concerned about wage restraint and moderation, I say only this: which of those members opposite would have believed in December last year that in calendar year 1986 the only wage movement would be 2·3 per cent?

Do not tell me that what is occurring now is not in the best interests of the long-term growth and development of this country. It is a stable wage position whereby people know and can predict what might occur.

People such as the honourable member for Murray Valley and the Leader of the Opposition, who pick up and run with some component of labour cost and then attempt to dismantle a centralised wage fixing system, are great enemies of this country.

We all know that the Leader of the Opposition has a secret plan. If he continues interjecting perhaps he can tell us what his secret plan is. I suppose we all have secret plans at some time or another. The last time I had a secret plan was when I was about eight years old. My mate and I would not tell our other mates where our cubbyhouse was.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr CAIN—That is about the mental age of those who want to pull down 90 years of industrial stability through a centralised wage fixing system and the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

That system has given an assurance to all Australians that they have security in their earning capacity. You want to take that all away! You want to undermine that security!

The Government will continue to support the centralised wage fixing system and, in so doing, will enjoy the support of the mass of the Australian people.

ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL INDUSTRY

Mr SHEEHAN (Ballarat South)—Can the Premier give details of the positive effect that Government policy has had in providing assistance to Victorian regional industry?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I welcome the question from the honourable member for Ballarat South. I made some reference to these matters in answer to an earlier question today when the Leader of the Opposition interjected about Shepparton. I welcome the opportunity of placing on record some indication of the success of those policies because they are an important part of the economic strategy established by the Government through a wide range of initiatives which include those regional industrial policies.

Those policies replace the previous wasteful decentralisation grants that made no distinction between competitive and uncompetitive firms. The policy then in existence perhaps reflected the lack of interest and concern of previous Governments.

The Government's targeted assistance includes low interest loans, financial assistance for development of business plans, product development, marketing and technology.

Mr A. T. Evans—Garbage!

Mr CAIN—The honourable member for Ballarat North says, "Garbage". If only he took the same interest in his electorate as does the honourable member for Ballarat South, Ballarat might be better off. The honourable member for Ballarat South cannot do it all.

Mr A. T. Evans—He will not be there much longer. Ask the people in the Ballarat South electorate.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER—Order! I advise the honourable member for Ballarat North to cease interjecting.

Mr CAIN—I was going to say that the honourable member for Ballarat South has to carry all of Ballarat now because the honourable member for Ballarat North seems uninterested in the economic development of Ballarat. It is all left to the honourable member for Ballarat South.

If the honourable member for Ballarat North were interested, he would be seeking those targeted grants for industries in his electorate because, as the Leader of the National Party knows, that is what Shepparton has; as the honourable member for Benalla knows, that is what Benalla and Seymour have. The honourable member for Benambra knows something about hospital beds!

Those areas received targeted grants. Honourable members who take an interest in and are concerned about their electorates, and about industry development, know the difference that our targeted grants have made.

What I was saying before I was interrupted by an inane interjection was that the firms that have received support from those financial packages to which I referred have indicated that this assistance will result in approximately $76 million of direct capital investment

and the creation of approximately 1200 jobs. That is what the Government is about—jobs.

During one of my country trips, I read a comment made by a fairly well-known member of the House when interviewed by a country newspaper. That member said there were two great issues affecting Victoria: one was fluoridation of the water supply and the other was local government restructuring. I was asked what I thought about that comment. I said that I thought there were three great issues, and always had been: jobs, jobs and jobs. They are the three great issues that face the State and on which this Government has delivered. We have consistently maintained a gap of about two percentage points on the difference between Victoria's unemployment rate and unemployment figures in the rest of Australia. If one goes to the paradise State of Queensland, one notes that the unemployment rate is 9·5 per cent.

What I have indicated—and honourable members who are interested know of the success of those policies in regional areas—speaks for itself. Those industries which have the management capacity to work with their work forces, and use the best technology and are winners are receiving support from those grants, which ensures that they are not only getting local markets but also overseas markets. As the Deputy Premier knows, similar initiatives in Portland at the meatworks are now producing lamb that is being exported to the west coast of the United States of America and Canada.

There are many examples of the kind I have mentioned that further support what I have said. It has been almost three years since that change occurred and more and more members of the Opposition and National Party are becoming aware of what is being provided and are taking initiatives in their electorates. The Minister will help them. They must show interest and concern in their electorates, but many of them do not do so; they are more concerned about asking the Treasurer for more money.

Honourable members must show an interest in their electorates.

Mr Hann—What about Rodney?

Mr CAIN—When I visit that electorate the honourable member for Rodney cannot stand close enough to me. I am embarrassed!

Mr Hann—I am not embarrassed.

Mr CAIN—Every photographer says, "Who is your mate?"

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER—I suggest the Premier conclude his answer.

Mr CAIN—I do not mind visiting the electorate of the honourable member for Rodney. However, I ask honourable members opposite to be constructive and to seek assistance from the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources and his department to help industries that can be targeted to be more productive and competitive in accordance with the strategy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Mr COLEMAN (Syndal)—I ask the Minister for Local Government: as part of its new aim of encouraging local government restructuring, does the Government still wish to transfer social welfare functions to local government, and, if so, will the Minister guarantee the transfer of appropriate funding from the State to protect ratepayers from increases in rates?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—Local government restructuring has nothing to do with the transfer of funds. It involves restructuring local government in such a manner as to assist councils in Victoria to provide the most efficient and effective form of government at the local level. That opportunity still exists. There are many

councils interested in the proposal to restructure in a way which will improve their services, and the facilities of the Local Government Department and the Local Government Commission will be utilised to achieve that objective.

PROMOTERS OF "WAR GAMES"

Mr McNAMARA (Benalla)—Is the Premier aware of moves by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to encourage the promoters of Rambo-style "war games" in Victoria to operate more freely against the advice of police and others? Can the Premier reaffirm his own commitment to the International Year of Peace and comment on the Minister's personal contribution to the International Year of Peace through his sponsorship of Rambo-style "war games"?

The SPEAKER—Order! I have had some difficulty in following the train of the question. It would appear to the Chair that the question would have been better directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Therefore, I will call the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The firearms legislation in this State does not impose on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services a right to ban or censor any activity. The honourable member for Benalla may wish to set himself up in country Victoria as the fountainhead of the new imposition. That is not my desire; nor do I believe it is desirable that the Government should come between ordinary Victorians in the exercise of their free choice of the modes of recreation in which they involve themselves.

Promoters of the games that the honourable member has referred to will be required to conform, like all other Victorians, to the requirements of the firearms legislation, no more, no less.

NANJING TRADE EXHIBITION

Mr HARROWFIELD (Mitcham)—I refer the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources to his recent trade visit to the People's Republic of China and ask: what has been the response to the trade exhibition recently opened by the Minister in Nanjing?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I am sure all honourable members are interested in and supportive of Victoria's growing sister State relationship with the Jiangsu Province of China. This initiative goes back some years.

Initially it had essentially a cultural and social identity but the policy of this Government, as announced to Parliament, has meant that the Government has endeavoured to add an economic overlay to that important relationship, and that is proving to be increasingly successful.

The Province of Jiangsu has some 60 million people. It is the fastest growing area of China, in terms of agricultural and industrial production, and has led economic development within China in the past year—an indication of the progressive leadership being shown by the Government of that Province.

Last week I was given the opportunity of opening a trade exhibition initiated by this Government in Nanjing. This exhibition concerned agricultural technology, food packaging and food processing equipment—areas specifically designated by the Government of Jiangsu and the various corporations operating in that Province as being the most applicable to their immediate circumstances.

Members on both sides of the House are aware that China has now embarked on the seventh five-year plan and in the period ahead the Province of Jiangsu will have an important role in the areas that I have mentioned. Jiangsu is anxious to harness technology from areas and countries with which it regards itself as having an affinity, and Victoria is

seen as having that affinity with Jiangsu as a result of the many years of initiative and close relationship that have been fostered by successive Governments, departments and authorities in this State.

The exhibition involves some 24 exhibitor booths representing some 30 companies. Of those 30 companies 24 are Victorian, and this exhibition was a joint initiative of my department and Austrade, the Australian trade body.

To put the exhibition in context, it has proved to be a very important initiative by my Government. The display is the largest trade exhibition to be held overseas in 1986 by any Australian source and is Australia's largest solo promotion in China in the past ten years. The exhibition will close in the next day or two. Over the days I was there, many thousands of individuals and organisations from Jiangsu and other parts of China visited this important exhibition. It is not simply the exhibition itself that is important. More important are the contacts being made by what are now the dozens of Chinese organisations responsible for buying decisions—the buying of products and technology and in fact buying the future—in relation to what are regarded as being friendly and supportive overseas countries and bodies. I believe Victoria is now well placed, and will be over the next decade, as China goes through a period of significant social and economic change.

The work done by my colleagues in the Parliamentary delegation—who, at their own expense, also visited China during the recent Parliamentary recess—has also proved to be of great assistance. I was not travelling with them but, from what I was told in the various places I visited that had been visited by my colleagues, I know that they were a credit to this Government and to this State.

I speak with confidence about the coincidence of interest involving Victoria, Jiangsu and China as a whole, and I encourage honourable members from all sides of the House to take the opportunity of visiting Victoria's sister State whenever they have the opportunity of doing so.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES

Mr COOPER (Mornington)—I refer to the Premier's statement of 3 September announcing the backdown of the Government on the issue of council amalgamations and ask the Minister for Local Government whether the Government has determined the ingredients of its new promise concerning incentives to local government; what will those incentives be, or are they merely a face saver?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—I am sure local government has a strong incentive to service its community in the best way possible. In pursuit of that objective, I am sure most of those sectors of local government in Victoria which were seeking to strengthen their structure through the activities of the Local Government Commission will continue to seek that assistance.

As recently as Friday night, at Rodney, the officers of the Rodney Shire Council who were the recipients of a national award for a project which was funded by Health Department Victoria to support the children of caravan park dwellers in a unique project were most concerned that the activities of the Government were not diminished in this area. That is shared by a number of municipalities throughout Victoria.

For the information of the honourable member for Mornington, his local municipality would not be out of that scene. They would be most interested in supporting a better structure than exists at this time.

The appropriate section of the Local Government Act, section 24D, provides for an application to be made under the common seal of any municipality or upon the request of 10 per cent of the affected residents. That is the form that will be utilised in that process.

ROADS PROGRAM

Mr GAVIN (Coburg)—Can the Minister for Transport supply details to the House of the 1986–87 roads program and the benefits it will provide for all road users?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I am pleased to be able to inform the House that funds for roads in this State this year will be nearly $600 million, which is a clear demonstration by the Government of the importance it places on the continued development of our road system.

It is a clear demonstration that this State has maintained its contribution to roads in real terms and has increased its proportion of total funding for roads to 57 per cent, which is significantly more than it was two years ago because of the decision to maintain and to improve the road system despite the difficulties the Commonwealth Government has had in funding under the Australian Land Transport Program.

The Road Construction Authority will spend $268 million on road projects under its direct control and $138 million of the total program will be provided to municipal councils for work on arterial and local roads.

From time to time we have to deal with the very difficult task of making decisions as to where funds will be spent, and, as was made clear in the economic strategy and as has been made clear on other occasions, it is the concern of the Government to build up the economic infrastructure that this State so desperately needs in terms of the movement of freight and passengers.

This year the program in the roads area has made significant contributions both in the urban areas of the State—Melbourne and the other major urban areas—and also in country Victoria. Significant progress will be made on roads such as the Princes Highway East, which runs through our energy heartland and which has been rapidly developing.

Significant funds will also be available for the C3 link between the Mulgrave Freeway and the South-Eastern Freeway which is due to be completed in 1988. The Government has also provided significant funds for the completion of both carriageways of the West Gate Freeway. That particular decision was taken because of the need to provide certainty and also with the cooperation of the six bayside councils, all of whom were prepared to forgo some their local road funds—not all of their local road funds—to contribute to this very significant project that will reduce, in a major way, the amount of traffic, particularly trucks, going through their areas.

The local members, in particular the honourable members for Albert Park, St Kilda and Mentone, have been urging us to complete that work and we have done so, without, one might add, adding to the total level of projects. This has been done as much by greater efficiency in the operation of the roads program as by any other means.

A number of steps are being taken in the Road Construction Authority and the Road Traffic Authority to improve the cost effectiveness of the roads program. The Victorian community strongly supports the Government's initiatives in this area—as does local government—and also strongly supports our continuing claim upon the Commonwealth Government for, not necessarily a greater quantum of funds for all States, but a much fairer share for Victorian motorists and road users.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth)—Mr Speaker, I wish to make a personal explanation. During question time the Premier sought to ridicule a number of honourable members, especially me, when he claimed—

An Honourable Member—It is easy!

Mr I. W. SMITH—I shall not reduce myself to the level of the Premier in spite of the grave temptation to do so, but he claimed that I had sought the expenditure of $470

million of State revenue forgone—although he did not say that—by way of wellhead and fuel tax on oil.

The context in which my remarks were made at a meeting in Mortlake was to point out to those people who were listening—the Premier's correspondent was clearly not listening—that there is a wide disparity in use between those who live in the country and those who live in the city. Country people use approximately 50 per cent more fuel than city people and the main point of my argument was that country people do not enjoy the subsidised commuter transport provided by this Government at an expense of about $800 million a year or about $1500 a household.

That was the context in which the remarks were made and, if they had been honestly portrayed in this place, they would have made some sense, but not in the way the Premier chose to single them out and try to ridicule the Opposition for pointing out to the community the disparity which his Government is continuing to cause and aggravate.

PETITIONS

The Clerk—I have received the following petitions for presentation to Parliament:

Buninyong Primary School

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

We, the undersigned, plead that to compensate for years of Government disinterest, neglect and broken promises, resulting in the deterioration of the Buninyong Primary School facilities in the face of increasing enrolments, the Parliament will authorise funding to:

(*a*) enable the commencement of the approved buildings upgrade—stage 1, in the calendar year 1986;

(*b*) enable immediate maintenance to the 1874 building to prevent further deterioration and disrepair affecting the health and safety of pupils.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Sheehan** (617 signatures)

Merinda Park Primary School site

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of residents of the Merinda Park estate sheweth that the land reserved for a primary school in the Merinda Park estate is proposed to be sold by the Ministry of Education.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the site be retained and that the construction of a primary school be commenced as soon as possible.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Maclellan** (381 signatures)

Brighton bus services

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth that the Metropolitan Transit Authority is considering substituting bus services from Brighton to a point in St Kilda Road near the Shrine of Remembrance in place of the existing services on bus routes numbers 601 and 602 from Brighton to the central business district of the City of Melbourne.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the State Government will take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the present bus services on routes numbers 601 and 602 be maintained so as to convey passengers on uninterrupted journeys from Brighton to the central business district of the City of Melbourne and from the said central business district to Brighton.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Stockdale** (34 signatures)

Burwood police station

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth that there is a possibility of the Burwood police station being closed because of Government constraints on finances allocated to the Victoria Police.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Burwood police station shall remain operational with at least the same level of services as presently exist.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Kennett** (75 signatures)

Fluoridation of water supply

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

In as much as the Victorian Cancer Registry shows that Victorians have the highest incidence of rectal cancer in the world and also rank among the top countries for colon cancer, lymphoma, bladder cancer and melanoma we request that:

1. Since fluoride is a carcinogen the Government should immediately stop the fluoridation of the water supplies and repeal the 1973 Act now.

2. In so doing restoring to we the people the freedom of choice so essential to those who believe in democratic principles.

And we your humble petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Kennett** (15 signatures) and **Mr Kirkwood** (75 signatures)

Birth, death and marriage records

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth that, seventy-four (74) days after the release of the indexes to pre-1896 birth, death and marriage records for Victoria held by the Office of the Government Statist, the cost of obtaining certificates was increased by 90 per cent for those records most commonly used for historical research. The cost has been increased from $5 to $9.50 for pre-1896 certificates, provided the reference number from the indexes is supplied with the request; from $10 to $19 for the certificates for the period 1896 to 1911 and from $18 to $19 for the period 1911 to 1986.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Dr Vaughan** (205 signatures)

Bicyclists' safety legislation

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the parents, staff and children attending Huntingdale High School, Farm Road, South Oakleigh, sheweth that cyclists not obliged to wear safety helmets face great dangers. Your petitioners therefore pray that steps will be taken to apply safety legislation to cyclists.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Dr Vaughan** (54 signatures)

Film censorship

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria respectfully showeth:

that the film insults Christians and their belief in the virtue and dignity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

that the film portrays modern-day Mary in a most negative and degrading manner.

that the film insults the status of women and does not reflect the majority of women in today's society.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Government of the State of Victoria will reject any attempt to screen the film and will ensure that the religious and moral beliefs of the people of Victoria are not violated.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Norris** (41 signatures)

Drug/toxicological unit

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Victoria sheweth concern for the welfare of animals used in research, teaching, training and product testing.

Your petitioners therefore pray that you take cognisance of their total opposition to the establishment of a drug safety evaluation centre or toxicological unit at Werribee or anywhere else in the State of Victoria and that any attempts to establish such a unit be rejected.

Your petitioners further pray that you be made aware of the huge numbers of live animals used in such units for product testing and that some of the specific tests are demonstrably cruel and are not compatible with man's own dignity as a rational, intelligent or compassionate being.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Richardson** (436 signatures)

Conductors on country trains

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Victoria wish to record our protest at the lack of conductors on Geelong trains.

We draw the Parliament's attention to the role of conductors. Their job is to collect fares and to be available, so that the comfort and safety of passengers is assured.

We are thus greatly concerned that a loss of public revenue is already occurring due to uncollected fares.

In particular, we believe that without adequate staffing on trains, passengers are placed in uncomfortable and potentially dangerous situations.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the honourable House will take immediate steps to restore conductors on all country trains.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Shell** (831 signatures)

Angel of Mercy services

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

We the undersigned are totally opposed to any change in the Angel of Mercy service. We want the Angel of Mercy to operate from Tyabb on the Mornington Peninsula.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Brown** (124 signatures)

Police strength

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

We the undersigned concerned citizens of Hawthorn call on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to immediately upgrade the police strength and vehicles in the Hawthorn area to overcome the high rate of crime.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Gude** (104 signatures)

Police stations closure

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria showeth they are totally opposed to any move to close any of the police stations within the municipal district of the Shire of Karkarooc.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Whiting** (484 signatures)

Rail freight charges

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned that charges for handling and transport for the Victorian grain harvest are seriously affecting the viability of the cereal industry in this State.

The undersigned humbly petition the Parliament of Victoria to take all measures within their power to ensure that a 20 per cent grain rail freight rate reduction occurs for season 1986–87, and that the Grain Elevators Board is relieved of the public authority dividend payment, to assist in the provision of a realistic grain handling charge for 1986–87.

Your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Whiting** (1410 signatures)

Kindergartens

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria, being parents of children attending the Hughesdale Kindergarten, showeth:

Attendance at a kindergarten is a vital period in the education, intellectual and social development of the children of this State;

kindergarten is an educational year for children, and should not be compared with child care;

the Hughesdale Kindergarten provides kindergarten education to children living in the suburbs of Oakleigh, Hughesdale and Murrumbeena;

most of these children come from families in the low socio-economic groups;

one-third of the children at the kindergarten come from migrant or ethnic families;

proposals under consideration by the State Department Community Services Victoria constitute a serious threat to the funding, existence and accessibility of all kindergartens, including Hughesdale Kindergarten;

one proposal involves the withdrawal of the operating grant to kindergartens, this grant in the case of Hughesdale Kindergarten constituting one quarter of its budget;

if the kindergarten is forced to raise its fees, many parents will not be able to continue sending their children, which will be to the loss of the community;

another proposal involves the removal of the option for a second year at kindergarten for children who are not emotionally equipped to start primary schooling;

these children will suffer from their premature entry into the school system, and their education may never recover;

there is also the right of parents to choose the kindergarten for their child to attend.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that:

The Parliament reaffirms the right of all Victorian children to attend low-cost and accessible kindergartens in their neighbourhood;

the Parliament ensures the continuation of the operating grants for kindergartens;

the operating grant, which has not been increased since 1971, be indexed to the rate of inflation;

funding for children who, for educational reasons, require a second year at kindergarten be continued;

the Parliament recognise kindergartens as essential pre-school education, not child minding centres.

And your petitioners, as is duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Mathews** (73 signatures)

Food Act 1984

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth our concern that food prepared in home kitchens can no longer be sold at local community markets and your petitioners therefore pray that the State Government propose amendments to the Cleanliness (Foods, Drugs and Substances) Regulations 1984 and the Food Act to allow for home food products to be sold at these markets.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Dickinson** (665 signatures)

Contraceptive vending machines

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth that we are opposed to the installation of contraceptive vending machines in the South Barwon municipality.

Your petitioners therefore pray that in order to halt a further deterioration of the moral fabric of our community, the Government's and Health Department's energies in trying to eradicate such diseases as AIDS would be better directed to assisting parents in the education of their children about health issues, as it is the parents who have ultimate responsibility and the interests of their children at heart.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Dickinson** (782 signatures)

School Medical Service

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth:

We are concerned that the invaluable service of an annual medical examination provided by the School Medical Service to all children attending four-year-old kindergarten will be discontinued or downgraded.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Legislative Assembly will stop any move to discontinue or downgrade this service to our children.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Coleman** (24 signatures)

Kindergartens

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth:

We are concerned that any child who is assessed as not yet ready for school and is required to complete a second year of kindergarten will not automatically be funded but only be funded on a case by case basis.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Legislative Assembly will support automatic funding for any child requiring a second year at kindergarten.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Coleman** (24 signatures)

Mental health services

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth:

That community mental health support services are seriously underfunded and unavailable in many areas in Victoria.

These services include psycho-social rehabilitation programs, self/mutual help groups, supported employment opportunities and supported community housing facilities for that large number of Victorians who have a psycho-social disability.

Your petitioners humbly pray that the Victorian Government will provide for the significant improvement in funding needed for these services.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Coleman** (53 signatures)

Natural gas supply

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth our concern that the owners and residents of the 500 (approx.) rateable properties in the Werribee South area of the Shire of Werribee are severely disadvantaged by virtue of not being connected to the State's natural gas supply. In signing our names to this petition we indicate that we would be prepared to connect to such a gas supply if it were available.

Your humble petitioners therefore pray that the State Government through the auspices of the Gas and Fuel Corporation will arrange for a detailed study to be undertaken into the feasibility of supplying natural gas to the area.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Dr Coghill** (459 signatures)

Altona pier

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth that whereas:

1. It is proposed that the length of the pier be reduced by approximately 30 metres.

2. The Altona pier, which is located near Pier Street in the City of Altona, is the only pier between Williamstown and Geelong which is accessible to the public.

3. The pier is used quite extensively, particularly during the warmer months of the year, by residents drawn from most suburbs of Melbourne as well as country areas of Victoria.

4. The pier is the only facility in this area which is available to the public and capable of handling deeper draught craft.

5. The pier is a valuable and frequently utilised public facility at Altona and it should not be reduced in length.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your honourable House will ensure that the Altona Pier is not reduced in length and that adequate maintenance works are carried out to keep the pier in a safe and usable condition.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Stirling** (2269 signatures)

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

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

Subordinate Legislation and Interpretation of Legislation Act

Mr WHITING (Mildura) presented three reports of the Legal and Constitutional Committee on subordinate legislation:

the fourth report on subordinate legislation recommending the disallowance of the Health (Tobacco Packages—Warnings) Regulations 1986 (Statutory Rule 119 of 1986)

Regulations 3 (1), 5–9 inclusive and the schedule, together with an appendix, an extract from the proceedings of the committee and a minority report;

the fifth report on subordinate legislation in relation to—

(*a*) the Film (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (Statutory Rule 14 of 1986) and the Births, Deaths and Marriages (Prescribed Fees) Regulations 1985 (Statutory Rule 53 of 1986), and

(*b*) recommending the disallowance of the Health (Radiation Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (Statutory Rule 49 of 1986); and

the second report on the operation of section 32 of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 in relation to the Industrial Relations (Complementary Industrial Relations System) Regulations 1986 (Statutory Rule 56 of 1986).

It was ordered that the reports and appendix, extract from the proceedings and minority report be laid on the table and be printed.

COMMAND PAPER

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts) presented, by command of this Excellency the Governor, the report of the Supreme Court judges for the year 1985.

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:

Building Societies—Report of the Registrar for the year 1984–85—Ordered to be printed.

Chiropodists Registration Board—Report and Statement of accounts for the year 1985.

Co-operative Housing Societies—Report of the Registrar for the year 1984–85—Ordered to be printed.

Co-operative Societies—Report of the Registrar for the year 1984–85—Ordered to be printed.

Dental Technicians Act 1972—

Advanced Dental Technicians Qualifications Board—Report for the year 1984–85.

Dental Technicians Licensing Committee—Report for the year 1984–85.

Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust—Report for the year 1984–85.

Industrial Training Commission—Report for the year 1984–85—Ordered to be printed.

Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958—

Proclamation declaring that oranges, mandarins and grapefruit shall become the property of the Citrus Fruit Marketing Board.

Proclamation declaring that tobacco shall become the property of the Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board.

Monash University—Report of the Council for the year 1984; together with Statutes approved by the Governor in Council during the year 1984.

Parliamentary Officers Act 1975—

Statement of Appointments and Alterations of Classifications in the—

Department of the Legislative Council

Department of the Joint House Committee

Department of the Parliament Library

Department of the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates

Statement of Persons Temporarily Employed in the—

Department of the Legislative Council

Department of the Joint House Committee

Department of the Parliament Library

Department of the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates.

Police Regulation Act 1958—

Determinations Nos 451 to 460 of the Police Service Board.

Determination No. 2 of the Police Service Board for Police Recruits.

Port of Geelong Authority—Statement of accounts for the year 1985.

Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959—General Abstract of the number of births, stillbirths, deaths and marriages in Victoria for the year 1985.

River Murray Commission—Report for the year 1984–85.

State Employees Retirement Benefits Fund—Report of the Actuary for the three years ended 30 June 1985.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts:

Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act 1973—Nos 194, 195, 196.

Accident Compensation Act 1985—No. 182.

Alpine Resorts Act 1983—Nos 130, 199.

Audit Act 1958—No. 118.

Building Control Act 1981—No. 187.

Business Franchise (Tobacco) Act 1974—No. 183.

Cluster Titles Act 1974—No. 163.

Coal Mines Act 1958—No. 211.

Companies (Acquisition of Shares) (Application of Laws) Act 1981—Nos 155, 159.

Companies (Application of Laws) Act 1981—Nos 156, 157, 158.

Consumer Affairs Act 1972—No. 230.

Coroners Act 1958—No. 112.

Coroners Act 1985—No. 126.

County Court Act 1958—Nos 106, 133, 224.

Dairy Industry Act 1984—

No. 128 together with copies of the following documents required by Section 32 of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 to accompany the Statutory Rule—

Dairy Test Manual published by the Department of Agriculture and as revised at 30 June 1984.

AS 1528 Tubes (Stainless Steel) and Tube Fittings for the Food Industry—Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4.

AS 2070 Plastics Materials for Food Contact Use—Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

No. 135 together with copies of the following documents required by Section 32 of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 to accompany the Statutory Rule—

Dairy Test Manual published by the Department of Agriculture and as revised at 30 June 1984.

Export Inspection Manual Dairy Produce Part II March 1985.

AS 1084—1974 Methods for the Analysis of Liquid Milk and Cream.

AS N26—1969 The Determination of Percentage of Fat in Milk by the Babcock Method.

AS 1938—1976 The Determination of the Fat Content of Milk on a mass per volume basis.

AS 2300—Methods of Chemical and Physical Testing for the Dairying Industry.

AS N48—1965 Methods for the Chemical Analysis of Condensed Milk.

AS 1629—1974 Methods for the Analysis of Dried Milk and Whey.

AS N60—1970 Sampling and Analysis of Acid and Rennet Caseins.

AS 1739—1975 Analysis of Butter.

AS N75—1970 The Sampling and Chemical Analysis of Cheese.

AS 1095—Micro-biological Methods for the Dairy Industry.

AS N40—1962 Density Hydrometers for use in Milk—Part 1.

AS 2148—1978 Hydrometers for use in Milk.

AS 1374—1981 In-line Milk Sampling Devices for use in Bulk Milk Collection.

AS 1030—1973 Dial-type General Purpose Thermometers for use in the Dairying Industry.

Australian Code of Practice for Dairy Factories April 1978.

AS 1719—1981 Recommended Common Names for Pesticides.

Dangerous Goods Act 1986—No. 94 together with copies of the following documents required by Section 32 of the Interpretation of Legislation Act to accompany the Statutory Rule—

AS 1563—1974 General Purpose Freight Containers (International Sizes).

AS 1727—1975 Tank Containers (International Sizes).

AS 2106—1980 Determination of the Flash Point of Flammable Liquids (Closed Cup).

I.P. Standards for Petroleum and its Products, Part I, Methods for Analysis and Testing, Volume I, Methods I.P. 1-261.

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. P8 (9 April 1984)—Australia Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail.

Decentralised Industry Incentive Payments Act 1972—No. 178.

Dental Technicians Act 1972—Nos 145, 180.

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981—No. 179.

Extractive Industries Act 1966—No. 221.

Fertilizers Act 1974—No. 149.

Films Act 1971—No. 115.

Firearms Act 1958—Nos 186, 219, 228.

Fisheries Act 1968—Nos 82 (In lieu of Statutory Rule tabled on 15 April 1986); 108, 136, 225.

Forests Act 1958—No. 191.

Freedom of Information Act 1982—No. 111.

Groundwater Act 1969—Nos 122, 222.

Health Act 1958—

No. 104 together with copies of the following documents required by Section 32 of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 to accompany the Statutory Rule—

Regulation 5A (3) of the Commonwealth Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations.

Regulation 19 of the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Regulations.

Nos 116, 119, 162, 190, 215.

Hospitals and Charities Act 1958—No. 109.

Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965—No. 212.

Industrial Relations Act 1979—No. 218.

Infertility (Medical Procedures) Act 1984—No. 189.

Instruments Act 1958—No. 169.

Land Act 1958—No. 110.

Legal Aid Commission Act 1978—

Nos 127, 154.

No. 185 together with a copy of the following document required by Section 32 of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 to accompany the Statutory Rule—

The Guide to Legal Assistance.

Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1966—Nos 13, 184, 203.

Magistrates' Court Act 1971—Nos 107, 151.

Magistrates' Courts Act 1971 and Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975—Nos 144, 223.

Marine Act 1958—Nos 174, 188.

Medical Practitioners Act 1970—No. 229.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958—Nos 138, 139, 140, 147, 148.

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Act 1976—Nos 175, 213.

Mines Act 1958—No. 220.

Motor Car Act 1958—Nos 132, 214.

Motor Car Act 1958 and Transport Act 1983—No. 131.

National Gallery of Victoria Act 1966—No. 150.

National Parks Act 1975—Nos 161, 192.

Pay-roll Tax Act 1971—No. 170.

Penalties and Sentences Act 1985—Nos 123, 124.

Penalties and Sentences Act 1985 and Magistrates' Courts Act 1971—No. 125.

Port of Portland Authority Act 1958—Nos 103, 181.

Post-Secondary Education Act 1978—Nos 197, 198.

Professional Boxing Control Act 1985—Nos 117, 201.

Printers and Newspapers Act 1958—No. 153.

Property Law Act 1958—No. 167.

Public Authorities Marks Act 1958—No. 146.

Public Service Act 1974—Nos 164, 200, 216, 227; P.S.D. Nos 4, 13 to 31.

Racing Act 1958—Nos 102, 137, 204 to 210.

Reference Areas Act 1978—No. 193.

Religious Successory and Charitable Trusts Act 1958—No. 152.

Securities Industry (Application of Laws) Act 1981— No. 160.

Stamps Act 1958—No. 121.

State Electricity Commission Act 1958—No. 120.

Strata Titles Act 1967—No. 168.

Superannuation Benefits Act 1977—Nos 171, 176.

Supreme Court Act 1958—Nos 105, 134, 141, 142, 172.

Supreme Court Act 1958 and Adoption Act 1984—No. 143.

Supreme Court Act 1958 and Adoption Act 1984 and Children (Guardianship and Custody) Act 1984—No. 113.

Supreme Court Act 1958 and Legal Profession Practices Act 1958—No.114.

Teaching Service Act 1981—No. 226.

The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958—No. 165.

Transfer of Land Act—No. 166.

Water and Sewerage Authorities (Restructuring) Act 1983—No. 177.

Youth, Sport and Recreation Act 1972—No. 202.

Zoological Parks and Gardens Act 1967—Nos 129, 217.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1962—Amendment by Attorney-General to guidelines in respect to the preparation and content of Statutory Rules contained in Schedule 2 of the Act (New 3B).

Town and Country Planning Act 1961:

Alexandra—Shire of Alexandra Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 30.

Ararat—City of Ararat Planning Scheme 1953, Amendment No. 35/1985.

Bacchus Marsh Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 31.

Ballaarat—City of Ballaarat Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 85.

Bass—Shire of Bass Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 27A.

Benalla—

City of Benalla Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 37, 38A, 40, 41.

Shire of Benalla Planning Scheme 1953, Amendment No. 28.

Bendigo—City of Bendigo Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 41.

Berwick—City of Berwick Local Development Scheme, Amendment No. 7.

Bright—Shire of Bright Planning Scheme 1983 and Amendment No. 2.

Bulla—Shire of Bulla Planning Scheme 1959, Amendment No. 56/1976.

Buninyong—Shire of Buninyong Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 28, 29, 30.

Camberwell—City of Camberwell Local Development Scheme.

Chiltern—Shire of Chiltern Planning Scheme 1982.

Colac—City of Colac Planning Scheme 1963, Amendment No. 23.

Cranbourne—

Cranbourne Planning Scheme 1960, Amendments Nos 50/1985, 55/1985, 56/1985, 58/1985.

Shire of Cranbourne (Western Port) Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 33/1985, 34/1985, 36/1985, 37/1985.

Croydon—City of Croydon Planning Scheme 1961, Amendments Nos 135, 141, 143.

Flinders—Shire of Flinders Planning Scheme 1962, Amendments Nos 192/1985, 193/1985, 196/1985, 197,199/1985, 201/1985.

Frankston—City of Frankston Local Development Scheme No. 1/1982.

Geelong Regional Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 109/1984, 110 Part 2A, 115 Part 1/1985, 125 Part 2/1985, 129/1985, 130, 131 Part B/1985, 132/1985, 137/1985, 144/1985, 145 Part 1/1985, 147/1985, 149/1985, 150, 151, 153, 155/1986, 162, 166.

Hamilton—City of Hamilton Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 23, 24.

Hastings—Shire of Hastings Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 27.

Horsham—City of Horsham Planning Scheme 1982, Amendments Nos 79/1984, 81/1984.

Kilmore—Shire of Kilmore Planning Scheme 1973, Amendment No. 59/1985.

Knox—City of Knox Planning Scheme 1965, Amendments Nos 274/1985, 282/1985.

Korumburra—Shire of Korumburra Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 29/1985, 32/1985, 33/1985.

Kyabram—Town of Kyabram Planning Scheme 1963, Amendments Nos 33/1985, 34/1985.

Lillydale—Shire of Lillydale Planning Scheme 1958, Amendments Nos 174, 214.

Lorne Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 7, 12.

Maffra—Shire of Maffra (Heyfield Township) Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 17.

Maryborough—City of Maryborough Planning Scheme 1983.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 21 Part 8C; 202, 263, 275 Part 3A; 315 Part 2; 317 Part 3; 318 Part 2; 319 Part 2, Part 3; 321 Part 2; 323 Part 1; 324 Part 1; 325 Part 1, Part 2; 336; 372; 390; 397; 398; 401; 403; 407; 408; 411; 412.

Myrtleford—Shire of Myrtleford (Myrtleford Township) Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 11.

Portland—

Shire of Portland (Heywood Township) Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 9.

Town of Portland Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 46.

Rosedale—Shire of Rosedale Planning Scheme, Part 2, Amendment No. 13/1983.

Sebastopol—Borough of Sebastopol Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 34, 36.

Seymour Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 91.

Sherbrooke—Shire of Sherbrooke Planning Scheme 1979 (Urban Areas), Amendments Nos 15/1983 Part I; 42; 45.

Shepparton—City of Shepparton Planning Scheme 1953, Amendment No. 91/1985.

Tambo—Shire of Tambo (Lakes Entrance) Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 63.

Wangaratta Sub-Regional Planning Scheme—

City of Wangaratta, Amendment No. 16.

Shire of Oxley, Amendment No. 1/1985.

Shire of Wangaratta, Amendment No. 3/1985.

Waratah Bay Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 2.

Warragul Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 51.

Warrnambool—City of Warrnambool Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 19.

Woorayl—Shire of Woorayl Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 81, 82.

Youth Parole Board—Report for the year 1984-85—Ordered to be printed.

The following proclamations fixing operative dates for Acts were laid upon the table by the Clerk, pursuant to an Order of the House dated 3 April 1985:

Administrative Law (University Visitor) Act 1986—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No.48, 18 June 1986).

Biological Control Act 1986—16 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 60, 16 July 1986).

BLF (De-recognition) Act 1985—14 April 1986 (other than Sections 4, 5 and 7) (*Gazette* No. 23, 14 April 1986); Section 7—1 August 1986, Sections 4 and 5—1 January 2000 (*Gazette* No. 63, 28 July 1986).

Building Societies Act 1986—1 May 1986 (*Gazette* No. 30, 30 April 1986).

Children's Court (Amendment) Act 1986—Sections 1 to 5 (3) and 5 (7) to 9—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 48, 18 June 1986).

Coroners Act 1985—Remaining provisions—1 June 1986 (*Gazette* No. 30, 30 April 1986).

Courts Amendment Act 1986—Sections 1 to 11, 13 to 27 and 29 to 34—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986); Section 28—1 September 1986 (*Gazette* No. 72, 27 August 1986).

Crimes (Amendment) Act 1986—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986).

Education (Miscellaneous Matters) Act 1986—7 May 1986 (with the exception of Section 20) (*Gazette* No. 35, 7 May 1986).

Emergency Management Act 1986—Sections 1 to 7, 10 to 17, 22 to 24, 36 and 39—27 June 1986 (*Gazette* No. 48, 18 June 1986).

Extractive Industries (Amendment) Act 1986—30 April 1986 (*Gazette* No. 30, 30 April 1986).

Firearms (Amendment) Act 1985—Section 9—9 April 1986 (*Gazette* No. 22, 9 April 1986); Section 14—4 June 1986 (*Gazette* No. 44, 4 June 1986).

Fire Authorities (Amendment) Act 1986—Section 8—1 August 1986 (*Gazette* No. 65, 30 July 1986).

Futures Industry (Application of Laws) Act 1986—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986).

Guardianship and Administration Board Act 1986—Section 14—8 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986).

Health (Amendment) Act 1985—Sections 4, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 (7)—1 March 1986 (*Gazette* No. 12, 26 February 1986).

Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 1986—Sections 1 to 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29 and 30—4 June 1986; Sections 20, 23, 25, 26 and 28—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 44, 4 June 1986).

Infertility (Medical Procedures) Act 1984—Sections 3, 6 (1), 6 (2), 6 (3), 6 (4), 6 (6), 6 (7), 6 (8), 7, 8, 9, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32 and 33—10 August 1986 (*Gazette* No. 67, 6 August 1986).

Legal Aid Commission (Amendment) Act 1986—1 May 1986 (*Gazette* No. 30, 30 April 1986).

Legal Profession Practice (Amendment) Act 1986—25 June 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986).

Liquor Control (Further Amendment) Act 1986—25 June 1986 (except Section 21); Section 21—31 December 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986).

Lotteries, Gaming and Betting (Amendment) Act 1986—Sections 1 to 4 and 10 to 17—14 May 1986 (*Gazette* No. 38, 14 May 1986); Sections 5 (sub-sections 1 to 5) and 6—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986); Sections 8 (1) (*a*) and 8 (2) (*b*)—6 August 1986 (*Gazette* No. 67, 6 August 1986).

Miner's Phthisis (Treasury Allowances) Act 1986—27 May 1986 (*Gazette* No. 40, 23 May 1986).

Mines (Amendment) Act 1986—4 June 1986 (*Gazette* No. 44, 4 June 1986).

National Parks (Amendment) Act 1986—Sections 4 (3) and 4 (4) and 11—26 June 1986 (*Gazette* No. 49, 25 June 1986).

Penalties and Sentences Act 1985—Sections 5 to 10; Part 3, Division 1; Parts 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11; Items 1 to 5, 7 to 15 and 17 to 21, of Schedule 4—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 30, 30 April 1986).

Police Regulation (Amendment) Act 1985—Section 14—4 June 1986 (*Gazette* No. 44, 4 June 1986); Section 10—14 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 56, 9 July 1986); Section 6—18 August 1986 (*Gazette* No. 67, 6 August 1986).

Professional Boxing Control Act 1985—Sections 6 to 13, 15 to 21 and 23—13 May 1986 (*Gazette* No. 37, 13 May 1986).

Public Records (Amendment) Act 1986—Sections 1 to 4 and 6 to 8—1 August 1986 (*Gazette* No. 65, 30 July 1986).

Racing (Amendment) Act 1986—Sections 1 to 7, 9 and 10—18 June 1986; Sections 8, 11, 12 and 13—1 August 1986 (*Gazette* No. 48, 18 June 1986).

Racing (Fixed Percentage Distribution) Act 1985—1 May 1986 (*Gazette* No. 24, 16 April 1986).

Town and Country Planning (Transfer of Functions) Act 1985—Sections 5, 6 (1) and 8 (2)—1 July 1986 (*Gazette* No. 48, 18 June 1986).

Young Offenders (Interstate Transfer) Act 1986—Sections 2, 3, 6, 9, 10 and 11—15 September 1986 (*Gazette* No. 73, 3 September 1986).

APPROPRIATION MESSAGES

The SPEAKER announced that he had received messages from His Excellency the Governor recommending that appropriations be made from the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of the following Bills:

Transport Accident Bill

Martial Arts Control Bill

Retail Tenancies Bill

Land Acquisition and Compensation Bill

SENATE VACANCY

The SPEAKER—I have received the following message from His Excellency the Deputy Governor:

The Deputy Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly a copy of a despatch which has been received from the Honourable the President of the Senate notifying that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the State of Victoria in the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Your Excellency,

Pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, I notify Your Excellency that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the State of Victoria through the resignation of Senator Donald Leslie Chipp on 18 August 1986.

Yours faithfully,
(Douglas McClelland)

JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT
Senate Vacancy

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I move:

That this House meets the Legislative Council for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Donald Leslie Chipp, and proposes that the place and time of such meeting be the Legislative Assembly Chamber on Wednesday, 17 September 1986 at six o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

It was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting them with the foregoing resolution.

JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board

The SPEAKER—I have received the following communication from the Minister for Education:

Dear Mr Speaker,

Section 7 of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board Act 1986 No. 50/1986 sets the membership of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board and provides for the appointment of three Members of the Parliament to the Board—the Members to be recommended for appointment by a joint sitting of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly conducted in accordance with the rules adopted for the purpose by the Members present at the sitting.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for such a joint sitting to recommend Members for appointment to the vacancies.

Yours sincerely,

IAN CATHIE
Minister for Education

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I move:

That this House meets the Legislative Council for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose three members of the Parliament of Victoria to be appointed to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board and proposes that the place and time of such meeting be the Legislative Assembly Chamber on Wednesday, 17 September 1986 at six o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

It was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting them with the foregoing resolution.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

The SPEAKER—I wish to advise that on 30 July 1986 I administered to Bennie David Bodna, the Public Advocate, the oath required by Schedule 3 of the Guardianship and Administration Board Act 1986.

SUPREME COURT (RULES OF PROCEDURE) BILL

The debate (adjourned from May 7) on the motion of Mr Mathews (Minister for the Arts) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr JOHN (Bendigo East)—This is a short Bill of only six clauses, and it is totally supported by the Opposition. For many years the judges of the Supreme Court of Victoria have made rules of procedure for the conduct of civil proceedings in the courts of Victoria. The rules are voluminous, detailed and complex. Originally, they were specifically designed to enable the proper conduct of civil litigation in the Supreme Court. Since 1884 when the rules were first formulated, they have been amended on a number of occasions.

As time has passed, problems have arisen and the time has now arrived for the rules to be rewritten. That work has been completed and the newly drafted rules of the Supreme Court have been approved by the judges. The new rules are now before Parliament embodied in the Bill to be ratified as the law of Victoria.

Section 25 of the Supreme Court Act sets out the heads of power. The rules of the Supreme Court must properly fall within those heads of power. However, there is uncertainty in some quarters of the legal profession and the judiciary about some of the rules and whether they do fall within the heads of power.

In cases where the rules fall outside the heads of power, they are ultra vires or invalid. Some of the new rules that have been formulated create new substantive law and, therefore, do not fall within the heads of power of section 25 of the Act. I specifically draw the attention of honourable members to rules 26, 32, 33 and 36.

Rule 26.03 deals with offers of compromise in civil proceedings. This rule replaces the old provisions relating to payments into court. The method of payment into court that is used in civil actions is a method by which an offer can be made to a plaintiff in order to come to a settlement of the action. It is a form of negotiation. Under the new rules, as well as one party making an offer, the other party will now be able to make a counter offer. That will assist in the process of negotiating a settlement and achieving a compromise.

In common law, any counter offer negated the original offer and that also applied in the law of contract. Rule 26.03 specifically overcomes that difficulty and it is thought that because it will be substantive law, it will not fall under the heads of power in section 25, so it needs to be ratified by this Bill. It is a major change and it is worth while for the conduct of civil proceedings in Victoria.

Rule 32 relates to preliminary discovery. The rules relating to discovery permit parties to an action to look at and obtain copies of documents that are to be used by the other side in an action. Rule 32 alters that law. In the past, the law of discovery related only to parties to the action—the plaintiff, the defendant and any other parties who joined as plaintiffs or defendants in an action. Rule 32 provides for preliminary discovery so that one can use the system to endeavour to ascertain the name and identity of the correct defendant in an action in order to avoid wasting time and money by suing the wrong defendant.

Rule 32 also includes discovery to a non-party to the action; that is to a person who is not joined as one of the parties to the action.

Rule 33 relates to medical examinations. The exchange of medical information before trial is part of the system of justice in actions in the Supreme Court. That has been the rule for many years, but many lawyers and judges have thought that aspect of it may breach the rules or ethics of confidentiality that exist between patients and their medical practitioners. Rule 33 protects the parties in respect of that type of procedure.

Rule 36.01 (6) abolishes the rule established in the case of *Weldon* v. *Neal*, which states that one cannot amend a writ after the limitation period has expired. As honourable members would be aware, limitation periods exist in which an application must be brought if it is to be valid. In future, if a plaintiff wishes to issue a writ, rule 36 will enable the writ to be amended even though the amendment is sought after the limitation period has expired. The only qualification to that is that the defendant must not be prejudiced.

The Bill needs to be passed quickly. The rules come into force on 1 January 1987, and the legal profession and ancillary arms of the profession must be briefed and educated about the rules and forms needed to be printed. Therefore, the Opposition seeks a speedy passage of the Bill.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—The National Party supports the Bill, which originated in the other place. The proposed legislation was debated in some detail in the other place and has just been referred to in some detail by the honourable member for Bendigo East, and I compliment him on the way he handled it.

The Bill deals with Supreme Court rules so far as civil procedures are concerned. Much detail is involved in the framing of those laws. I understand that the Bill represents the most comprehensive rewrite of the rules for more than 100 years. There has been input from all sections of the legal profession and the proposed rules have been approved by the judges of the Supreme Court.

The honourable member for Bendigo East referred to the Bill having a speedy passage. I agree that that is necessary as it must be in operation from 1 January 1987. However, if the Government had been better organised four or five months ago, we would have been

four or five months ahead now. I am not being acrimonious, but the Bill should have been dealt with during the last sessional period. Just because Bills come from the other place and take only 15 minutes to debate does not mean that they should be put at the bottom of the list—this House should try to debate one or two of those Bills a week.

There is a need for the better organisation of the House to ensure that that happens because so often we spend a couple of days on one Bill when other Bills of the same importance can be got through quickly.

Some doubt has arisen as to whether some of the proposed changes are covered by the Act and, as has been explained by the honourable member for Bendigo East, the proposed legislation will ensure there is no doubt as to the legality of what is being done. Finally, what we are doing will help speed the processes of the Supreme Court but the delays do concern me—I am not blaming any particular party or the Government for that—but a lot of work still needs to be done on procedures both in civil and criminal areas. However, the Bill refers to civil matters.

Despite the changes in Attorneys–General and the appointment of additional judges there seems to be a hard core of delays in the hearing of cases. We have a competent Attorney-General at present. He is more competent than some Attorneys-General in the past but perhaps not as competent as others. He has a challenge in endeavouring to short-circuit some of the entrenched procedures.

We have a good court system, but over the years I have witnessed parties who are experts in the delaying of court cases and that is something that must be attacked because the people of this State have become cynical about the delays in court hearings. These occur both in the County Court and the Supreme Court and in both the civil and criminal jurisdictions.

I commend the Government for the Bill but at the same time there is a continuing challenge and the delays must be overcome because one thing that must not occur in the future is that the law be held in poor repute by the public. We have a good system and it is up to us in this place to ensure—particularly the Government of the day—that the law and the procedures change with the times and are improved.

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—I thank both honourable members for their support for the Bill. I especially thank the Leader of the National Party for his commendation of the Attorney-General. I take the points that the honourable gentleman has made in regard to delays in court hearings. They will be taken on board by the Attorney-General who has demonstrated practical evidence of his desire that court procedures be speeded up in every possible way. When the records of this time are written I believe the Attorney-General will be seen to be one who has made a notable contribution to law reform in the State of Victoria.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

VICTORIA CONSERVATION TRUST (AMENDMENT) BILL

The debate (adjourned from April 9) on the motion of Mr Wilkes (Minister for Housing) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr PLOWMAN (Evelyn)—The Bill amends the Victoria Conservation Trust Act. It is a simple Bill with a number of objectives, those being to alter the name of the Victoria Conservation Trust to the Victorian Conservation Trust; to increase the membership from five members to nine members; to provide a change in the quorum as appropriate with the increased membership from three members to five members; and to provide an alteration in the name of the members of the trust to the trustees.

The Bill makes provision for an annual reporting, for auditing and reporting to the Minister and Parliament. It provides for a report to the Minister on any subject that the Minister requires the trust to report on and in the Bill the operative word is that the trust "must" make such report. The Bill also creates a provision for positive covenants to apply to titles for land where land is left in control of the trust.

The Opposition has had a great deal of regard for the diligence and the work done by those people who have been members of the trust over past years. The trust was originally set up by a former Minister for Conservation, Mr Borthwick, in 1972 and has been served by a number of distinguished and dedicated persons since that time.

The Opposition supports the Bill because, generally, it appears to be sensible and necessary, particularly the reporting and the accountability provisions of the Bill, which will mean that members of Parliament will be able to see in its annual report what the trust has been doing during the year. The Minister will have greater control over the trust, and proper accountability and auditing will be ensured.

Earlier I referred to the change of name, at which time the Leader of the National Party interjected it was a big deal! I agree with him. It seems extraordinary to change the name from "Victoria" to "Victorian" and from "member" to "trustee". This would appear to be pure semantics and change for the sake of change. However, the Opposition will not oppose those matters. The Minister at the table may have some reason for those changes, but if he does not I shall not hold it against him.

The trust has been served by distinguished members in the past. When the membership is increased from five members to nine members I hope that, in the appointments by the Governor in Council—in other words, by the Minister of the day—cognisance will be taken of the calibre of people who have served on the trust in past years and that party hacks will not finish up as trustees simply because they have had some involvement in conservation and they have been party faithfuls. Whatever party is in power, it would be highly detrimental to the operations of the trust and what it is endeavouring to achieve on behalf of the people of Victoria if this occurred.

On the question of positive covenants, in the Act there is the capacity for negative covenants to be applied, which are relatively easy to administer. With positive covenants, undoubtedly the intent is good. However, a positive covenant is infinitely more difficult to administer and to enforce than is a negative covenant. Although it is good in theory, it may be difficult in practice to administer.

Only time will tell whether that provision in the Victoria Conservation Trust (Amendment) Bill, when enacted, will be properly administered for the benefit of the State or will achieve the laudable objects as proposed by a positive covenant.

The Opposition congratulates the Victoria Conservation Trust on the work it has done over past years for Victorians and wishes the trust continuation of that service to the community. The Opposition supports the Bill.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—The National Party supports this proposed legislation that has been adequately explained by the Minister for Housing. Some of the changes in the proposed legislation are minor.

I wish to comment on the proposed increase in trustees from five to nine. I echo the sentiments of the honourable member for Evelyn and hope the Government has the good sense to select the four best people to fill those positions. I say no more than that. Every Government has the responsibility of finding people to do certain jobs. When one serves on trusts, as the Minister for Housing and I have done and are still doing, sometimes one is surprised at how people perform. Honorary trusteeships are not sinecures and it is a considerable responsibility to appoint an interested intelligent person as a trustee. It does one's heart good to see this occur and both the Minister and I have been witnesses of that in the two trusteeships that we share.

The Minister for Housing interjected that the Honourable Lindsay Thompson is such a person. He is a trustee on the National Tennis Centre Trust and he has the time, intelligence and interest and has made a major contribution. I am glad the Minister mentioned that fact because Lindsay Thompson has the time to do the things that both the Minister and I sometimes cannot do.

I refer to the positive covenants that have been already referred to by the honourable member for Evelyn. Being a lawyer, I have dealt with restrictive and negative covenants and when one thinks of covenants one thinks only of restrictive and negative covenants, which is what thou shalt not do, but a positive covenant is what thou shalt do.

The honourable member for Evelyn indicated that the proof of the pudding will occur in the future. I will watch that with interest. The provision means the Act will have more force and it will be interesting to see the extent that it can be implemented, because I do not think it will be easy. It is easy to stop someone from doing something, but it is more difficult to take a person to water and make him drink.

I am delighted to have the opportunity of speaking on the proposed legislation and I wish the Victorian Conservation Trust well in the future.

Dr WELLS (Dromana)—I rise with pleasure to support the Bill and the Victoria Conservation Trust, which is the subject of the Bill.

In recent weeks in my electorate the Victoria Conservation Trust has made an outstanding contribution to the future heritage of Victoria.

I refer to two matters, the first being the property known as the Greens Bush Farm which adjoins the Nepean State Park. The Victoria Conservation Trust has launched a public appeal to raise funds for the purchase of some of this large area of 400 hectares and has received contributions from anonymous donations by people, to whom I pay tribute, of $235 000 to launch the appeal.

It was my pleasure to host a meeting in my electorate office recently at which the Honourable Alan Hunt accepted the chairmanship of the local appeal committee on behalf of the trust which has the aim of seeking a minimum $150 000. Another $150 000 is being promised by the Shire of Flinders and I am delighted to acknowledge the contribution of the Victorian Government in making available a further $150 000 on a matching dollar for dollar basis on public appeal in an endeavour to purchase a minimum 200 acres of this land.

The Green family themselves are likely to contribute in the order of 100 acres, which means that approximately 25 per cent of the area which adjoins the Nepean State Park will come into public ownership.

Some time ago I called on the Government to purchase the whole of the 400 hectares for the people of Victoria and their heritage. It is to my regret that Governments of the day have not seen their way clear to take up that challenge. I believe in this context the amount of money involved is quite small. I know the Green family are willing to co-operate in any practical scheme to bring about the total purchase of the property. For 60 years, since the land was selected, they have kept the land in an advanced state of conservation. They have not farmed it in the normal sense. I make a further Parliamentary appeal to the Government to reconsider the matter and to arrange the purchase of the whole of that land.

It is the last major area on the southern peninsula. The business and life of the peninsula in large measure is about tourism, conservation and the environment; the land will certainly more than pay for itself in commercial terms in the years ahead.

My main purpose today is to pay tribute to the Victoria Conservation Trust for its outstanding leadership in this matter.

The second matter to which I refer is the more recent announcement by the trust of a contribution of $460 000 to purchase 106 acres of land in Purves Road, Arthurs Seat, adjoining Seawinds National Park. This again is an outstanding area of land. The purpose in purchasing the land is to create a flora reserve, which was the wish and drive of the late Tim McKellar, whose vision was that this area be preserved—an area of authentic bushland for future Australians.

This area is almost unparalleled on the peninsula for its woodland vegetation, its wet heathland and swamps, fern valleys, orchids, lilies and grasslands. The land directly adjoins Seawinds National Park and I am delighted to note that the Chairman of the Victoria Conservation Trust, Dr Norman Wettenhall, in announcing the in globo purchase of the area said that negotiations are progressing with the National Parks Service for management of the area in future.

These areas of land symbolize the prospects that are still available in very limited number to Victorians to preserve land on the southern Mornington Peninsula that will not be available again, land that is centrally positioned for major use by Victorians and visitors to the State.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the leadership of the Victoria Conservation Trust and to ask the Government to examine the matter I raise at this time.

The Opposition has indicated that it believes land which is already controlled by the Government need not be rushed into further national parks. The land is secure. As money becomes available for management of national parks I am sure the Liberal Party will willingly and enthusiastically support these developments. Private land which comes on the market, which is freehold land, over which the owners have inalienable rights preserved by our democratic system, is a different proposition. When that land comes on the market it poses a problem for Governments because if it is not purchased at that time it may be lost for ever.

The Victoria Conservation Authority has avoided a most undesirable situation in the case of these two areas of precious land, but I urge the Government to examine further the rest of the land in the Greens Bush Farm to see if it also can be purchased at this time. If the people of Victoria, through voluntary and anonymous donations, can raise these sums of money to purchase these relatively large areas at this time at short notice, then the Government ought to be able to match it by purchasing the remainder of this farm.

Mr MACLELLAN (Berwick)—I seek an assurance from the Minister for Housing, which I think he might conveniently give in summing up the second-reading debate, that in respect of proposed section 11 (2), where the Bill provides that the Minister may, in writing, grant the trust an extension of time to such date as the Minister determines, that the period of extension is clearly not intended to be beyond a year.

Everybody accepts that the annual report might be late in preparation. The Bill provides that the trust might seek from the Minister an extension of time; and given that we are dealing with modern English and given the phrasing of proposed section 11 (2), the provision in the Bill has gone too far in the sense that it provides the opportunity for the report to be delayed for an indeterminate time. In other words, the Minister can choose any time.

I presume that the intention is an extension of time within a year. If the report were due in September, the extension of time certainly should not go beyond 30 June following that, and I seek an undertaking from the Minister that that is the intention of the legislation and that proposed section 11 (2) will not be used to hide a report from Parliament, the Bill having the intention of providing exactly the opposite—of requiring a report to be made.

I join with the honourable member for Evelyn in wishing the Victorian Conservation Trust a continuing success in its program of protecting valuable environmental aspects of Victoria and I hope the provision enabling the additional appointments to be made—taking the membership of the board to a far larger number—will not be an opportunity

for the Government to stack the board of trustees with party hacks. I assume that that is not the intention!

I also assume that the high standard that has existed in previous years will be maintained and that the Government will be vigilant and cautious to ensure that the people appointed as additional trustees will represent the best interests of conservation and have no hint of party favouritism about them so that the membership represents a balanced trust, which continues to retain the support of the people of Victoria as it has in the past.

It is a valuable feature of the trust's work that it has not been the subject of controversy, that it has undertaken outstanding work and that that work should be continued and not upset by the membership of the trust being disturbed by the appointment of a new group of people who may not have the background of those people who have been managing the trust in such an excellent manner up to date.

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—I thank the honourable member for Evelyn, the Leader of the National Party, the honourable member for Dromana and the honourable member for Berwick for their contributions.

The honourable member for Dromana suggested that the Government should interest itself in two areas of land on the Mornington Peninsula, and placed particular emphasis on one of those. I am prepared to take up that matter with the Minister for Planning and Environment.

The honourable member for Evelyn raised a number of points that basically praised the trust for the work that it has performed since the period of its inception and, as he pointed out, it was created by a former Minister in the last Liberal Government—the Honourable Bill Borthwick. There is no doubt that the trust has responded to conditions and demands in Victoria that perhaps no other body before it or since would have been able to tackle.

The honourable member for Berwick raised the question of proposed section 11 (2). I suggest to him that the Minister's intention is that the same provisions that provide for the tabling of annual reports in respect of other Acts should apply in this case; and it may well be that the wording is not as precise as it should be, but to make sure of that, I will certainly take up that point with the Minister for Planning and Environment and also point out to him that the existing provisions for annual reports required to be tabled in this House should apply and will apply in this particular case.

The honourable member for Berwick also raised the question of the additional four trustees, as did the Leader of the National Party. The additional four trustees will be selected by the Minister based on their expertise to fulfil a role alongside the other members of the trust and I am confident that the Minister will be selective and the new trustees will be able to take their place with the other members of the trust and continue the work that has been so beneficial to Victoria over the past few years.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

CEMETERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The debate (adjourned from April 9) on the motion of Mr Roper (Minister for Transport) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr WEIDEMAN (Frankston South)—Unlike the other Bills received from the Legislative Council, this Bill was the subject of very little debate; in fact, if one reads *Hansard*, one finds that it was probably the shortest debate on record in that Chamber, occupying approximately a quarter or less of one page. It was described as the "overlay areas" Bill or was concerned with the overlay area problems of the Melbourne General Cemetery.

I thank the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee, chaired by the honourable member for Preston, for supplying me with its comprehensive and excellent reports of November 1984 and November 1985.

I understand that the work of that committee will continue and I hope it does continue because from reading those reports and having recently come in contact with some of the important issues, one realises that the mortuary and funeral enterprises in this State are part of a multi-million dollar industry.

Recently I received a communication from a Federal colleague in Queensland and I forwarded that on to the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee. It referred to the problem that most cemetery and necropolis trusts only allow interment for some 25 to 30 years and, from the information that has been supplied to me, that appears to be the case all over the country.

This issue was raised in Federal Parliament by Mr Don Cameron, the honourable member for Moreton in Queensland, referring to returned soldiers who had died and have been either cremated or buried. The problem appears to be that an indication has been given by some of the trusts controlling cemeteries and crematoriums that their remains or ashes will be either put in rose gardens or taken out of the niches or monumental walls that they are now occupying within that period of 25 to 30 years and it has caused Mr Cameron some concern.

It is a matter of concern for this House and I have related that matter to the committee and received a reply thanking me for that information. Obviously, it is one problem that the committee could look into in the future. The families of returned soldiers and many other people will be concerned when this 25 to 30-year period comes to an end.

Recently we experienced the takeover of one of the medium-sized funeral parlours on the Mornington Peninsula and of other funeral parlours by a company that used an American name. An apology was published in a weekend newspaper stating that this company was not the biggest American funeral parlour but was established in Australia and took the name of that company. The people involved in that matter can take some credit for the Bill now before the House.

Mr Roper interjected.

Mr WEIDEMAN—I indicated before the Minister arrived that the recommendations of the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee summarised in its fourth report have been contained in the Bill. I recommend that honourable members obtain the various reports and study the history of and reasons for those recommendations.

It appears that between 1948 and 1978 the management of the Melbourne General Cemetery was the responsibility of a one-type manager who wanted to do certain things that might have been contrary to the wishes of the trust and without its knowledge.

Mr Roper—With its knowledge and support!

Mr WEIDEMAN—No one has said that, but the report refers to "constituted lies" and I accept what the report says. It also refers to the expressions "contrary to good management and "open administration and honesty". Many words have been uttered about the problems involved in reopening areas of the Melbourne General Cemetery.

The Minister for Transport, both when he was shadow Minister and Minister of Health, raised these matters in the House, and that led to the investigations by the committee and to the Bill now being debated.

It appears that because of the lack of space at the Melbourne General Cemetery, an area set aside for 8500 public or paupers' graves and 500 private graves was overlaid with soil. I understand that monuments to those people were removed, the area was cleaned and then overlaid with a depth of soil, and approximately 1000 certificates were reissued and granted to other people for future interments in that area.

Honourable members often say in this House that we should consider the spirit of the Bill, but I fear for the spirits of the 9000 people buried in those graves who can no longer defend themselves. It appears that the best advice offered by the committee to the families of those people who have been interred at different angles and in different places from those underneath, after considering the political, legal and other viewpoints, is that contained in the Bill: that the legal rights of the people interred in the lower section be taken away and those of the people in the overlay be supported.

As the Minister stated in his second-reading speech, because of the depths involved a small number of people may not be able to be interred in that area, but alternative graves will be made available in other cemeteries.

After reading the files and other material relevant to the Bill, it was obvious that a hostile reaction was the result when the Government asked some of the relatives of those 1000 people or the people themselves to give up their rights. It is just as well that the descendants of the other 9000 people did not make their feelings known because the problem would become more serious if their views were considered.

Mr Kirkwood interjected.

Mr WEIDEMAN—That matter has been well addressed in the reports. It also appeared in the reports that the Health Commission, in its overview of the cemetery industry, did not have a specific procedure on which it could place emphasis and cemeteries were deemed to be only a minor function of the commission.

Mr Roper—Until 1982!

Mr WEIDEMAN—I refer the House to the recommendations contained in the Third Report on the Review of Cemetery Administration published in November 1984 and ask the Minister for Transport, in his reply, to inform honourable members about the future controls to be imposed on cemeteries in Victoria. The summary of recommendations state:

1. That the Minister for Local Government shall be responsible for administering the Cemeteries Act 1958 and the Cemeteries Regulations 1965;

2. That appropriate arrangements for the physical transfer of cemetery administration be made between the Health Commission and the Local Government Department; and

3. That the Health Commission continue to determine policy and standards affecting public health with respect to cemeteries and crematoria.

That was in 1984, but it is now 1986. If one can refer to the third report as the Bible of the industry, one would suggest that some decision should be made by the Government to resolve that issue.

The recommendations further state that members of the local community and councils should be responsible for their cemeteries. Honourable members would recognise that many people involved in the administration of cemeteries are also involved in local government. I hope the inactivity that occurred over many years with the Health Commission will not also occur with the Local Government Department in administering cemeteries and crematoria.

I have already said that only a short debate occurred in the Upper House on this issue, but I have raised three further matters to be considered by the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee. The committee has substantial work to do on ownership and administration of specific problems involving returned servicemen, particularly if trusts wish to remove the ashes of people who have been interred for 25 to 30 years. That issue will cause considerable problems for the Government and for this State in the long term and I ask that it be examined.

The Opposition is also aware that some cemetery trusts have quite considerable amounts of money to administer and that, with the change in investments, many of them can build

up considerable amounts of revenue through investment. One would expect that sort of activity to be overseen by the appropriate authority.

The Opposition does not oppose the Bill. Obviously, the measure represents an answer to a problem that has developed over a number of years. The courts have made their decision, the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee has made its decision, and now the decision of Parliament is to allow the overlay where possible. The Bill gives to those who wish to negotiate on certain areas that were involved in the overlay the right to enter such negotiations. One would have hoped that such a Bill would not be necessary.

Mr McNAMARA (Benalla)—The main aim of the Bill is to resolve the legal and other problems created by the illegal clearing and reuse of certain areas within the Melbourne General Cemetery.

It will also enable the trustees of the Necropolis Springvale, and the trustees of the Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park to be appointed as trustees of other cemeteries, and provides for the conversion of Coburg Cemetery to a Pioneer Memorial Park.

This matter arose out of what have become known as the "overlay areas" in the Melbourne General Cemetery. I should like to pay a particular tribute to the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee, which was ably chaired by the honourable member for Preston, for the work it has done over recent years in highlighting the severe problems that were caused by what can be described only as straight-out maladministration and certainly fraud in the administration of the Melbourne General Cemetery.

It was an unfortunate set of circumstances that culminated in the resignation of the trust, the laying of criminal charges against the secretary and two members of his staff, and the enactment of legislation empowering the trustees of the Necropolis, Springvale, to assume responsibility for the cemetery.

These are all matters that were highlighted by the Parliamentary committee which, as I said, was chaired very capably by the honourable member for Preston. The problem of the overlay areas is one that, unfortunately, the Necropolis administration has inherited from the previous maladministration.

The overlay areas are certain parts of the cemetery that had been illegally cleared and subsequently reused to establish new grave sites. As the honourable member for Frankston South has indicated, that establishment of new grave sites has occurred on different alignments in many cases, and the new graves sites were aligned diagonally across the earlier interments.

The honourable member for Frankston South also noted that some 9000 graves were overlaid and desecrated in such a fashion. A total of 8500 of those were public or paupers' graves and 500 were private graves. It is unfortunate that that has occurred, particularly in the case of the paupers' graves, because those buried in them would obviously have very few people or family members to protect their rights. In those cases, in particular, the administration of the cemetery and the Crown have an added responsibility to ensure that the rights of those people and the sanctity of their interment are preserved.

The Bill addresses those basic problems in the overlay areas. The Necropolis administration was presented with a situation that was certainly unsatisfactory and had to be resolved by legislation. Honourable members now have before them the means by which it is hoped the situation will be resolved. Obviously it will not be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone concerned, but it will ensure the protection of the rights of those who now occupy the graves and also the rights of the original occupiers of those graves.

I would imagine that the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee would have had to search long and hard to find a resolution to the problem. The committee has come up with a number of proposals to ensure that, in general, the Bill will extinguish

all rights attached to the lower strata burials and validate the rights granted for the upper strata graves.

It is also important to note that in a small number of cases it will not be possible for the upper strata rights to be fully exercised because, in that circumstance, it has been suggested that burial rights be provided in another cemetery selected from a list provided by the trustees. That is possibly the only way to try to resolve the problem.

One of the recommendations of the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee—on which its chairman might be able to elaborate at a later stage—that has not been taken up by this Bill is that:

> Compensation of alternative burial sites be provided for anyone who could prove burial rights in the bottom layer subject to exercise of those rights where it is physically possible and not in conflict with a burial right in the top layer.

In his second-reading speech, the Minister explained that this recommendation was inconsistent with the substantive proposal that burial rights to the lower layer be cancelled to the extent that it implies there would still be residual rights capable of being exercised.

However, the Minister also said that, in the spirit of the recommendation of the "Kirkwood" committee, it would be intended to negotiate on an individual basis in the unlikely event of a person establishing that he or she owned such a right or wanted to place a memorial plaque to identify the resting place of a forebear. I should be interested to note how that will be resolved.

I must make a trip out to the Melbourne General Cemetery because I have relatives buried there, and I hope they were not amongst those whose resting places were bulldozed and then reused. I know also that some twenty years ago my father bought a number of what were at that stage declared by the cemetery trust as spare graves at that cemetery. He has guarded that real estate rather jealously. I understand that he now owns about half a dozen plots at the Melbourne General Cemetery, and they might even be some of those that have been overlayed and reused.

Mr Roper interjected.

Mr McNAMARA—My father has always been a great investor in real estate, and I can assure the Minister for Transport that one can go a long way without finding a better investment in real estate of any sort. My remarks certainly indicate that I should do some research on my own behalf, and I hope my father's interest in those plots will be protected.

Perhaps I have identified a pecuniary interest in the Bill, unusual as it may be to have such a pecuniary interest.

The Bill also deals with a number of other amendments unrelated to the Cemeteries Act. A new section will enable the Necropolis Trust to be appointed trustee of other cemeteries by proclamation of the Governor in Council. It is suggested that this new section will enable the trust to take over the administration of a new cemetery complex to the south east of Melbourne.

The Bill makes provision for the trustees of the Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial Park to establish a new cemetery to the north of the city. Another provision will add the Coburg Public Cemetery to the Fourth Schedule of the Act.

The Bill is supported by members of the National Party who believe this is the only sensible way to resolve a rather difficult and, in some cases, emotional issue.

I pay tribute to the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee, chaired by the honourable member for Preston, for the responsible way it has approached this extremely delicate matter.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I thank the honourable members for Frankston South and Benalla who have participated in the debate. As some honourable members

will recall, the Bill has had a long gestation period. Although the honourable member for Benalla may not remember, these matters were raised by me in Parliament in the 1970s after I became aware of what can be classified as a manifestly corrupt—in a financial sense—activity at the Melbourne General Cemetery.

When one examined the material collected by the then Health Commission at that time, one became aware not only of the financial corruption involved but also of the administrative incompetence that had occurred at our oldest existing cemeteries in Melbourne. Most people would not have suspected this because of the trust that had been placed in the groups of trustees that managed our cemeteries.

The community was let down by Mr Williams, the chairman of the Melbourne General Cemetery trust, and Mr Brennan, the secretary of the trust. Mr Williams used what influence he had to prevent any investigation into trust activities. I recall Mr Williams in a letter to the *Age* proudly stating that nothing was wrong at the Melbourne General Cemetery because it was being managed by such good, nice and responsible people. Subsequent inquiries have shown that that simply was not the case. In fact, Mr Williams and some other trust members attempted to pervert the course of justice by preventing Health Commission officers having access to information and providing blatantly false information.

I have had a long interest in this matter and when I made the allegations in the House that have since been demonstrated to be true and correct, I was advised to be extremely careful of Mr Giannarelli, who was mentioned by the honourable member for Frankston South. I was advised by the police that I should drive home from a different direction each night for some time. I was also advised not to accept an appointment that Mr Giannarelli wished to have with me at the Melbourne General Cemetery.

As honourable members are aware, the committee set up by me to carry out a study of the Melbourne General Cemetery has demonstrated, among other things, the severe problems that exist and that have resulted in further legislation being required.

The original legislation, introduced by the previous Government, replaced the trust with the trustees of the Necropolis, Springvale. That was a sensible thing to do. However, two further pieces of legislation are necessary. The first is to allow burials at a level different from that formerly allowed because some burials had not been conducted at the correct depth—I am sure that the sites that belong to the honourable member for Benalla are not so affected—and the number of people for whom the burial site had been originally intended could not be placed in that site because the coffins had not been placed deeply enough in the ground in the first instance or the distances between various levels of coffins were incorrect.

The second piece of legislation relates to the problem of reuse of parts of an old area. The creation of new sites are along footpaths and roads that seem to be marked for Italian mausoleum-type facilities. These are not mausoleums in the strict legal sense because mausoleums are not allowed under the Act. However, they are large and presumably expensive buildings and it would seem that Mr Brennan was the main beneficiary—at least, the reports suggest that some payment was involved.

Over recent years, much more attention has been paid to cemetery administration and the size of the cemetery area. The problems encountered by the Mortuary Industry and Cemeteries Administration Committee certainly show the need for that attention.

I join with other honourable members in thanking the honourable member for Preston and his colleagues on the committee for the work they have done. There is still work for them to do although it is hoped that this is the last occasion on which a report relating to the Melbourne General Cemetery will need to come before Parliament.

I commend the Bill to the House. It will overcome what has been a long-term problem. It will also deal with problems of trustees of other cemeteries and with the future of the Coburg Public Cemetery. Honourable members may be interested to know that that

cemetery has now had two sections restored with the use of Community Employment Program funds. It will receive care and maintenance in the future. The Bill will enable that work to proceed more effectively and I commend the change of the Coburg Public Cemetery to a pioneer memorial park.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

CONSTITUTION (BRITISH SUBJECTS) BILL

The debate (adjourned from April 16) on the motion of Mr Mathews (Minister for the Arts) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr JOHN (Bendigo East)—The Bill is concerned with the concept of Australian citizenship. There is a need for uniformity between the laws of the various States and the laws of the Commonwealth in respect of electoral rolls. It is a short Bill of five clauses, but it is a significant Bill that will henceforth require qualifications for people to hold Australian citizenship and for addition to the roll of voters.

The Bill will remove the special status of British subjects. The Australian Citizenship Act of 1948 introduced the concept of Australian citizenship. Before that Act all persons living in Australia were either British subjects or aliens. The Australian Citizenship Act of 1948 granted automatic Australian citizenship to British subjects residing in this country, so British subjects enjoyed a special status at law.

The Bill will remove the special treatment of British subjects and, in future, British citizens will not be able to be enrolled as electors unless they become naturalised. Similar legislation is being introduced in each State and in the Commonwealth. This Bill is part of a uniform, national approach, as there was with the Australian Acts which were dealt with in the last sessional period. Like the Australian Acts, the Bill weakens our constitutional, legal rights and ties with the United Kingdom, but it is part of the ongoing legal and constitutional development of our nation and a growing reflection of the maturity of the nation.

It is necessary to note the difference in the language of the Bill. The word "citizen" is used, whereas in previous legislation emphasis was on the word "subject". By definition, a citizen is a person involved with his own government, whereas a subject is a person "governed".

Although we can be justly proud of our British heritage, historic ties and British traditions, it does not mean that we must stand still in history. I shall reflect upon one of the great traditions inherited from Britain, and that is the system of Parliamentary democracy in Victoria and Australia, and the institution of Parliament itself. However, history is dynamic and Australia is now much more of a multicultural society than it was in previous times.

Australia and Victoria now comprise a diverse and splendid mix of people who have come from many foreign lands. About one in four Victorians today were born overseas. Many of those people did not come from the British Isles. This Bill ensures that Australian citizenship is the sole qualification, while at the same time it does not disenfranchise any British subject who is already on the electoral rolls. That is an important point: those who are on the rolls and who are British subjects will remain on those rolls.

The Commonwealth Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendment) Act of 1981 adopted the principle that citizenship was the requirement for election to the Parliament of the Commonwealth. In addition, from the time of the proclamation of the Act, citizenship was to be the qualification of electors of the Commonwealth. As all States of the Commonwealth operate joint rolls, uniformity is desirable.

Mr Ross-Edwards—They do not all operate jointly.

Mr JOHN—The Leader of the National Party refers to Queensland. In 1981 there was agreement on these matters and all States were intended to pass similar, complementary legislation, but, regrettably, Queensland did not pass that legislation so the 1981 Commonwealth Act was not proclaimed.

In 1984 the process was commenced again. The Opposition considers it is highly desirable to have uniformity in the electoral rolls with the same qualifications for eligibility to those rolls. Since Australia Day 1984, the Commonwealth has been enrolling only natural-born Australian persons or naturalised Australian citizens in anticipation of the proposed legislation being passed. Therefore, to some extent the Bill is retrospective and in some respects retroactive, in that British citizens who have come here since Australia Day 1984 will not now be eligible unless naturalised, whereas before the passing of the Bill they would have been eligible. I am assured by the Attorney-General that he sees no difficulty with this provision in practice and that no person will be disadvantaged or adversely affected by the aspect of retroactivity.

Clause 3 of the Bill makes a significant change to the concept of citizenship. As I have said, only Australian citizens will be eligible for enrolment in future. Clause 4 makes consequential amendments to the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 and clause 5 makes consequential amendments to a number of other Acts.

The Opposition supports the concept of Australian citizenship as the basis for enrolment and as a fundamental basis for being elected as a member of Parliament, State or Federal.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—The National Party supports the Constitution (British Subjects) Bill. As has been said, similar legislation has been introduced in each State and the proclamation of the Commonwealth Act has been delayed until this is done to ensure a uniform, national approach. The Commonwealth Act is likely to be proclaimed midyear. Victoria is a bit slow in passing its measure, but I understand that Queensland is even slower.

I point out to the honourable member for Bendigo East that Queensland and the Commonwealth have separate rolls, but they can still pass this type of legislation. It saves money to have a common roll. There is one in Victoria and it means that the only people who have a right to enrol are those with Australian citizenship or those who were British subjects three months before 1 January 1984 and were on the roll as British subjects. This has overcome a longstanding tradition. The numbers of those people will become fewer as years go by.

One of the interesting points is that citizenship brings privileges. One must be an Australian citizen, in essence, to vote, but for the life of me I do not understand why we are so kind to people who come to this country for a holiday but stay, and who do not adopt Australian citizenship but become a tremendous burden on the country. Many of those people are on the dole. New Zealanders offer a prime example. They come here for an extended holiday and we pay the holiday expenses.

People must make up their minds where they want their citizenship. People without Australian citizenship should not expect to receive the dole. I would not expect to go to Greece or the United States of America and receive dole payments. In another country it is my own responsibility to look after my employment situation. I wonder whether Australia is too generous with social services, generally speaking, towards people who are not Australian citizens. One should depend for social services and pensions on the country of which one is a citizen.

It is easy enough for one to become a citizen in this country. It was more difficult years ago. One was required to have all sorts of qualifications and to be able to speak English. However, that no longer seems to be the case. This is part of a gradual development. The Bill has the support of my party.

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon)—The purpose of the Bill, as outlined in the explanatory second-reading speech, is to accommodate a changing population. I note from

the census figures of March 1901 that out of a total population of 3 773 801 persons, no fewer than 2 908 303 or 77·06 per cent were Australian born, while of the remainder, 679 159 or 18 per cent were natives of the United Kingdom, that is 95·06 per cent were either Australian born or British.

The other birthplaces most largely represented in the Commonwealth at that time were Germany, 38 352, that is, 1·016 per cent; China, 29 907, that is, 0·793 per cent; Scandinavia, comprising Sweden, Norway and Denmark, 16 144, that is, 0·428 per cent; Polynesia, 10 363, that is, 0·275 per cent; British India, 7637, that is, 0·202 per cent; the United States of America, 7448, that is, 0·197 per cent and Italy, 5678, that is, 0·150 per cent.

The total population of Asiatic birth at that time was 47 014, that is, 1·246 per cent of the total population.

Since Federation, especially during the post-war period, as outlined in the 1984 social indicators of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the representation of different ethnic groups within the overseas-born population has changed considerably since 1947. Immediately after the second world war, during the 1950s, the principal countries that people came from were the United Kingdom and Ireland, Italy, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands.

In the first half of the 1960s it was the United Kingdom and Ireland, Italy and Greece and in the second half of the 1960s it was the United Kingdom and Ireland and Yugoslavia.

Since then countries in Asia, for example, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Vietnam, and Oceania, for example, New Zealand, have been an increasing source of migrants to Australia. The migration flows from these different areas are reflected in the changing composition of the overseas-born population by birthplace.

In 1966 persons born in Asia or Oceania represented 4·8 per cent and 3·0 per cent respectively of the overseas-born population. By 1981 this had increased to 12·4 per cent and 7·1 per cent respectively. This changing pattern can be seen more clearly by examining the country of birth of settlers arriving in Australia today.

In 1982, 54·5 per cent of settlers arriving came from Europe compared to 25·4 per cent from Asia and 11·2 per cent from Oceania.

An examination of the table of population by birthplace reveals that those born in Australia in 1981 represented 79·1 per cent of the population. Those born outside Australia represented 20·9 per cent of the population. Of those born outside Australia, 3 per cent were from Africa; 3·2 per cent were from America; 12·4 per cent were from Asia; 74·3 per cent were from Europe, comprising 3·7 per cent from Germany; 4·9 per cent from Greece; 9·2 per cent from Italy; 1·9 per cent from Malta; 3·2 per cent from the Netherlands; 2·0 per cent from Poland; 37·7 per cent from the United Kingdom and Ireland; 5·0 per cent from Yugoslavia and 6·8 per cent from other European countries; 7·1 per cent were from Oceania and 5·9 per cent from New Zealand. The total population of those born in Australia was 11 393 863 and those born outside Australia was 3 003 834, making a total population at that time of 14 397 691.

Many of our new found friends who have made their home in this country came from war-torn Europe where freedoms were being challenged and were diminishing. They were proud to take citizenship when they came to this country and an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen. They were proud to show respect for the Parliamentary institutions of this country. For example, one has only to look at those former members who have held the honoured position of Speaker in the House—29 men—since the Parliament first began in Victoria. Thirteen of those Speakers were Victorian born by birth; three were born in New South Wales; one in South Australia; four in England; six in Ireland and one in Scotland. Those figures indicate the roots our country has through the many people who have come from other parts of the world to settle here.

However, at this time, some people are concerned at a trend amongst people, especially socialist thinkers—the Minister for the Arts, who at one time was a speech writer for a former Prime Minister, would appreciate the delicacy of what I am about to say—in recent years to diminish the place of the Crown through the removal of the Crown from letter boxes and passports. The Queen's head has been removed from many of our postage stamps; indeed, it appears on postage stamps only on her birthday or other significant dates. In recent weeks a former Prime Minister advocated a change of the national flag.

However, I believe the vast number of Australians are still of the persuasion that those roots which were founded in England should remain part of the constitutional make-up of our country, whether it be the flag or the Westminster Parliamentary system. These are time-honoured institutions which many new Australians, whether they came from Greece, Italy or wherever, still believe have an important part to play in the heritage of our country.

A Bill such as this should not be seen as detracting from the importance of those institutions or the importance of our historic ties. In the explanatory second-reading speech, the Minister referred to the purpose of the Bill being to amend several Acts consequential on the Australian Citizenship (Amendment) Act of the Federal Parliament, which abolished appeals from the Australian States to the Privy Council. Such appeals have proved to be costly ventures for litigants. I refer to the New South Wales case of *Balmain New Ferry Co. Ltd* v. *Robertson* (1906) 4 CLR which years ago went to the Privy Council on appeal over a tuppeny ferry fare. What a costly exercise that must have been for a man who challenged the right to enter the wharf at Balmain where he had failed to catch a ferry and wanted to remove himself from the wharf without paying the fare to get out. He took his case to the Privy Council in England. Following the Ash Wednesday bushfire the State Electricity Commission of Victoria was involved in costly litigation before the Privy Council in England.

Throughout the history of the Commonwealth the sovereign State Parliament of Victoria and other State Parliaments have had their own constitutional development and role. That role has been enhanced by the fact that each State in Australia has its own flag. The Victorian flag, which was designed in 1865, reminds us of our ties with the United Kingdom.

The Union Jack incorporates the cross of St George, which dates back to the Crusades; the cross of St Andrew, which dates back to Scotland in 1606 and the cross of St Patrick of Ireland, which dates back to 1802.

We are reminded again of our strong ties with Britain and of the British heritage of our forebears. We are also reminded when we see the Crown of St Edward on the Victorian flag of our ties with the monarchy. King Edward told the people that he would never surrender the Crown unless the people asked him to do so. We are blessed with a monarchy that is above politics, a monarchy that is dearly loved by people not only in Australia but also by people all around the world in some 46 countries which still believe the monarchy has strong ties with them and constitutional significance.

I should be failing in my duty as an elected member of Parliament if I were not to place these thoughts on record. It is a sad occasion when members of the Government do not support their Minister and speak on behalf of their constituents; in fact, some sit there like stunned mullet and say nothing.

I support the remarks of the shadow Minister and place on the record some remarks about the changing cultural stance in Australia. That changing stance should not be seen as an effort to build little ghettos that enshrine different ethnic communities. Most people who have come to this country have become very much a part of the community, irrespective of whether they be from Greece, Italy, Turkey, England, Scotland or elsewhere. Australia is very much their home. I am proud to be an Australian, and an Australian of the fifth generation at that.

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—I thank honourable members opposite for their support and understanding of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

The debate (adjourned from April 9) on the motion of Mr Wilkes (Minister for Housing) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr PLOWMAN (Evelyn)—The Bill had its genesis in the well publicised and incredible case known as the Wade house case. A deal of publicity has exposed this case in the press over a number of years and at least one book has been written on the subject. Perhaps it highlights the need for certainty in the planning process of this State to give legitimate applicants the opportunity of having their permit applications considered and granted and, at the same time, giving would-be objectors the opportunity first to be notified of the application for a permit if the application may affect their amenity. Would-be objectors should be given the opportunity of objecting to a permit issue and should have the right to have the matter heard at appeal before a final determination is made. This should be done in the simplest and least costly manner.

The Wade case highlighted a weakness in the planning system at a time when the Melbourne City Council was, in effect, being run by commissioners. The ultimate cost to the appellants concerned was of the order of $700 000.

A legitimate application was made by Doug Wade for a permit to make additions and extensions to his house. I believe a council planning officer made an error in deciding that such extensions could be carried out and a permit issued without being advertised and without the neighbours of Wade being notified or having the opportunity of exercising their right to object to the issue of a permit.

When they found that this situation existed, those neighbours sought to object but their objections were turned down by the commissioners. The commissioners felt that the permit had been issued correctly, so the neighbours took their case to the Supreme Court. I shall not canvass all the arguments that occurred in the Supreme Court except to say that honourable members are all aware that this case ended up costing the appellants in the vicinity of $700 000.

Obviously, planning in this State cannot be seen to be satisfactory unless we have a system whereby an appeal can be heard by the legitimate Planning Appeals Board in this type of instance without this huge expense being incurred, and the Bill seeks to make that possible. The Opposition will therefore support the Bill.

The measure also allows the Melbourne City Council the discretion, firstly, not to seek its costs from the appellants concerned; secondly, it allows the council the discretion to meet all or part of the $700 000 costs incurred by those appellants.

The Opposition supports those two major thrusts of the proposed legislation but expresses disappointment that the Bill does not go quite as far as was proposed in a private member's Bill introduced in another place by the Honourable Alan Hunt. Mr Hunt's Bill would have empowered the Planning Appeals Board to cause a development to cease, pending the determination of any specific issue, thus reducing ultimate costs. Such action would not be taken lightly, as stringent penalties would discourage any frivolous application of this kind. The Opposition hopes the Minister for Planning and Environment will, in due course, give consideration to that proposition for a further broadening of the relevant provision in the Planning Act.

I am grateful to the Minister for Housing who advises me by interjection that the Government is considering broader options. Perhaps this will be one.

The Opposition is concerned about the Government's delay in bringing this Bill to Parliament to enable it to be passed so as to allow that discretion to be exercised by the Melbourne City Council. The council resolved on 21 August 1985—just over twelve months ago—to seek to pay at least part if not all of the costs of the appellants. The council sought a meeting with the then Minister for Planning and Environment. Obviously it was necessary for legislation to be passed to cover this case so that a precedent would not be set, and the then Minister for Planning acted promptly, I am sure, to encourage his colleagues to introduce the necessary Bill.

The proposed legislation was finally introduced in another place on 26 March 1986 and was introduced in this House on 8 April 1986. The Opposition indicated its willingness and readiness to proceed with the Bill during the closing stages of the autumn sessional period.

This relatively small Bill had the support of the Opposition. It seems to me that it was perhaps an oversight by the Government that the Bill did not proceed, because in the meantime with costs of $700 000 and a four-month delay, further interest has accrued in excess of $50 000.

I hope the Melbourne City Council will use its discretion regarding the payment of this amount because the ratepayers will have to meet the cost. The Government should be concerned. The Opposition is concerned that the Government was not prepared to use the dying hours of the autumn sessional period to debate the Bill so that it could be passed allowing the accrual of interest to be avoided.

The Minister for Housing assures me that the Government is considering broadening the provisions of the Bill. The Opposition supports the Bill and hopes this will mean that there will not be a recurrence of what has happened in planning in Victoria. It is obvious the proposed legislation had to be introduced to avoid further cases of this kind and to protect those people involved in the planning process. The Opposition supports the Bill.

Mr McNAMARA (Benalla)—Since the proposed legislation was introduced in the Legislative Council it has become known as *Thorne and Others* v. *Wade and Others*—the "Wade case". On 26 March 1986, the Attorney-General outlined what he considered to be the salient points, as follows:

(*a*) Wade applied to commissioners—at the time constituting Melbourne City Council as a responsible authority under the Town and Country Planning Act—for a planning permit for proposed alterations to his residence.

(*b*) A permit was granted without the application being advertised.

(*c*) Because the application had not been advertised, certain nearby residents applied to the commissioners to have the permit revoked. The commissioners formed the view that the permit had been validly issued and decided not to do so.

(*d*) The objecting residents then took action in the Supreme Court. The protracted action involved costs of over $700 000. The judge ruled that, although in his opinion the application should have been advertised he was not prepared to order any remedy, and awarded costs against the objecting residents, to the effect that they have to pay their own considerable costs, the taxed costs of Wade and portion of the taxed costs of the Melbourne City Council.

The National Party believes it is a sad day when it is necessary for the Victorian Parliament to deal with a Bill such as this. This is a horrendous piece of proposed legislation when one considers that a $30 000 extension to a Parkville home could generate taxed costs of $700 000 plus an unknown additional amount.

It is extraordinary that the legal system in Victoria could be involved in court delays that could contribute to such massive costs, and that the plaintiffs and appellants could have been in receipt of such appallingly bad advice from the legal profession that they could be pursuing the matter ad nauseam. They pursued the matter of false representation,

which they lost in the Supreme Court and the Full Court, over subsequent costs awarded against them.

The Bill is typically socialist in nature. It is extraordinary in that it is typical of the socialist mentality to spend someone else's money to solve a problem. The Bill proposes to spend the ratepayers' money to bail some people out of a difficulty into which they got themselves, albeit in good faith or as a result of bad advice.

The Bill makes no attempt to limit the amount that may be paid by the ratepayers of Melbourne. Clause 3 (3) states:

> The Melbourne City Council may make a payment or payments from the town fund to meet all or any part of the reasonable costs and disbursements as between solicitor and client of any of the other parties in the relevant case.

No attempt has been made to limit the extent of the costs that will be paid by the ratepayers. Earlier I mentioned taxed costs of $700 000. That provision is far wider. It is likely to cost the ratepayers of Melbourne more than $1 million. If sub-clause (3) is acted upon by the Melbourne City Council, it will certainly go beyond $1 million.

During the Committee stage, the National Party proposes to move an amendment that will at least place a ceiling on the amount that might be paid by the ratepayers of Melbourne.

The Wade case should never have begun. I suppose everyone agrees with that, in hindsight. One could not attribute any blame to the commissioners of the City of Melbourne or to Mr Noonan, the planner at that time, because when he was considering the application for a grant for an extension he saw that the plan was endorsed with the consent of the neighbours, Mr Nortini and Miss Chisholm. Surely the planner, after noting that endorsement by the neighbours, would have been justified in assuming there was no significant detriment to another party. That is one consideration he has to make when issuing a permit. He therefore issued an extension permit under section 18B of the Town and Country Planning Act without the need for it to be advertised. That action was legal and legitimate, considering that at that stage the adjoining owners offered no objection and in fact supported the extension to the Wade house.

It was not until later that the neighbours who lived down the road from the Wades—the Thornes—took objection to the extension, as did Dr Falk, who lived across the right-of-way at the back of the Wades' property. Subsequently, neither the Thornes nor Dr Falk were given any standing by the court yet they were the ones who encouraged the immediate neighbours to take the matter through the legal process that subsequently built up this horrendous legal account for which Dr Falk and Dr Thorne have no liability.

The bunnies were the owners of the adjoining properties who originally supported the $30 000 extension but who were incited to object to it following encouragement by Dr Thorne and Dr Falk. They are left with this huge legal bill which will be in excess of $1 million by the time all costs are included. The poor bunnies next door will have to carry the can.

It would be unfair of Parliament to pass the proposed legislation, as it stands. It certainly would constitute a very ugly precedent which could be used in future to encourage other people, busybodies or not, to take an action in the Supreme Court to oppose people who had obtained—as in this case—a legitimate planning permit from the responsible planning authority. The Wades have met every legal requirement.

It could have reached the situation where the Wades could have finished up paying all the legal costs. They are out of pocket by tens of thousands of dollars and they have not been reimbursed for those massive legal costs. Whether they will receive interest on those amounts is a matter for further judgment. The case has cost everyone who has been involved horrendous amounts of money. It is ridiculous to see legal bills in excess of $1 million resulting from objections to a planning permit that involved extensions to the value of $30 000. The building is still there. Everyone has been hit by the costs and there has been no satisfaction for anyone.

As I said earlier, the court awarded the costs against the plaintiffs and the appellants because they failed in one of their principal leads in the case, the aspect of false misrepresentation. The Supreme Court found that the Wades were exonerated from the claim that they had perpetrated false representations, misstatements and omissions to obtain the consent of the adjoining owners in order to force the council to grant an invalid permit. The residents lost this issue convincingly.

The Full Court said that the allegations against the Wades had included "fraudulent misrepresentations", that those allegations failed and that the courts have long so viewed the seriousness of allegations of dishonesty as to compel an unsuccessful plaintiff making the same to pay the costs of the defendant. That was the case.

They were significant findings both by the Supreme Court and the Full Court. The National Party believes Parliament would be remiss in its duty if it exonerated the plaintiffs and the appellants and enabled them to recover the total costs that they had incurred. That is what the Bill proposes with its present wording.

As I said, during the Committee stage the National Party proposes to move an amendment that will put an upper ceiling on the costs by defining what Parliament means by "legal costs" in terms of the taxed costs between the solicitors and the clients.

The National Party will move a further amendment that will prevent the Melbourne City Council from paying the taxed costs as between the solicitors for the plaintiffs and the plaintiffs and the appellants, and that does not deny the council the opportunity of paying the $102 000 taxed costs that the court ordered the appellants to pay to the Wades.

The National Party believes the whole process is a very sad and sorry one. If the proposed legislation is passed, it will be unfair if it enables the Melbourne City Council to place the burden of those legal costs on the ratepayers of Melbourne.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr McNAMARA—A person who commits a fraudulent action should certainly suffer for that action. There is no way Parliament should be setting a precedent in this case thereby enabling and encouraging people in the future to take scurrilous and frivolous legal action when judgments from both the Supreme and Full courts upheld the Wades' actions in every move. If this is the precedent we are to set, it will be a precedent that all members of Parliament and all Victorians in the future will live to regret. I foreshadow the National Party's opposition to the Bill in its present form.

Mr REMINGTON (Melbourne)—I support the Bill in its present form and I am opposed to the foreshadowed amendments submitted by the honourable member for Benalla. One lesson that one should learn in this place is that when one enters debates, one should be absolutely certain of the facts. I am certain that the honourable member for Benalla is not. I draw his attention to the Bill itself. The Bill sets out to give the Melbourne Corporation and the Melbourne City Council certain powers in relation to the payment of costs, and to amend the Town and Planning Act 1961 to provide for the referral of certain matters to the Planning Appeals Board.

The proposed legislation was introduced at the specific request of the Melbourne City Council. Parliament is not to determine the amount of costs that are to be paid by the council. That council is responsible to its ratepayers for its actions. It is not Parliament that is responsible. Parliament is acceding to a local government request. The council believes it does not have the powers to do it at present. Some of us believe it does, but the council generally believes it does not have the powers and Parliament is giving it that power.

It is not for the honourable member for Benalla to determine what that amount of compensation will be. He is in no way accountable to the ratepayers of the City of Melbourne. It is a job for the city council as such.

The honourable member for Benalla made some comment about the costs in which Doug Wade is involved. This afternoon Doug Wade told me that he is up for the astronomical amount of $260 000. He received the taxed costs of $112 000 from the residents, who lost the case. He won the case but he is $148 000 out of pocket.

There are many lessons to be learnt from what we call the "Wade case". There are political lessons to be learnt, town and country planning lessons to be learnt and certainly there are marked judicial lessons to be learnt.

I shall return to square one. In this case the problem would never have arisen had it not been for the political action taken before Mr Wade bought his house in Parkville. The real problem in the Wade case began when the former Liberal Government, in a desperate political situation for purely political reasons, sacked the Melbourne City Council in May 1981, some months before Mr Wade bought his house in September of that year.

The former Liberal Government appointed three commissioners. The ratepayers did not want the council sacked, the members of the council did not want the council sacked and there was no valid reason submitted in the media as to why the Government did so. It did so because it was hanging over the ropes and facing defeat. It used the sacking of the Melbourne City Council as a political ploy to try to prove something bad and reveal that disastrous things were going on in the Melbourne City Council. The accusations were proved to be nothing more than nonsense.

One cannot condemn the commissioners. How could three commissioners appointed by the Government really understand the feelings of the people in Parkville? Involved in the renovations was the erection of a fence 6 feet high and the alteration of the facade of the building. One could make such alterations in Toorak, South Yarra, Mount Waverley or Box Hill, but one could not do so in Parkville. The residents of Parkville are a conservationist group of people who have enormous interest in preserving the historical aspects of their locality.

The commissioners were not at fault. If the former Liberal Government had not sacked the council, the extension would never have been approved by the councillors. They would have known the mood of the people in Parkville. They would have rung the architect and said, "You have no earthly hope of building that fence in Parkville and you cannot alter the facade". The architect would have amended the plans on the spot.

I am not saying whether the planning committee would have approved the rear extensions, it may have done so. It may have called for advertising. However, as pointed out by the two previous speakers, both affected residents had signed consents for the extensions concerned. Even if the extensions had not been advertised, as soon as any trouble arose the local government councillors would have been involved from day one when the issue blew up. I was involved as the local representative. The residents would have gone to the council and the whole matter would have been resolved, as any decent council would have done. It would have been resolved between the parties concerned. If the extensions had been advertised, everyone would have had their say. The whole problem arose because, for purely political reasons, the Government sacked the council.

I said there were several lessons to be learnt. This Government, and any future Government, should think seriously before dismissing any council. The lesson that comes out of this is that ratepayers, who believed they were acting within their legal rights, have found themselves confronted with $760 000 worth of legal expenses.

I believe this case has created a precedent in the history of town planning in Victoria. Never before has a case attracted so much publicity and been so costly to both parties, the residents and Doug Wade, who with his wife Raelene had purchased the property at 17 Fitzgibbon Street, Parkville, for $120 000.

No illusions should be held about the house purchased. It was built in 1887 and it was almost 100 years old when the Wades bought it. The front verandah had been filled in with fibro cement sheeting to build a sleep-out. There was no wrought-iron lace work. The

original windows had been taken out of the front upstairs room and this space became the doorways to the sleep-out constructed on the front verandah. The front wrought-iron fence had gone.

Over a period of years the house had been defaced. It was not the most outstanding property in Parkville. The architect told me that it required $40 000 just to bring the house to a standard where renovations could begin. The house needed reblocking. There was no internal toilet. The toilet was located outside the house, almost abutting the back lane. A substantial amount of money was spent on bringing the house to the standard it is today. Now that it is finished it would rank as one of the finest in Parkville.

Doug Wade certainly acted within his legal rights. He believed he had the proper permits. He had the building permits for both the front and back and he had a planning permit. He assumed, appropriately, that the planning permit covered the total extensions; however, it was later proved he was wrong in that assumption because the permit did not cover the alterations to the front facade or to the fence.

The role of the legal profession should be examined. It does not reflect well on the legal and the court system. For instance, it was fourteen months before the case was listed! As most people involved in this case are well aware, the local residents were angry at the alterations being made to the Wades' house. I must confess to being angry also when I saw what was happening.

The residents took out an injunction to have the building alterations stopped. The matter went before Mr Justice Gobbo. He refused to grant the injunction. It is a pity that he did not grant the injunction, but for his own reasons as a professional man he thought that the matter should be heard by the Supreme Court. He assumed that the matter would be listed for hearing in September, whereas it was not listed until fourteen months later.

The residents have told me that many times they were gravely concerned about the great financial pit that they were falling into, and on more than one occasion they wanted to quit. However, they were caught up in the legal system. The lawyers said that they could back out and stop the case straight away, but if they did so they would be liable for legal costs for themselves, for the Melbourne City Council and for the Wades, and the legal advice was given that if the residents hung on they would win the case because the lawyers believed the planning permit had been incorrectly issued. The residents were virtually blackmailed into continuing. They said that they wanted to get out of it but, as the months went on, they got deeper and deeper into court action. The results were totally disastrous for them.

For example, the residents briefed a barrister who, when the case was about to be heard, said that he was terribly sorry but he had another case going on and would not be able to represent them. They had to brief another barrister. However, the barrister that they briefed first who withdrew from their case sent them a bill—for heaven's sake—for the work he had done to date.

The case rolled on. When the case eventually reached the Supreme Court they asked their barrister, a well-known politician in the Federal sphere, Neil Brown, how long the case would take, and he said that it would take five to ten days. The local residents could not believe their ears the next day when in court Mr Justice Hampel asked the barrister, Brown, the same question and his reply was that it would take ten to fifteen days. The residents said that they just about needed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to recover! They could see the immense costs involved. The legal representatives of the Melbourne City Council, when asked how long the case would take, said it would go for fifteen to twenty days. They were all wrong. Actually, it took 26 days to hear a case about whether a permit had been issued correctly.

The residents concerned acted in good faith. I believe they were sucked in by the crazy legal procedures. When the hearing was first at the Supreme Court it took four clerks to carry the books into the court room—the books on which the legal profession were relying.

When the case came on, Mr Justice Hampel said that he was terribly sorry but if the case were to run for twenty days he had other commitments and he would not be able to hear it, so he adjourned the case to another day. The residents believe it cost them $30 000 for that one day in court only to be told by the judge that he would not be able to hear the case.

It is a crazy legal system where a case can be allocated to a judge without first ascertaining whether the judge can hear the case. No wonder the legal costs ran to $760 000 and possibly more! The legal profession is certainly doing better than taxi drivers because their meters are continually ticking over. As it turned out, in the long run the residents were the losers.

I believe a judge must remain with a case. This is not new. In Europe and in Japan when a judge is allocated to a case he must remain with it. I believe this is just one of the very simple lessons that must be learned from this experience.

I said to the residents that surely they must have known the amount of money that they might be liable to pay. They said that they were never given an account of their costs to date and they were never given an estimate of what it would cost them if they should lose the case.

I went to the Law Institute of Victoria and to the Bar Council and canvassed these issues. I said that surely the legal profession should have in its professional rules of conduct a provision saying that in a major case such as this at regular intervals the lawyers and barristers concerned should provide their clients with an account of costs to date and an estimate of costs in the event that their clients should lose the cases.

The client is the person who foots the bill. Would anyone build a house under these conditions, not knowing the final cost? Would anyone enter into any other commercial or business transaction not knowing what the final costs were likely to be? Yet, the legal profession believes theirs is a fair system.

When I put this to the institute and to the Bar Council, I was given pretty short shrift. They were not interested in that sort of system, which would seem to me to be elementary. They can keep their children in public schools very easily under this system!

The present system is grossly inefficient. It is very costly. It lacks management skills in its administration. As a result, cases are extremely costly and they place great mental and physical stress on clients. I believe clients ought to be protected against bad legal advice given to them.

When Neil Brown took on the case against the Wades, anybody could have told him that it would be an extremely difficult case to win. A very serious accusation had been made against Doug Wade which the court kicked out very quickly.

The serious charges levelled against Doug Wade damaged him professionally and caused him grave personal distress. This was done to a man who has played football hard, has a good reputation and is held in high regard.

The advice given by Neil Brown in this case is nothing of which he can be proud. I have a lot of sympathy for Mr Brown's clients, the residents, who believed he had claimed costs against the Melbourne City Council. When the case went to appeal on this issue, the appeal bench determined that he had not done so. The judge also believed he had not done so.

The case was crazy. The main thrust of it was: firstly, that serious charges were brought against Wade as an individual, Brown certainly made the wrong judgment there; and, secondly, he claimed that the Melbourne City Council had invalidly issued the planning permit because it had not been advertised. Brown was right, but he did not claim damages from the Melbourne City Council.

This is also a sad case. I know the people who have been involved and I know Doug and Raelene Wade very well. The case has been disastrous because the dream that Doug and Raelene Wade set out to achieve has become nothing more than a nightmare. Also the residents, who acted legitimately and with sincere concern for the preservation of the Parkville environment, have been drawn into an immense pit and are faced with bankruptcy.

Some concern has been expressed about how they became involved in the case. I became aware of that concern after having read the transcripts of the case and having spoken to the people concerned. I shall close my remarks with a quote from the front page of the *Trust news* of July 1985, which states:

> It is also clear that the innocent victims of this excruciating litigation, who sought to uphold the law and protect their homes, . . .

They are Wade and the residents—

> . . . should now be compensated on a fair and equitable basis. The decision on how that compensation will be paid will rest, as a result of the Bill, with the Melbourne City Council.

All parties concerned should be compensated. I would be dismayed if Doug Wade comes out of this situation still $148 000 out of pocket or that other residents should incur financial ruin.

The sitting was suspended at 6.24 p.m. *until* 8.9 *p.m.*

Mr B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I submit that the Bill has been wrongly introduced and is being handled in the House as a public Bill when it should be dealt with as a private Bill.

In *May's Parliamentary Practice* at page 291 private Bills are described as follows:

> Private bills. Private bills are bills for the particular interest or benefit of any person or persons. They are subject to a procedure, described in Chapters 36–39, which is different from that used in passing public bills, and is governed by a separate set of standing orders, known as the 'Standing Orders relating to Private Business'. The consideration of private bills in the House during the time of public business only takes place on the infrequent occasions when a private bill is opposed . . .

Clause 3 (1) states:

> . . . "the relevant case" means the proceedings between Thorne and Others and Wade and Others in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Victoria . . .

I submit that this relates to a specific group of people and that it is not a Bill that has wide and general application. Therefore, it must fall within the category of a private Bill.

Some years ago proposed legislation was introduced to authorize the election of eight members of Parliament. That Bill was introduced in a similar fashion to the way this Bill has been introduced. However, when I raised the question of whether that Bill should have been treated as a private Bill, my point of order was upheld by the Chair at that time.

In the event of you, Mr Speaker, ruling that the Bill is a private Bill, I submit that it has been introduced incorrectly in the other place and that private Bills should be introduced in this House.

Due to those circumstances, I suggest that there is a need for serious consideration to be given to the proceedings in which the House is currently involved. There is little point in having Standing Orders and procedures if they are not observed in this House. I submit that you, Mr Speaker, rule that this Bill is a private Bill.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Gippsland East has raised an extremely important matter. Regrettably, I am unable to make an educated decision on the matter at this moment.

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The Government is prepared to assist you, Mr Speaker, by adjourning the debate until you have had time to consider the matter put before you by the honourable member for Gippsland East. I move:

That the debate be now adjourned.

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

ESTATE AGENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The debate (adjourned from April 9) on the motion of Mr Fordham (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr JOHN (Bendigo East)—The Bill is extremely short, and the Opposition supports it. In Victoria in 1984 there were two bodies that represented estate agents: the Real Estate and Stock Institute, known as the RESI, and the Real Estate Agents Association. Those bodies came together in 1984 to form one combined association, which is now known as the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. This body, the REIV, took over from the previous two bodies that represented the estate agents' profession in Victoria.

The Bill makes consequential changes to the Estate Agents Act 1980, but the main concern of the Bill is with membership of the Estate Agents Board. Under the Act, the RESI previously had a nominated panel of five with the Attorney-General appointing two of those members, and the Real Estate Agents Association had a nominated panel of three, with the Attorney-General nominating one member. The Bill provides for the combined REIV to have eight members with the Attorney-General appointing three of those members.

Appointments to the board are for a maximum of four years, although the practice of the Government, for some reason, is to make appointments to the board for only one year. I ask why the Government does not appoint members of the board for a longer period or for the maximum of four years.

The new board was appointed prior to July 1986 and the chairman of the board is to be appointed for three years. The Estate Agents Act 1980 has improved the image of the real estate profession and has enabled it to practise in a better form. It also provided for licensing of agents in this State.

Today the real estate profession in Victoria is highly regarded. It has exhibited considerable skill in marketing, commerce, accounting and public relations. It has an extremely high standard. The newly formed REIV is one of the most respected professional bodies of its kind in Victoria. It has already exhibited considerable skill and diligence and has shown that it is a good lobbyist in informing Parliamentarians and the people of Victoria what should be done about certain aspects of legislation that concerns property and people's involvement with their homes and so on. It has served the community well and it has also served its members well.

The original Act reflected the high standards of the profession and provided for agents to be licensed. Estate agents have to meet certain professional and/or academic qualifications under the provisions of the Act. One of the controversial matters that has concerned the estate agents' profession for a long period is what to do with estate agents who, for varying reasons, have operated as agents for a considerable period but who do not have the qualifications set out in the Act.

At the time the Act was passed, there was considerable controversy, with claims being made about the community not putting up with a law clerk doing the job of a solicitor or a nurse doing the job of a doctor. However, there are special cases and this Government and Governments before it have recognized that fact. Many people have been in the estate agents' profession for a number of years and their practical knowledge of the profession ought to be recognised and certain provisions ought to be made to enable those few people to remain as qualified estate agents.

Under section 14 (3) of the Act, the Estate Agents Board may determine eligibility. People may be licensed as estate agents if they have completed a course contemplated by the Act. However, section 14 (3) specifically provides for what may be determined as a "grandfather" provision; that is, the Act does not disbar agents who have been in the profession and who are doing the job but who do not meet the formal qualifications being licensed as estate agents.

New rules have been introduced for persons entering the profession, while certain older members of the profession have been allowed to continue to practise notwithstanding the fact that they do not meet the formal academic qualifications.

Since 1980 there have been many applications for licences from people without formal qualifications. Between August of 1983 and December of 1985 there have been 134 hearings and applications.

Six licences have been granted to people who have not passed any subjects nor have they any other relevant qualifications. Five licences have been granted to people who have not passed the examinations but who have other relevant or related experience, which was acceptable to the board. To the present time there have been approximately twenty appeals from board decisions and of those approximately eighteen appeals have been upheld.

A member of the Estate Agents Board has a considerable workload with little in the way of remuneration. It is extremely difficult to assemble a panel of eight persons to serve on the board. The Real Estate Institute of Victoria would prefer to have six members on the board rather than eight members. The Opposition is prepared to support the institute in its quest but at this stage I understand that the Attorney-General is not agreeable to reducing the number from eight members to six members. However, I earnestly seek his further consideration of the matter because of the workload and the difficulty of assembling a panel for that purpose.

The Bill brings these important matters up to date and as a result we will be able to maintain a high standard in the real estate profession in Victoria, if not a higher standard than we have had in the past.

Mr McNAMARA (Benalla)—The proposed legislation formalises and completes the final stage in the amalgamation of the Real Estate and Stock Institute of Victoria and the Real Estate Agents Association of Victoria, which have recently combined to form the new association of the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. Both organisations were granted representation on the Estate Agents Board with two representatives from the institute and one representative from the association.

The Bill provides for three delegates from the real estate agents' profession, but obviously drawn from the new body of the Real Estate Institute of Victoria, which is now the professional body which represents the bulk of estate agents in Victoria. Certainly approximately 90 per cent or more of the estate agents in Victoria would be members of the professional body. It is hoped that in the future all estate agents in Victoria will become members of that professional body.

I have been involved in this area both as a licensed estate agent and as an auctioneer and with my colleague, the Honourable Ken Wright, in another place, who is also a licensed estate agent, auctioneer and valuer, we have been able to put before Parliament and the National Party the concerns of the real estate industry.

The honourable member for Bendigo East raised legitimate concerns that had also been voiced by my colleague, Mr Wright, in another place, when he pointed out the concerns that those in the real estate industry have, particularly those who have become members of the Estate Agents Board because of the huge amount of time now being spent dealing with the various matters that come before the board. One matter that tends to be highlighted and to take up more time than any other matter is that of appeals for licences under section 14 (3) of the Estate Agents Act, which the honourable member for Bendigo East has highlighted.

It is interesting to note that section 14 (3) has been operating for seven years. The matter came to a head when a person who had not completed the academic course to gain qualification for an estate agent's licence took legal recourse and applied for a licence. It was interpreted prior to this that section 14 (3) had been used solely for the purpose of enabling people who had equivalent academic qualifications in another State or elsewhere to apply for an estate agent's licence in Victoria, and that situation had operated for some time.

We are now at a stage at which there has been ample time for those people who may have been fit, because of the experience they had gained, to qualify for an estate agent's licence rather than their obtaining the academic qualification to be processed either through the court or through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

I know the Minister for the Arts, who is at the table, was involved in the advocacy for two people who were seeking estate agents' licences under section 14 (3) and I hope the Minister will agree with the National Party and obviously with the Opposition, that the time has now come for those people who may have have been disadvantaged and who had not completed the formal educational process, perhaps had had several decades of experience in the real estate industry and who could have been granted licences under section 14 (3) have had the opportunity and we should now look at phasing out this section, through a sunset provision, from the Act.

It is interesting to note the attitude of other professional groups and I believe one would be laughed at if one contacted the Law Institute of Victoria and suggested that a law clerk who had been with a firm for a number of years and had gained practical experience should be granted a full qualification as a practising barrister or solicitor. Equally, if a theatre nurse who had worked with surgeons for a number of years said, "I would like to take over the scalpel and take the surgeon's role," purely because she had been carrying on in the practical area of experience.

The real estate industry is particularly concerned that the professional status of the industry is lifted. The Estate Agents Act was first introduced and implemented in 1958 and there has been ample time for those who fall within this category to complete the course.

There are two qualifications required under the Act, namely, completing the course of study—the academic qualification—and also completing four years as a sub-agent. Once those two requirements are met that person may then apply for a full licence. The course is certainly not onerous; in fact my father began the course when he was 74 years old and the quickest time that anyone has taken to complete the course was two years. He completed the course in two years, without dropping a subject, at 76 years of age. He is now almost 82 years old and he is selling a property every week and he is enjoying his career in real estate.

It is a relatively easy course for anyone who wishes to apply himself to it. We hear it said that it is a difficult course and that someone who is 30 years old or 40 years old cannot start to study at that age but my father who was 76 years of age had no trouble in completing that course through the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

The Government should have taken on board the suggestions by the National Party when we dealt with the Bill back in 1983. At that stage we suggested that there should be a two-year period and after that this clause should be phased out.

The Estate Agents Board is also concerned about the way in which the section operates. In fact it has contested several applications. The professional body, the institute is also concerned about this section. As well as some practical background these people should have some academic background. I know that the Minister for the Arts is a great one among the academia in this State.

I appreciate the fact that during the period in which he did formal study he added some weight to his ability. It has not added much to his ability but goodness knows what he would have been like had he not had any formal studies.

The National Party believes this should be corrected, not only for the benefit of the industry, but also for the benefit of the people who deal with the industry.

The purchase of real estate is the largest expenditure that most people make in a lifetime. The purchase of the family home is far in excess of what people spend on groceries, a lounge suite or even a new car. People should be properly advised by people with some professional expertise in this area.

The Estate Agents Board has a legitimate concern that from time to time people drift into the profession, perhaps car salesmen, as sub-agents, and unless there is someone who has the professional training to guide these novices they may provide advice that could prove extremely costly.

Earlier today the House dealt with a piece of legislation that illustrated the pitfalls that may occur from poor professional advice. The House must ensure provisions in these Acts are tightened. It is impossible to legislate for human error, but the provision of a suitable professional qualification will go a long way to improving this area.

The Estate Agents Board, as I indicated, is concerned about the way the Estate Agents Act is operating and feels that certain provisions should be remedied. Members of the board spend considerable time in examining this area and the National Party believes these provisions should be corrected as soon as possible.

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—I thank honourable members opposite for their support of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

MARGARINE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The debate (adjourned from May 8) on the motion of Mr Jolly (Treasurer) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr AUSTIN (Ripon)—This is a small Bill of considerable significance. In clause 3 the Bill provides for the production of margarine to be increased from 5180 tonnes to 30 000 tonnes. The total consumption of margarine in Victoria is approximately 30 000 tonnes.

The Bill attempts to implement the provisions of a similar Bill that was defeated in the Legislative Council approximately five months ago. It is a backdoor method of achieving a result that the Government was denied through democratic processes some time ago.

The three groups most affected by the proposed legislation are margarine manufacturers, the dairy industry and the oilseed section of the grains division.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr AUSTIN—It is obvious from interjections opposite that Government members have little knowledge what the result will be of the proposed legislation if enacted.

The established margarine manufacturing industry employs approximately 270 people and it has an investment of some $65 million in Victoria. To realise the damage the proposed legislation would do, the House needs to understand the competitive nature of the yellow spread market in Australia. Tremendous competition exists, not only within the margarine industry itself but also between the margarine and butter industries.

A strong relationship exists between customers' buying intentions and the price of the product. It is a historical fact that if butter loses part of its market share it does not get it

back. You, Mr Deputy Speaker, with your knowledge of the dairy industry, would understand that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! The honourable member should not use the Deputy Speaker as a basis for debate.

Mr AUSTIN—Some ten years ago, before margarine quotas were relaxed in other States throughout Australia, butter had a 70 per cent share of the yellow spread market. Since those quotas have been relaxed in other States an interesting set of figures has developed. The over-all percentage of butter share across Australia has dropped from 70 per cent to 26 per cent. In New South Wales butter's share of the yellow spread market is 22 per cent. In Victoria, it is 31 per cent. The reason Victorian butter producers have been able to maintain a higher percentage of the yellow spread market is because the price difference between margarine and butter is much closer than it is elsewhere. Margarine producers in New South Wales have an aggressive marketing program.

Hopefully honourable members opposite recognise the difficulties that dairy farmers are experiencing. Dairy farmers have fought for a better price for their liquid milk as well as for butter. After months of fighting they were successful in achieving a higher price for butter.

Researchers who have examined the proposed legislation believe that if the Bill is enacted butter could lose 25 per cent of its market share. Why would a Government want to take that risk? If a new entrant came into the margarine manufacturing sector a price war would develop. The reason being that it is the only way a new entrant into the market-place could possibly win a market share in this highly competitive industry.

Chaos would result. The existing margarine manufacturers would be forced to bring down their price, there would be no doubt about that, and the only way that butter could hold its market share would be to reduce its price as well.

By interjection we have heard this kind of philosophy, but on the surface it would appear attractive to deregulate the margarine situation in Victoria. However, it must be understood that the dairy industry is a heavily regulated industry indeed.

If all these regulations were removed, the Opposition would have a different attitude to the Bill but it is not the policy of the Liberal Party to deregulate just for deregulation's sake.

Victoria is the largest and has the most efficient dairy industry in Australia and it is the "butter State". It produces 85 per cent of the total butter produced in Australia. The Premier gave an undertaking during the last election campaign when he spoke out strongly about kicking New South Wales and Queensland in the stomach to obtain a better deal for Victorian dairy farmers. He said he would ensure that Victoria would be allowed to trade interstate and that Victoria and its liquid milk trade would be able to trade across the eastern seaboard; he said he would remove the unfair discrimination that is the existing situation in the dairy industry today.

If all of those things had come about, the Opposition would be in a position to support the deregulation of the margarine quota but none of those things have occurred. Therefore, why should the Opposition support proposed legislation that would be so detrimental to a dairy industry that has to suffer from those other regulatory factors that prevent it from having its fair share of the liquid milk market?

An interesting situation exists concerning the oilseed growers: when similar legislation was brought before Parliament approximately five months ago, the oilseed growers found themselves in a difficult position. Philosophically, they believed they should not oppose the Bill because it could mean that some time in the future, the oilseed growers might obtain some benefit from a deregulation of the margarine quota. However, they could see no direct benefit to be derived at that time and so they took a fairly negative approach. This time they have had a close look at the proposed legislation and they put a proposition

to the Minister and the Government that they would support the proposed legislation, provided an amendment was made or a guarantee given that margarine would be produced from 100 per cent vegetable oil grown in Australia.

They were not able to obtain that guarantee and, therefore, at a subsequent meeting, they passed a resolution not to support the Bill unless the guarantee was given. That is a significant point in relation to what has now occurred.

Any new entrant into the margarine industry would have to gain market share and the only way in this competitive industry that a new entrant could do that is through price. The only way to do it through price is to use a cheaper ingredient and, therefore, instead of using the Australian-grown high quality vegetable oils, palm oil would be imported and if that occurred the existing manufacturers, who have meticulously used high grade vegetable products, would find themselves in a difficult position.

It would be simple for the new entrant to use low-grade imported palm oil and if one examines the differential and the price of palm oil, one finds that that imported product is $420 a tonne compared with the Australian-grown vegetable oil price of $700 a tonne. Therefore, a price war would ensue.

The worry in these debates and arguments is that it is difficult to get to the truth of the situation. Many people are confused about the margarine argument and many people believe that oilseed is produced in this State, that it is exported interstate to New South Wales or wherever and that it then comes back here as the manufactured margarine product. Nothing is further from the truth.

They also believe if that situation occurred, the added transport cost would increase the price of the margarine and that, of course, is quite wrong. All of the oilseed grown in Victoria is either crushed, manufactured or bottled in this State and, on top of that, there is a considerable shortfall, which means that approximately 10 000 tonnes of oilseed is imported into Victoria from overseas, and a further 20 000 tonnes is imported from interstate and it is imported into this State from as far north as Queensland.

I find the arguments that have been used to support the deregulation and removal of quotas quite remarkable coming from a Government whose Deputy Premier, in Wangaratta in recent times, when commenting on the Industries Assistance Commission reports in relation to tariff protection, stated that any change that takes place in that sort of regulatory system ought to be very gradual indeed.

The Opposition agrees that if one is going to make changes of this nature, whether concerning tariff protection or margarine quotas, one cannot overnight suddenly change the rules of the game and take away the whole of that regulatory process.

If it were done gradually, then that is a different thing and the Deputy Premier ought to be looking at the statement that he made in Wangaratta and the view that he has expressed on the Bill.

It is difficult to rationalise how the Government has decided that the Bill is necessary. It is strange that this is the second attempt made by the Government to do the same thing. What is it on about? The only reason for the Bill about which the Opposition has heard is that the Government is saying it might create some jobs. At best, 28 jobs might be created in Victoria by allowing a new entrant into the margarine industry.

The existing margarine manufacturers claim that they would probably lose something like 50 jobs if the Bill were passed and they were forced into the sort of price war competition that would ensue. So far as the dairy industry is concerned, how do we know how many jobs would be lost in the dairy industry? It is not just the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria or the dairy farmers who are opposed to the Bill, it is the manufacturers, the distributors, the retailers and everybody involved in the dairy industry right through the secondary industry sector.

The dairy industry is the most important decentralised industry in Victoria. It is hard to understand how a Government can justify proposed legislation of this type when the net result will be a loss of jobs.

If one were to consider the performance of existing margarine fat manufacturers, would one find any shortage of margarine in Victorian shops? No, of course one would not! Victoria already has a high quality product available and nothing in the Bill will improve the position of dairy farmers, oilseed producers or margarine manufacturers other than to introduce a new entrant into the market which would create a disruptive influence. No net increase but a reduction in jobs over time will result. The Opposition opposes the Bill.

Mr HANN (Rodney)—The National Party also strongly opposes the Bill. Members of the National Party were surprised when the Treasurer, as the representative in this House of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, introduced a Bill along these lines at the end of the last sessional period because he was aware that a similar Margarine (Repeal) Bill had been defeated in the Legislative Council only a few weeks earlier.

One should have thought the Government would have accepted that decision of Parliament, but obviously it has been under considerable pressure from one company to proceed with the Bill, and it has again attempted to introduce similar legislation.

The National Party is concerned that the proposed amendments will have an effect, firstly, on the Victorian dairy industry through a further loss of market share and will affect producer returns; secondly, it will affect the margarine industry which involves an investment of $65 million and employs 270 Victorians, and, thirdly, it will affect the Victorian oilseeds industry through the importation of tallow oil and margarine production oil seeds.

My attention has been directed to an article contained in *Simply Living*. Vol. 2, No. 5, 1984, headed "The Great Margarine Hoax" written by Ann-Lise Gotzsche. That article opened my eyes to the dangers of eating these polyunsaturated and processed fats, and particularly because they can cause cancer. In light of that information I ask honourable members whether the Victorian quota should be increased from 5180 to 30 000 tonnes.

The argument of the Government is that the Bill will generate additional jobs because between 150 and 230 people will be involved in the construction of the factory and 26 jobs will be created long term.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out, the Bill will generate a price war not only in the margarine industry but also in the yellow spread industry in Victoria, and that will affect the economic situation of existing margarine manufacturers. It will further depress oilseed prices at a time when they are already low because of the world market. Honourable members should recognise that oilseed prices in Victoria are set on world parity and that there is no artificial local pricing arrangement.

The Bill could also seriously affect the dairy industry. Statistics have already been quoted, but it is important to remind the House that the quota system has offered protection to the dairy industry in Victoria and has encouraged a higher percentage consumption of margarine compared to other States. The average percentage consumption of yellow spread and butter across the nation is 26 per cent but Victoria has been able to maintain approximately 31 per cent, which highlights the benefits of the existing quota.

The National and Opposition parties would have had difficulty in arguing their case if Victoria produced a surplus of oilseeds. However, Victorians produce only 60 per cent of our total requirements and import the balance from other States of Australia and from overseas. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that this company will use imported palm oil in the manufacture of the additional margarine that the Government wants to promote so readily.

The oilseeds division of the Victorian Farmers Federation expressed sympathy with the proposed legislation earlier this year, provided that the table margarine produced in

Victoria was from 100 per cent vegetable oil grown and processed in Australia. However, the Government and the company were not able to give that assurance.

If Parliament were to agree to a change of this nature, it should require 100 per cent of vegetable oilseeds to be grown in Victoria so that there would be a long-term benefit for Victorian oilseed producers. There is no doubt that if that occurred the company would then achieve a significant increase in income for the benefit of all Victorians.

Dr Coghill—How could that be done in Victoria under section 92?

Mr HANN—There is no reason why it could not be done. However, we have not reached that point. This legislation will not provide one additional dollar for any oilseed producer in Victoria, nor any additional dollars for oilseed producers in Australia. The only additional dollars will go to the company and to overseas countries that export palm oil to Australia.

I again refer to the article mentioned earlier which was directed to my attention by one of my constituents when the earlier Bill was introduced. The article highlights the false information that is fed to people for pure commercial reasons, and states:

In 1978 six obese ladies attending a clinic at the Haukeland Hospital in Norway were put on a high-fat, high protein, low carbohydrate diet.

They lost weight. . .

Mr Norris—By eating more fat?

Mr HANN—

They lost weight, felt better, didn't feel hungry and continued to lose weight after the six-week experiment ended. Their cholesterol levels did not change. Their blood pressure decreased—but went up again when they returned to a low-fat diet.

This was published in the *Journal of The Norwegian Medical Association* and like virtually every other piece of scientific evidence which goes against conventional medical wisdom, it was ignored.

But the facts are these: Going hungry raises your cholesterol levels. Spacing out your meals with frequent small portions lowers your cholesterol levels. Even lying down for 25 minutes lowers your cholesterol levels. Eating carbohydrate food causes atherosclerosis. Eating butter lowers your chance of a heart attack. Eating cheap cooked oils and margarines increases the chance and unsaturated fats make no difference unless you stick to the ones in fish oysters and caviare.

The article continues:

The controversy over fats and heart disease is not merely a polite disagreement among scientists about butter and margarine. It has taken on the proportions of a major, world-wide medical scandal. People don't know what they're eating—and a lot of doctors don't know either. The leading establishment doctors are running the anti-fat campaign with a fervour not often matched by their scientific knowledge of the subject.

. . . .

Some experts on nutrition would argue that this medico-commercial bandwagon has brought about the greatest death toll in modern medical history.

THE CASE AGAINST CHEMICALLY MODIFIED FATS

Fats can be differentiated according to their capacity to include hydrogen atoms, and the placing of these atoms in the molecule. Some are wholly saturated with hydrogen atoms, some are mono-unsaturated, and some are polyunsaturated. Hydrogenated—or hardened—fats are unsaturated fats which have been chemically modified, as in the manufacture of margarine. They are artificial fats which hardly occur in nature.

Therefore, the process we are putting vegetable oil through is, in fact, an unnatural process. The article further states:

In 1975 one of the most important papers ever written about fats and heart disease was published by Dr Leo Thomas, reader in Chemistry at the Polytechnic of Wales. He demonstrated a clear statistical link between

hydrogenated fats, all the cheap hardened cooking oils and margarines—and heart disease in Wales and in the north of England. Heart disease is a *working class disease* particularly common among those who eat out of fish-and-chips shops, despite the fact that the fish would do them some good. It is the cooking oil, which kills people. By comparison the more prosperous butter-eating people in the south-east of England did significantly better.

Dr Thomas also found that the *total* consumption had remained fairly constant over several decades, except in Scotland—where there is a high rate of heart disease and where the total daily fat consumption is 10 grams *below* average. People in Scotland do not eat too much fat. They eat too much cheap cooking oil. By contrast, the greater London area, with a lower mortality, had a drop of 50 per cent in margarine consumption during a 10-year period when butter consumption rose sharply.

Dr Thomas has now compared dietary intake with fats stored in adipose tissue from patients dying of coronary heart disease, against a control group of deaths from other causes. He found higher levels of chemically modified fats in those who died from heart disease. These patients also had *lower* levels of ruminant-animal fats. The levels of polyunsaturated fats were virtually identical in both groups.

Evidence from such independent researchers time and again turns out to be exactly the opposite of what we are usually told. When the Royal College of Physicians and the British Cardiac Society published a report on coronary heart disease the following year, they ignored Dr Thomas's work, despite vague and general advice to avoid "hard" margarine or lard, and unidentified "vegetable oils", instead, they recommended lots of polyunsaturated fatty acids. The sale of unsaturated margarine, especially Flora, doubled following the publication of this report, and Unilever twice.... acknowledged its gratitude to the College in its *Reports and Accounts for* 1976.

I can well understand that. The article continues:

Unilever also manufactures margarines, fats and oils in Australia.....

WHEN FATS TURN RANCID

Unsaturated fatty acids turn into toxic peroxides in the body if people do not get enough antioxidants. This is the second major controversy which people seldom hear about. Actually, there are two different controversies involved, one to do with the effects of antioxidants as such, and one to do with the fact that the naturally occurring antioxidants include vitamin E, vitamin C, and selenium.

A leading early researcher in this field is Professor Denham Harman, of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Nebraska, who 15 years ago linked the readily oxidised polyunsaturated fats with cancer. Mice receiving corn and sunflower oil diets died with gross tumours at an earlier age than mice on saturated diets, and animals on saturated fats lived longer than those on unsaturated ones.

. . . .

While conventional medicine continues to urge us to eat more unsaturated fats, the truth is that our consumption of these fats, together with other types of margarine, has already increased considerably since World War II, and this has been accompanied by a drop in the consumption of eggs, butter and dairy products. The medical establishment does not seem to have noticed that we are already doing as we're told and we still have heart disease.

The article concludes with the following statement:

SLOPPY DIETS

In the fight against fat and cholesterol, Western doctors seem to have lost their way in the woods. When cholesterol and lipids were first discovered in people's arteries back in 1910, little was known about cholesterol—not even that cholesterol is the precursor for adrenal hormones and the sex hormones. *"It is a substance of ill repute nowadays"*, writes Isobel Jennings. *"Without cholesterol, however, we would be in no position to enjoy life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness . . . particularly the last."*

I believed it was important to draw that article to the attention of the House because it highlights the fact that in society today we are encouraged, for commercial reasons, to eat these products when, in fact, no one really knows what are the long-term side effects of doing so.

When one considers the growing incidence of cancer in our society today—there is no doubt that it is one of the fastest growing diseases in the world, and certainly in Australia—one has to wonder about this encouragement of people to move away from natural fats and eat these polyunsaturated vegetable oils, which are not natural products.

This is not the only article that has been brought to my attention. If it were only one article, one could ignore it. However, another constituent who is currently receiving

treatment in Melbourne from a professor of medicine was advised by that professor, "Do not, under any circumstances, eat margarine." The professor advised that humans should not eat vegetable oils processed in that way.

The House needs to take a long, hard look at the possible long-term side effects of margarine consumption.

Dr Coghill—Should we ban it?

Mr HANN—I am not suggesting that it be banned, but we should not ignore these issues. The honourable member for Werribee, who does have a science degree and perhaps a greater knowledge of the subject than I, would probably be able to study these issues in more detail and perhaps have a better understanding of them.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Stirling)—Order! I suggest that the honourable member should address the Chair, and nobody else.

Mr HANN—The honourable member for Werribee does not agree with the Norwegian study.

Dr Coghill—I did not read it.

Mr HANN—The National Party sees no reason to bow to the wishes of the Government or to the wishes of one individual company, which has already had two tries at setting up margarine manufacturing operations but which has then abandoned them for its own financial benefit.

The National Party sees no purpose in supporting this proposed legislation, which will only allow that company to further attack the dairy industry, the oilseed industry and the existing margarine or oilseed manufacturing industry in this State. For that reason, the National Party is strongly opposed to the Bill.

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth)—Mr Acting Speaker, thank you for the opportunity of addressing you on this Bill. It is a re-run of what the Government tried to do last session, and it has really put to Parliament in a rather mischievous way a deregulation program, the ramifications of which the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs does not understand.

If the Minister were interested in testing deregulation and if he had any understanding of the dairy industry, this would not be the first thing that he would do. The first thing he would do would be to ensure that all dairy products had free access on the Australian market. Some honourable members in this House will realise that our liquid milk and many of our manufactured products do not have free competitive access on the Australian market.

Our manufactured products are regulated by both State and Federal legislation which restricts them, in many cases, to the export market and the prices that the export market might yield. Those prices are usually around or below the cost of production.

For geographic and historic reasons, Victoria is the premier dairying State in Australia. In fact, nowhere else in the world can dairy products be produced more efficiently than in Victoria. If the Minister had any understanding of the dairy industry and of the market-place for dairy products, he would seek to start the process of deregulation in the area that I have just mentioned. To seek to start the deregulation process with the competitor to dairy products is entirely stupid and shows the Minister's lack of understanding of the industry and of the market-place. I shall demonstrate that point in a moment.

More than 10 000 families make a living from dairy production in Victoria. If this Bill were to be passed by Parliament, its effect over a five-year period would be to alter the consumption patterns of spreads in Australia from approximately 4 kilograms a head of butter to approximately 2 kilograms a head—roughly the equivalent of consumption in the United States of America. If that occurred, the net loss to each dairy farm family in

this State would be approximately $4000. In this time of rapid market changes, that is an unreasonable impost on any agricultural family.

The lead time in agriculture is not short. One cannot switch on a motor and produce agricultural products. The lead time for a dairy farmer in planning the mating of his cattle, the calving of his cattle and the production from them is from two to five years in building up or scaling down productivity.

The Minister has totally ignored that. What he has said to a privileged family, the Liberman family, is, "You have a margarine manufacturing licence. Thank you very much for all the financial help you have given to the Labor Party. Now you can have a margarine manufacturing licence without any strings attached."

The Liberman family is not noted for its benevolence. It would be buying tallow and palm oil and it would be buying the cheapest oils and substances available to manufacture a wide range of margarine products—loss leading, as it is so well able to do, the cheapest product that it has. Not only would that increase the consumption of imported palm oil and tallow, for which there is a refinery in Victoria, but the vegetable oil industry in Australia would suffer markedly as well as the dairy industry.

Those honourable members who doubt what I say need only to retrace the steps previously undertaken by the Liberman family. That family secured a controlling interest in Marrickville Margarine in New South Wales by loss leading the cheaper products and causing a slump in the profits of that company. It was able to fully acquire a controlling interest at lower prices and, because of price reductions, often below the cost of production, it made life so difficult for Unilever Australia Pty Ltd and Vegetable Oils Pty Ltd—the other two big margarine manufacturers—that a favourable price was offered to the Liberman family and its associates for Marrickville Margarine. That is how Marrickville Margarine was bought by the Liberman family.

Now the family is coming back for the second bite of the cherry and the Minister, because of his ignorance and lack of understanding of the dairying industry and how it ought to be deregulated—if that is what is needed—is supporting this second bite of the cherry.

If it were a genuine move, if the Minister had deregulated the industry and improved its capacity to market its product freely within Australia and then had gone to the dairy industry and said, "Now that I have done this for you you should be able to withstand free competition in the marketplace", that would be a different story altogether. However, the Minister has deliberately set out—with the short-term advantage of the Labor Party from whatever political funds it gained from the Liberman family, or was to have gained—to deprive the average dairy farm family in this State within a five-year period of approximately $4000 a year.

The Liberal Party cannot condone that sort of ignorance, lack of understanding, lack of sensitivity and blatant mismanagement of the office of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Looming on the horizon and brought to a head by this proposed legislation is the threat to the oil seed industry and the dairy industry of imported palm oil. The World Bank and other similar lending institutions in the world have been lending to Third World countries large sums of money to invest in the production of palm oil, an extremely good oil which can be cheaply produced because of cheap labour. While it did have a small tariff imposed on it, that will now be removed by the Federal Government. Palm oil from Third World countries will be competing against rapeseed oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil and linseed oil produced in Australia.

The oil produced in Australia is not produced less efficiently—if anything, more efficiently—than the oil produced in Third World countries. However, Australian oil is produced with regulated labour costs, which inject the largest component of cost into that oil.

If the socialists are serious about this new right push into deregulation, then they must deregulate the labour market that controls the cost of production and allow competition on a fair and equitable basis. In this case, it would be competition between those who produce palm oil in cheap labour Third World countries and those who produce vegetable oil in Australia and who are compelled to pay the costs of unionised labour through a centralised wage fixing system.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr I. W. SMITH—The Treasurer, the guru of fantastic economics, who has just lost $4 million in a sleazy deal——

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Stirling)—Order! Will the honourable member for Polwarth address the Chair and ignore every other interjection?

Mr I. W. SMITH—Yes, Mr Acting Speaker. I am sure that when you traversed the line of the State Electricity Commission powerline to Portland, little did you realise that your party would sell a third of that to the multinational Alcoa company—a deal that cost the taxpayers $400 million.

That is how much the Minister understands about the economics of running anything, and he now has the hide to bring forth a Bill into Parliament which will mean the demise of about one-third of the dairy industry in Victoria over a period. As I said earlier, the measure proposed by the Minister will result in the loss of approximately $4000 a year net to farmers.

Does the Minister want the State to become an importer of goods and services, particularly palm oil, from overseas?

If the Minister is serious about the well-being of the people of Victoria, he will examine the proposed legislation more carefully and withdraw it. Deregulation cannot start at this end of the dairy industry; it must start at the other end, allowing the world's most efficient dairy farmers who live in this State power to compete interstate and to gain an equitable share of the national market.

When the Minister has done that and got it right, he can come back to Parliament and say that he has done it and that the dairy farmers are on a fair and competitive basis with the Liberman family in making tallow into margarine or in using cheap palm oil imported from Third World countries where slave labour is employed in the manufacture of margarine. The dairy farmers could compete under those circumstances, although the rules of the game would be unfair.

The Minister has it the wrong way around. It is typical of the Government that it has no concept of productivity and no concept of what makes industry tick. The Government has the hide to say that 28 more people will be employed as a result of this particular measure, when thousands of jobs in country Victoria that are supported by the best decentralised industry in the State, that is, the dairy industry, will be lost because of unfair competition.

The Opposition has no objection to fair competition, but the rules must be fair to start with. The Bill does not place the rules on a fair basis and, therefore, it ought to be thrown out; it ought not to be presented to the Upper House. I do not know how the Minister has the hide to do so. May he hang his head in shame when he makes one of his frequent visits to the dairying areas of Victoria!

Mr DELZOPPO (Narracan)—As a representative of an electorate which consists of rural areas that depend on the dairy industry, and which has a large population of dairy cows, I shall put a few points to the House for consideration. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Polwarth have said that the market share of butter in Victoria is approximately 31 per cent and the only way in which a new manufacturer of margarine could get into the market in Victoria is to create a price war by

lowering the cost of the product. This would be done by using cheap imported oil rather than Victorian seed oil. In the ensuing spread market war, butter production would suffer.

I remind the House of how dependent towns in my electorate are on dairy farms and dairy farmers. The number of people engaged directly and indirectly in dairy farming represents a significant percentage of the population. For 32 years I have lived in a small dairying town, and I know full well that when the dairy farmer suffers economically the rest of the population also suffers. Not only are the butter factories and processing factories affected by job opportunities being depressed, but also machinery manufacturers have to put off staff and the whole town falls into a slump. There are a number of those towns in my electorate such as Warragul, Trafalgar and Neerim South, just to name a few.

In present circumstances sales of butter enjoy 31 per cent of the spread market. Victorian farmers are being sold up by the banks because they are unable to pay their way. There is nothing sadder for me than to see a young man who has embarked on establishing a farm with his family, being forced to leave his farm, due to economic circumstances beyond his control, and learning the bitter economic lesson. I assure the House that this is happening all the time.

One of the other problems concerns the high rainfall in the hilly country of Gippsland, from whence I come, and where dairying is really the only option to which the land can be put. There are areas of land suitable for potato growing, but the majority of it is ideally suited for dairying. If the dairy farmer fails, the question from the social point of view is to what use will the land be put. The only option open to a farmer who wants to sell his farm and get out of the industry is to sell the land for subdivision. This places pressure on the planning processes. First-class dairy land that should be protected and preserved for future generations is being cut up into areas of handkerchief farms and hobby farms that are lost completely to the industry.

The amount of land that is available is limited and, the further the process goes on, the more Victoria will live to regret it in the future. Anything that upsets the dairy farmer and which causes him to leave his farm and sell out will put further strains on the planning processes in Victoria. First-class land is being incorrectly used and lost to the industry and the State. The land within my electorate is one of the great assets of Victoria. It is acknowledged as an asset and we should do all we can to preserve it. One of the ways of preserving that land would be to oppose this Bill.

We have heard during the debate that the Bill, if passed, would create another 28 jobs in Victoria. I should like the House to weigh up the price that would be paid for those additional 28 jobs against the thousands of jobs that would be lost in rural Victoria as a consequence. They are the jobs that ordinary working people enjoy. I refer to tanker drivers, people working in manufacturing and butter factories and all the supporting industries involved in keeping the farmer on the land. It would also have an effect on fuel suppliers, with rural Victoria having less demand for fuel products.

I should like to reinforce the point that there is no guarantee if the Bill is passed that the proposed new manufacturer of margarine will use Victorian raw materials to make his product because, faced with the choice of Victorian seed oil at $700 a tonne and the option of buying cheap palm oil at $420 a tonne, it is obvious which raw material will be chosen. In my view, palm oil is fit only for making soap.

Further, there is no guarantee that cheap tallow will be reprocessed through the hydrogenation process and other manufacturing devices to be used in a spread which I do not believe is in the best interests of the community at large.

I was fascinated by the chemistry of the Deputy Leader of the National Party who said that the cholesterol in the body is a precursor of the sex hormones. Perhaps the honourable member for Werribee would like to brush up his chemistry and consider the fact that cyclo pentano phenanthrine ring derivatives are all obtained from cholesterol, and there may be

a great deal of merit in the report that the Deputy Leader of the National Party has put to this House.

I have no doubt that rural Victoria will suffer if the Bill is passed. I have no doubt that, if the Bill is passed, Victoria as a whole, both present and future generations, will be far worse off. I urge the House to reject the Bill.

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster)—If the matter were all about the little fellow and the consumer, I may be impressed; but it is, in fact, about the multinationals. The Minister for Consumer Affairs and the Treasurer, who are at the table, should be inveighing about the multinationals.

As the honourable member for Polwarth indicated, the Liberman family are among the most brilliant entrepreneurs that this country has ever seen, and I respect their enterprise. They came here more than 35 years ago and established themselves in a very small way in the textile industry. In those 35 years they have built their corporate structure into one of several hundred million dollars. They own a very large slice of the textile industry in this country, including the famous Cleckheaton yarns industry at Wangaratta. In 1984 they bought Fibremakers Australia Pty Ltd from the great ICI group; and one of their most interesting speculations was that outlined by the honourable member for Polwarth. They got into the margarine industry and, through cut-price competition, obtained control of Marrickville Margarine, which in 1979 they sold to Allied Mills Ltd. Lo and behold, I find that in December 1985 the Trade Practices Commission was very interested in activities concerning proposals by Fielder Gillespie Davis Ltd to acquire the shares of Allied Mills Ltd and the Goodman Group Ltd in New Zealand. I shall quote to the House from the press release issued by the Trade Practices Commission on 12 December 1985, which states:

> Following discussions between the Trade Practices Commission and Goodman Group Limited, the Trade Practices Commission has received undertakings that if the proposed takeovers by Fielder Gillespie Davis of Allied Mills and Goodman Group proceed and are successful, Goodman Group will divest certain trade marks and associated trade names now used in association with the retail oils and retail margarine businesses of Provincial Traders Foods, now managed by Goodman Group.
>
> The marks to be divested will represent some 20 per cent of the retail oils market and some 6 per cent of the retail margarine market and will be assigned to purchasers approved by the Trade Practices Commission which in its assessment will be able to maintain the position of the marks in the markets concerned.
>
> On the basis of these undertakings the Commission will not object to the offers for Allied Mills and Goodman Group being linked.

The margarine market in this country has been an absolute monopoly: 60 per cent controlled by Allied Mills Ltd, 40 per cent controlled by the giant Unilever Australia Pty Ltd.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr WILLIAMS—The innocence of the Minister at the table!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Stirling)—Order! The honourable member will address the Chair, not those at the table.

Mr WILLIAMS—These people are international monopolists. They have no interest in the Labor Party at all and no interest in the worker. They have no interest in anything but monopolising markets and maximising their investment returns.

Through getting Canadian Packers they got into Marrickville Margarine. They sold that company to Allied Mills Ltd, and an Allied Mills Ltd margarine works is now being sold out again. All they want is this 6 per cent of the market that Allied Mills Ltd is being forced to divest. They have persuaded someone in the Labor Party—I should be very interested to know who—to authorise this Bill increasing the margarine quota from 5000 to 30 000 tonnes. What have they told the Labor Party? They have said there will be more jobs. I can tell honourable members how many more jobs: it will mean 26 more jobs. The Australian Labor Party has sold the workers of this country down the drain for 26 jobs. It has sold the dairy farmers of this State down the drain for 26 jobs. I see no great advantage

from this investment. Once before, through cut-price competition, the Liberman family has done this when they wrecked the original shareholders in Marrickville Margarine and bought Unilever Australia Pty Ltd and Allied Mills Ltd to their knees—two of the greatest companies in the margarine world.

The ACTING SPEAKER—Order! Will the honourable member address the Chair?

Mr WILLIAMS—Mr Acting Speaker, it is no laughing matter. If the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources knew anything about industry and technology in this country, he would know that he is virtually handing over the future of the dairy industry into the hands of people who have no compassion whatsoever for the small dairy farmer. They would maximise their own profits. It would not be too long before, having driven out butter, they would drive out the competition in margarine and the price of the product in the supermarkets would soar. Instead of getting cheaper spreads, the housewife would pay very dearly.

I am fascinated by the so-called great increase in investment. So far as I am concerned, this firm would be investing some $5 million in new technology, which would be largely capital intensive and would require very little labour indeed.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Stirling)—Order! There is a considerable amount of audible conversation from the Opposition benches making it difficult for the Chair to hear the honourable member for Doncaster.

Mr WILLIAMS—If the Bill were to be passed through this and another place, the JGL group would propose to build a modern, automated margarine plant using expertise, which I agree they have, in managing a totally automated leading edge technology plant.

It is fascinating to note that the company has made certain pledges to use locally produced oilseeds. It is interesting to note that the company is at present operating at Braybrook where it is involved in other activities, including soapmaking where there is a large consumption of fat in the company's enterprises. It is fascinating to note that JGL Investments/Peerless was once a Smorgon company. It may well be that, as the honourable member for Polwarth said, once approval is given to increase the quota from 5000 tonnes to 30 000 tonnes, much of the production of margarine will come from fat produced at the former Smorgon works at Braybrook.

As the Deputy Leader of the National Party pointed out, there are grave health risks involved in using margarine based on fat production. I have no hesitation in urging the House to exercise great caution in approving the Bill, especially at a time when the dairy industry is facing a severe financial crisis through surplus production and low butter prices. This is not the time for the Government to be giving encouragement to a single industry that can only destabilise the dairy industry, because Victoria is the home of the dairy industry. Victorian dairy farmers supply milk that is used in the manufacture of 85 per cent of Australian butter.

The Victorian dairy industry is the State's largest decentralized industry. It provides jobs for at least 50 000 people. What is the Labor Party going to do about those 50 000 jobs if it allows the JGL company to wipe them out? There is already sufficient manufacturing capacity available to supply the market needs for margarine. The provision of additional manufacturing capacity is an unnecessary waste of resources, particularly as it will provide only 26 new jobs.

There is no doubt that, once established, the margarine market will again become the subject of a vicious price war, such as occurred in the 1970s when heavily advertised market brands were used to increase market shares against butter, especially in New South Wales.

The ordinary rank and file Labor Party members who have been so bitterly betrayed in recent months by their political leaders are going to be betrayed again by this measure through the specious argument that it will create employment by reducing the price of the

product. It may do so in the short run but, in the long run, when the worker cannot get his butter, he will pay very dearly for unhealthy margarine made out of fat.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The Bill is important on a number of grounds. I shall indicate what I see as three fundamental facts behind the measure. The first fact is that margarine is a fact of life in the community. The reality is that many families—many households—have chosen to use margarine.

The second obvious fact is that the proposal in the Bill to increase the production levels from 5000 tonnes to 30 000 tonnes will not destroy the dairy industry. It is clear nonsense to suggest such a thing.

The third obvious fact is that the Bill has made it clear once and for all what a pack of hypocrites members of the Liberal Party are.

The Victorian Liberal Party has the opportunity of demonstrating once and for all in a clear way whether it really believes in market forces and in free enterprise. Now the opportunity is before the House it will be fascinating to note who will speak and what they will say. I look forward to the contribution of the honourable member for Prahran who has made many speeches in the House on how Government—Parliament—should not interfere in the operations of industry. The Liberal Party has even spoken about the Bill being a good opportunity to maximise profits, although the honourable member for Doncaster told the House that that is not a principle which he, or I presume the Liberal Party, sees as being important within the State.

I look forward to the contribution of the honourable member for Bulleen, who, if nothing else, has been consistent since he was elected to the House in speech after speech on how Government and Parliament should get out of areas such as this. I hope the honourable member will speak and again consistently pursue that line of argument.

The honourable member for Ivanhoe has not only spoken often but he has also spoken so loudly that anyone in the precincts of the Parliament has been able to hear his very strongly held views on how terrible it is for Government to interfere in the operation of industry.

The Leader of the Opposition has made many speeches on how Government and Parliament should get out of areas such as this. The honourable gentleman has often made speeches claiming that these restrictions and regulations should not exist and that the market and the private sector should be able to strike a balance based on the interests of the communities themselves.

The honourable member for Bennettswood is another of the "dries" within the Liberal Party who I thought would have been burning to make a contribution on an issue of this sort.

It is interesting to note that members of the Liberal Party are again finding their principles by claiming that it is important that, if they ever return to office, they will ensure that despite the previous 27 years when they were in office they will be consistent and they will honour their principles. The honourable member for Dromana is smiling to himself because he has made many a speech along these lines.

There have been newspaper references to some disharmony within the party room on an issue of this sort and I can well understand it. The Liberal Party would have divided opinions on such a matter. Members of the Liberal Party are demonstrating a lack of consistency in general policies and a lack of faith in the dairy industry.

This matter is of significance. The Government will adhere to the positions maintained in the Bill. A further test will occur in another place on whether the measure becomes law.

I look forward to the debate that no doubt will occur within the community and again within the Liberal Party on whether its members' principles are once again thrown out the window on an issue of this sort, or whether, as was the case for many years when the

Liberal Party was in office, some sort of compromise or some sort of sleazy reason will be found to maintain what is very much the past attitude of the Liberal Party which allowed these original production levels to be established.

A new approach should be adopted that takes into account community demands and tastes. The margarine industry should be allowed to grow and to flourish. I hope members of the Opposition will reconsider their stance on this matter of principle that is before them.

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen)—The Margarine (Amendment) Bill is supposed to deregulate the margarine industry, but I have grave reservations about that, particularly following the speech made by the Deputy Premier, who has now left the Chamber. I do not believe it is simply a matter of the deregulation of one industry; I see the Bill as another attack on the dairy industry in Victoria. I make no apology for that statement because it is well known that for two years prior to my entering Parliament I was the secretary of the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority.

I make no apology for supporting the dairy industry because of its enormous economic significance to this State. There is no doubt that over the past four years of the Labor Government there has been a continual attack on the dairy industry by the Labor Party. There is no doubt about that. For example, police have been used to break up dairy farmers' picket lines and all kinds of barriers have been put in the way of the dairy industry's freedom to expand in future.

Because of my experience in the dairy industry, and my support for it, I see this as not a single issue. One cannot divorce margarine from butter—they are directly competing products in the marketplace.

I do not want to go over the grounds put forward by the honourable member for Polwarth. He made a very good case about the getting of market share. Anyone who has studied marketing will know that marketers get a share of the market by dropping the price of their product. I have no doubt that that is how new manufacturers will try to get their market share in this State: it will be done at the expense of the dairy industry. That is the key aspect I put forward.

I see the Bill as another attack on the dairy industry in Victoria. The dairy industry is important to this State because it is the largest primary-producing industry in this State. There are 10 000 dairy farmers in Victoria. Victoria is the natural dairying State in Australia. Sixty per cent of all the milk produced in Australia is produced in Victoria.

The dairy industry is worth protecting because there is a whole infrastructure throughout Gippsland and the Western District, where towns are dependent upon the dairy industry being prosperous.

There is no doubt that there are tremendous difficulties at the moment for the dairy industry as there is price cutting throughout the world. The European Economic Community and the United States of America are placing tremendous pressure on dairy products, particularly butter and cheese. Because of the enormous economic impact of the dairying industry in this State, it is very important that the Parliament be prepared to protect its largest primary-producing industry.

I now refer to deregulation because I am sure honourable members opposite will want to canvass that subject. It is obvious to me as a member of the Public Bodies Review Committee that that committee has to consider the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority and the deregulation of the industry through a review of that authority. I have been a member of that committee for a little less than one year. There is not an urgent rush by the Government or that committee to review the regulation of the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority or the whole dairy industry.

It seems to me that the question has been put on the back burner. If one is going to deregulate, one has to do it jointly, not deregulate the margarine industry and leave the

dairy industry as the most protected industry in Victoria. That is not possible in marketing terms because the market is not ideal—it is not a pure market.

I take umbrage at the comments made by the Minister in his second-reading speech where he stated that he believes:

> . . . the Bill to amend the Margarine Act will in no way affect the sale or consumption of butter in this State to any significant degree.

When that comment was made, no evidence was put forward and no estimates were made regarding the effect of the Bill. Bland statements were put to Parliament in the Minister's second-reading speech about its having no significant degree of effect on the sales of butter in this State.

I repeat, I do not want to go over the arguments put forward by previous speakers. The experience has been that there will be an effect because butter will find itself in an unfair situation in a discounted market.

I refer to the matter raised by the Deputy Premier, who seemed to believe that one can simply deregulate and it will all happen. The Liberal Party believes deregulation is in the best interests of the industry, but it is how it is done that is important. I can give an example of how deregulation should be viewed from an Australian point of view with regard to the dairy industry and the margarine industry.

In my two years in the dairy industry, I was able to witness a situation where the Victorian dairy industry, or some components of it, attempted to distribute Victorian dairy products in New South Wales. If one believes that section 96 of the Australian Constitution will protect the efficient Victorian dairy farmers and allow them to produce milk cheaply and supply it to an interstate market, one has to have another think.

Every possible artificial barrier was put up against the interstate trade in dairy products. This is what happened: tankers full of Victorian milk were not stopped by any legal proceedings; a deal was made with the Transport Workers Union which decided, after a deal had been made with the New South Wales Dairy Corporation, that no tanker driver would transport milk interstate. Section 96 or no section 96, there will be no fair marketing for Victorian products in another State. I suggest honourable members should think about that. We know that if someone wants to stop anyone getting into their market, they can do so.

The other matter to which I refer is one that I have referred to when debating other Bills. Again and again I have asked that, when proposed legislation is introduced which will have an impact on the Victorian economy, an economic impact statement is attached to it.

The proposed legislation consists of a Bill of one page and honourable members have not received an economic impact statement except for the bland statements made by the Minister in his second-reading speech. The Minister has not indicated how many more jobs are expected to be created in the margarine manufacturing industry. He has not estimated how many jobs will be lost in the dairy industry because of the Bill. Time and again proposed legislation is introduced with no accompanying economic impact statement.

What is the economic impact of the proposed legislation? What new jobs will be created? Honourable members have received letters from JGL Investments Proprietary suggesting that they will invest $6 million in new manufacturing plant in Victoria. I understand that already $60 million worth of manufacturing plant has been established in this State for producing oils for margarine production.

If that is the case, what is the economic impact of a further margarine manufacturing investment? Will the other manufacturing plants have to close down? Will it have an effect on the dairy industry and other manufacturing concerns? The Minister did not mention anything in his second-reading speech. Honourable members were given no indication of the effects on the other manufacturing concerns involved in the margarine

manufacturing process. If this information were provided to Parliament in an honest, comprehensive manner, we might have some sort of rational debate.

I have received various suggestions about how many permanent jobs will be created in the State; some say 26 jobs will be created and some say that 28 jobs will be created. I do not know.

Mrs Toner—You do not care either.

Mr PERRIN—I do care. I am concerned about how many jobs will be lost. One cannot examine one side of the ledger without examining the other side. If one creates a new industry which will have an effect on another industry, surely one should examine both sides of the matter.

As I said, an economic impact statement should have been attached to the proposed legislation. The Minister did not provide any figures in the second-reading speech. He does not care about informing Parliament about what is true and accurate. The Opposition might take exception to the figures, but it has not received any figures.

Along with other honourable members I have received a letter from the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria showing exactly what support the Opposition has for its position in rejecting the proposed legislation in the Upper House. The letter, which is dated 8 August, presents the argument that there will be adverse competition with the dairy industry. An interesting aspect is that the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria represents 10 000 dairy farmers in this State. On top of that one must also consider the additional infrastructure involved. The last three paragraphs of the letter state:

> The UDV has requested the Government not to proceed with its proposed amendments of the Margarine Act on the basis that if implemented, the increased margarine quota would be detrimental to both the Victorian dairy industry and oil seed industry, and that reduced production of butter in Victoria will have a greater impact on employment than any proposed increase in margarine manufacture.
>
> It is pleasing to the UDV that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Kennett, has clearly stated that the Liberal Party can find no economic or social benefit for the community in 1986 in changing the legislation and I attach that letter also for your information.
>
> Finally, I cannot stress enough that it is essential for the future of Victoria's major decentralised industry that further economic pressure not be applied by ill timed and ill considered government action. The Opposition has stood by this industry before and I am confident it will again.

It is obvious that the 10 000 dairy farmers in this State are prepared to back the Opposition in its view that the Bill is ill-timed and ill-considered. I am convinced, as is every other member of this House who has contributed to the debate, that the Bill will lead to a price war in the margarine industry and that will have a detrimental impact on other investments in the margarine industry in this State as well as the dairy industry.

I remind the House that the Victorian dairy industry is the most regulated industry in the State. Everything in the dairy industry is regulated including prices, profit margins, supply and quality. If one wishes to deregulate an industry, firstly, it must be phased out gradually and, secondly, one simply cannot deregulate one part of a competing manufacturing industry, such as the margarine industry. I cannot see the dairy industry being deregulated in the near future; it is not on the political agenda of the Labor Party.

I reiterate that I am disappointed that the Government has not seen fit to introduce proposed legislation with an attached economic impact statement. The Government is misleading Parliament by instituting measures that will attack the dairy industry, the largest primary industry in this State.

If this is the way the Government wishes to go, I am sure there are plenty of people in the industry who are prepared to recognise that the Liberal Party will stand up and be counted. Principles are more important than anything else and one has to look only at the Federal Government to see that principles are thrown out the door. A party that is prepared to stand up and be counted when it is necessary to protect the very fabric of this State is worth supporting. The Bill should be thrown out.

Dr COGHILL (Werribee)—The debate has been fascinating for the way in which the Liberal Party has approached it. Its speakers have been quite illogical and, indeed, it defies imagination that anyone could argue as the honourable member for Bulleen, more recently, and other members of the Opposition, have argued.

I shall start with the comments of the lead speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who said that three interest groups are involved, the margarine manufacturers, the dairy industry and oilseed producers. Never mind the consumers! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was challenged, by interjection, to consider whether consumers had any interest—legitimate or otherwise—but he refused to concede that there was a single issue on which consumers would properly be interested in the Bill.

That indicates the level of debate of members of the Opposition. They are not prepared even to properly consider just who might be affected by the proposed legislation. What we have seen is a smokescreen for some sort of underhand deal the Liberal Party has done with the existing manufacturers of margarine in Australia. That is what it is all about. They have done a backroom deal.

At meetings with the margarine manufacturers' association, the Liberal Party has said that it thinks big business is worth supporting and that it will support margarine manufacturers against consumers and anyone else who might be affected by the proposed legislation. That attitude was clearly expressed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition particularly and it was implicit in the comments of other members of the Opposition who have spoken on this issue.

One should first examine the effect of the Bill. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition conceded that the existing market in Victoria for margarine is 32 000 tonnes a year. The Bill will simply allow a greater proportion—not the whole—of that existing market to be met by Victorian-based production. It would not of itself allow any production in Victoria which would exceed or even meet the existing levels of consumption. That is the first and fundamental flaw in the arguments put by the Opposition.

Members of the Opposition have sought to imply that the Bill will lead to an expansion of the volume of margarine sold in Victoria, but the Liberal Party has produced not one shred of evidence in support of that implication. It will still be the situation that less than the total market will be supplied by production originating from Victoria. The implication is that production in Victoria would have a cost advantage over margarine imported from other States—so, at the very most, there would be an increase in the proportion of the market supplied from Victorian manufacturers rather than an expansion in the size of the Victorian market and the amount of margarine consumed in Victoria.

As the Minister pointed out in the second-reading speech, the market consumption in Victoria for margarine stabilised some years ago. There is no evidence to suggest that the entry of a new supplier into the Victorian market, without any real justification for believing there would be an increase in the level of margarine consumption in Victoria, would be any negative impact on butter consumption in Victoria.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition claimed that if the proposed legislation were passed, the proportion of butter sold in Victoria would drop to 25 per cent of the yellow spread market. He said that this figure was produced by those who have researched the matter. When he was challenged to reveal the source from which he was quoting, he refused to do so. Certainly, it was obvious from his statements that this was not his own calculation and assessment but an assessment that had been made by some anonymous source. It would be very nice if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition were honest enough to come out and say who gave him that figure. The figure may well have been given to him by the margarine manufacturers' association as part of the argument to be put by the Liberal Party that was worked out in the back-room deal that was done between the association and the Liberal Party.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggested that the drop in consumption to 25 per cent would follow in a price war between the new margarine manufacturers in Victoria

and the dairy industry, and he said that this would lead to chaos. He said that the operation of a free market would lead to chaos in the yellow spread industry.

The Liberal Party must think this over very carefully. There are enormous pressures within the Liberal Party, brought about by members of the Opposition who have not spoken in this debate, to totally deregulate the market of everything in Australia so that, indeed, chaos would be the order of the day and the law of the jungle would prevail, with market forces being allowed to determine everything.

It is curious that no contribution has been made to this debate by those members of the Liberal Party who could properly be classified as members of the New Right, people who favour wholesale deregulation, of which the honourable member for Mornington is an advocate. It would be very interesting if the honourable member for Mornington were to contribute to the debate and state where he stands on this issue because he has been one of the strongest advocates of the Opposition for the deregulation and unfettered operation of market forces. He appears to be well associated with those extreme right-wing groups which have been fighting it out within the Liberal Party.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! The honourable member should relate his remarks to the Bill and not to the Liberal Party.

Dr COGHILL—Obviously, I have struck a sensitive chord with the honourable member for Mornington. One of the key points made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in his speech on this matter was that it was not the policy of the Liberal Party to have deregulation for the sake of deregulation. Again, his comments highlight the divisions in the Liberal Party which have been exacerbated by the fact that the Liberal Party has had to confront the realities of this Bill and which have been well illustrated in the debate today.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is one of those true conservatives in the Liberal Party who can perceive that there are values in regulations that serve useful social purposes and he is not one of those who goes along with the idealogical right in the Liberal Party. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition certainly is not a member of the New Right, and he does not claim to be a member. No doubt, he holds his position in the Liberal Party because of his position in the squattocracy which dominates the Victorian Liberal Party. He is certainly not in that position because of his intellectual contributions to this debate or to anything else.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition implied that new manufacturers entering into the margarine industry in Victoria would necessarily use low-grade palm oil in their production as part of the price war that he says will eventuate in order to establish their place in the Victorian market. He said that new manufacturers entering into the industry in Victoria would substitute imported low-grade palm oil for oilseed produced in Australia.

He was not as extreme as the Deputy Leader of the National Party who suggested that the proposed legislation should be confined to oilseed production in Victoria. That would be constitutionally open to very successful challenge. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition took the view that the new entrant into the margarine manufacturing industry in Victoria would inevitably use low-grade palm oil to obtain a price advantage in order to gain a share of the Victorian market. He failed to address just why existing manufacturers themselves would not do exactly the same to gain an increased share of the Victorian market for yellow spreads. That is the second point of logic that the Opposition has totally failed to address in the debate on the Bill.

One should have thought that if the manufacturers, who are based predominantly in New South Wales and presently supply the Victorian market with 30 000-odd tonnes a year, really wanted to extend the yellow spread market share in Victoria, they would be looking for every opportunity of cutting costs of production to enable them to market their product at a highly competitive price against butter. To date that has not happened;

nonetheless regardless of whether a new manufacturer might be established in Victoria, that opportunity still exists.

The opportunity exists for present manufacturers to enter into the importation and use of cheap palm oil in the production of margarine in Australia and also to use that production cost advantage to increase their share of the Victorian market. It is really of no consequence in this debate whether a manufacturer might be located in Victoria, yet the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has totally failed to address that fundamental point of logic.

Similarly the oilseed producers whom the Deputy Leader of the Opposition cited in support of his case have not addressed that issue—that that opportunity will exist, given the Federal Government's decisions on tariffs and other controls over the importation of palm oil by any manufacturer anywhere in Australia to compete for a share of the yellow spread market in Victoria.

The honourable member for Polwarth made exactly the same point but he continued to make assertions that I regard as offensive. In virtually exactly these same words he said that the decision to introduce the proposed legislation was some sort of pay-off to the Liberman family for donations it had made to the Labor Party. If donations were made to the Labor Party by the Liberman family, they played no part in the decision-making behind this measure.

More importantly, that assertion portrays the attitude of the Liberal Party because that is the basis on which a Liberal Party Government would operate. It would pay off people who make donations to the Liberal Party. That is the standard expected by members of the Liberal Party. They expect their Ministers will make pay-offs based on the level of donations made to their party and to the person who might benefit from any legislation.

Mr Cooper interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! The honourable member for Mornington is interjecting while out of his place. If he moved a little more to the right, he would be in his place!

Dr COGHILL—The honourable member for Mornington could not be much farther to the right ideologically!

Members of the Opposition fail to acknowledge that Labor Party members of Parliament do not accept donations on behalf of their party. This is contrary to the practices of members of the Liberal Party! Members of the Labor Party direct those who make donations to that wing of the party organisation that deals with donations or to the State or national secretary of the party. The grubs of the Liberal Party are prepared to accept donations and to act accordingly. The Labor Party made the decision to introduce this Bill in the interests of Victorians and of Victorian employment and consumers.

As the honourable member for Greensborough pointed out by way of interjection, the Leader of the Opposition and his cohorts in the New Right faction of the Liberal Party were rolled in the party room on this basic issue of deregulation of the marketplace. They put forward the view that, as a matter of logic, consistency and support for the free market they ought to support the proposed legislation but were rolled by the squattocracy, the old guard and conservative wing of the Liberal Party, which thought that it would buy a few votes by making a deal with the margarine manufacturers and then dressing it up as some sort of defence for the dairy industry.

Let us consider the implications of the proposed legislation for the dairy industry. Members of the Liberal Party who have spoken in the debate have not honestly addressed this issue. They have suggested that somehow or other thousands of jobs in the dairy industry would be lost as a consequence of the operation of the proposed legislation. It is a bold assertion without a shred of evidence to support it.

Members of the Liberal Party have asserted that by the passage of the proposed legislation margarine consumption in Victoria would increase enormously and thousands of jobs in

the dairy industry would be lost. For that to happen there would have to be an overwhelming increase in margarine consumption in Victoria.

I am not talking about an increase in margarine consumption from 69 per cent to 70 per cent or 69 per cent to 71 per cent, but from 69 per cent to close to total control and domination of the market, with butter being a minor specialist market in Victoria. For that to occur margarine production would have to be virtually unrestricted in Victoria. The Bill does not propose that.

It proposes that margarine manufacture in Victoria would be limited to 30 000 tonnes a year. As I pointed out earlier, that is less than the total consumption of margarine in Victoria. The measure would create a competitive advantage for manufacturers of margarine based in Victoria over manufacturers of margarine based interstate.

The Bill is not about displacement of dairy industry employees and others involved in the industry but about a change in the market share between margarine manufacturers. Therefore, the proposed legislation has the potential to provide for a new entrant in the market, a new Victorian manufacturer of margarine, to supply the major share of the Victorian market at the expense of interstate margarine manufacturers. The measure is about transferring, in effect, employment from interstate to Victoria.

It is remarkable that the Liberal Party would want to support continued employment interstate of people who could be located in Victoria. That is what the Bill is all about. The present situation wastes resources because it involves extraordinary costs in transporting margarine from, principally, the manufacturing plants in Sydney to Melbourne. The only jobs that will be at risk are, firstly, those of people who are presently involved in the manufacture of margarine in New South Wales, to supply the Victorian market; and, secondly, those who are transporting margarine from that State to Victoria. They are the only jobs which can reasonably be held to be at stake, if the Bill is passed.

The Liberal Party has shown a total lack of logic in this debate. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition acknowledged overtly, and other Liberal Party speakers implied acknowledgement, that the Bill is about defending existing interstate margarine manufacturers. It is nothing to do with the dairy industry; there is not a shred of evidence to support the contention that it might have implications for the dairy industry.

In accordance with Sessional Orders, the debate was interrupted.

ADJOURNMENT

Televising of proceedings—Development at Frankston railway station—Public housing in Bendigo—Retail liquor merchants' licence fee—Flinders Street station redevelopment—Home Energy Advisory Service—Building works at Hawkesdale High School—Water metering for strata title flats and units—Wurdee Buloc/Petival water supply scheme

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! The time appointed by Sessional Orders for me to interrupt the business of the House has now arrived. The question is that the House do now adjourn.

I desire to give notice to the House that the Speaker has given permission for television channels 9 and 10 to film during question time tomorrow. The filming will take place without lighting so as not to inconvenience honourable members and will also be done without sound. The filming is to update library film.

Mr WEIDEMAN (Frankston South)—I direct to the attention of the Minister for Transport a development at Frankston railway station. I shall outline the history of the development. In 1980, the present Minister for Education, the Honourable member for Carrum, the then honourable member for Chelsea Province in another place, the Honourable Eric Kent, and myself as the then member for Frankston met with the Frankston City Council, the Railway Construction and Property Board and the Frankston

Chamber of Commerce to discuss the proposed construction of a development at Frankston station. It was agreed that the development should include an overpass.

The Railway Construction and Property Board has now disappeared and $1·2 million worth of plans have been wasted. As part of the development, $250 000 was to be allocated for the construction of an at-level boom crossing at Beach Street, Frankston. As part of that plan, an additional site had to be purchased. The site in question was occupied by an Amoco Australia Ltd petrol station.

An agreement was made between the then Minister of Transport, the Frankston council and the proprietors of the petrol station for that site to be transferred because it was needed for the construction of the level crossing. Now that the project will not proceed, the Director-General of Transport has recently sent a letter to the Frankston council stating that the legal document signed between the Government and council is void.

It seems a stupid situation that the Government is suggesting that a legal document become a void document so that the Government will not have to provide funds to purchase a site necessary for the construction of a level crossing when the council has made an agreement with the proprietors of the Amoco petrol station and the Governor in Council has approved the transfer of the site. In those circumstances, it is inconceivable that the Government has indicated that such a legal document is null and void. It is impossible to understand!

At a meeting last night, the Frankston council indicated that it did not understand how a Government was prepared to sign a legal agreement and then not provide the funds it indicated it would provide.

The council had plans for a ring-road around Frankston, taking in the level crossing on Beach Street and Quality Street, to serve a proposed development worth more than $100 million. That development could not take place unless such a ring-road were constructed. V/Line and the Minister of Transport had agreed that such a widening of the road would take place.

It is difficult to believe that the Government would write to a council and say, "You have agreed to buy, the land has been purchased but now we will not provide the funds and you can forget it." For two years that land has been used.

Mr KENNEDY (Bendigo West)—I direct my comments to the Minister for Housing. I specifically wish to request that he ensures that Bendigo continues to receive a high priority in the provision of funds for the construction of much needed Ministry of Housing homes, particularly in view of the significant waiting lists and the importance of the Ministry of Housing construction in the development of the over-all Bendigo economy and the important social need.

I have raised this matter tonight because of the peculiar situation which exists in the Bendigo area where the Liberal Party is now launching a vendetta against Ministry of Housing construction. In addition to that, it is constantly and consistently misadvising people on low incomes who wish to obtain Ministry of Housing homes in the Bendigo area.

The campaign is being conducted in alliance with the Strathfieldsaye Shire Council for regrettable reasons indeed. If it were to succeed, the result would be to debar large numbers of people in the Bendigo area from obtaining the Ministry of Housing accommodation which they seek. At present it appears that the aim of the Liberal Party in Bendigo is to keep public housing out of Bendigo. It appears there is a political reason for this as it does not want public housing in this area. If one asks many of the people of Bendigo how they see the situation, they would make a few unflattering comments about that.

Mr John interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! We are now reaching the end of proceedings, I ask the honourable member for Bendigo East to cease interjecting.

Mr KENNEDY—If one asks a number of people in the Bendigo area how they interpret this peculiar and extraordinary attack on Ministry of Housing construction, on its tenants and people on low incomes, many people would say it rests in the social attitude of the Liberal Party representative in the area. In short, the word "snobbery" is often used to explain the attitude of the Liberal Party.

I notice that the Leader of the Opposition has chosen to interject. I would say, however, that the social prejudice that characterises much of the attitude of the Liberal Party in Bendigo is in clear constrast to what I see as being the fair minded and reasonable attitude shown towards Ministry of Housing construction by the former Minister of Housing, the Leader of the Opposition, and all credit to him because he was prepared to stand up for Ministry of Housing construction and for those persons who needed homes.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr KENNEDY—The Leader of the Opposition spoke clearly and strongly on behalf of those people and he got stuck into those people who were trying to denigrate them.

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! This is the last time that I shall warn the honourable member for Bendigo East and I point out that the word "hypocrite" is unparliamentary and it is fortunate that the matter was not taken up by any honourable member present.

Mr KENNEDY—When the Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Housing, the honourable member for Niddrie had to burrow day after day into the files of the Ministry of Housing to find evidence that even one Liberal Party member of Parliament in Bendigo opposed Ministry of Housing construction and he found it!

These days it is not necessary to go to the Ministry of Housing files to find evidence of Liberal Party hostility to the Ministry of Housing construction; it is there almost every week on the front page of the *Bendigo Advertiser*. There are constant attacks on Ministry of Housing homes and Ministry clients. I reiterate by asking the Minister to take account of the views I have expressed about the need for public housing construction in Bendigo. The Government has done an outstanding job in providing this over the past four years and I am sure that the Minister will give an assurance that that work will continue to take place so that Bendigo's families needing housing are accommodated.

Mr JASPER (Murray Valley)—I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources relating to the liquor industry. I bring to the Minister's attention the representations I have received from a number of retail liquor merchants, not only from my electorate, but also from other parts of Victoria, relating to the payment of the annual licence fee which is due and payable on 10 September, but which the Liquor Control Commission usually accepts at the end of September.

Most retail liquor merchants have a cash flow problem because of the current beer strike concerning Carlton and United Breweries Ltd. Because of that strike, many retailers are having difficulty raising the money required for their licence fee, which in many cases is a large amount.

The Minister is aware that the Liquor Control Commission raises in excess of $70 million from retail liquor merchants. I ask the Minister to consider a deferment in the payment of these annual licence fees.

The Minister should consider the current strike situation, the fact that many retailers are short of packaged beer supplies and have been for many weeks, which has caused enormous difficulties to their financial position.

Without going into detail about the strike and what action the Minister will take, I ask him to consider a deferment in the payment of that licence fee, as I have indicated.

The Minister is aware of a telegram I sent to him on Friday regarding this issue. I have also written to the Minister on this matter and obviously strong representations have been made to the commission. I hope the Minister responds positively to retailers who are facing grave difficulties in these situations.

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—I desire to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Transport. There is a smell around the Flinders Street station, which has travelled to the Cabinet room.

Today's dismissal of Kris Kudlicki and Paul Riboni, because of their part in the Flinders Street station railway scandal, by Russell Ingersoll, at the direction of the State Cabinet, is the tip of the iceberg—others will go shortly. Kudlicki did a Gallagher—he had work done on his private home by Costain Australia Ltd; he failed to collect rent from tenants for two years; he gave tenancy to special friends of the former Minister for Transport, Mr Crabb, and he did not call tenders for those tenancies.

I wish to give just one example of a tenancy consideration to the wife of Norman Fay, a former staffer of the Minister for Labour. Paul Riboni was involved in the financial cover-up and for that cover-up they have both been sacked. Who else will be sacked? Peter Lavis is involved in the property division of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Will he be sacked for his role with Kudlicki? The people and the Opposition want to know. Another Crabb–Strouse appointee——

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! I suggest the honourable member refer to the Minister by his correct title. The Minister deserves that and is entitled to that privilege.

Mr GUDE—Another appointee of the former Minister for Transport and Mr Strouse, a former senior person within that Ministry, is Michael Maude, a personnel manager. Will he be dismissed for his part in the way he gave concessions to the union concerned, free beer, free barbeques and special allowances?

What of the role of Vaughan Duggan, another former staffer of the Minister for Labour? What of Ian Harris, who vetted the Flinders Street station files.

I have been seeking information relative to the Flinders Street redevelopment project under the Freedom of Information Act since 17 October 1985. I have finally taken up the matter with the Ombudsman and have queried the reasons why this cover-up has occurred. It is clear now, following the dismissal of these two people, why there has been a cover-up. It is a serious matter. It has taken the Cabinet to finalise these first sackings. It poses questions of propriety regarding the way in which the Government administers the State. Will the sacked men be charged? If not, why not? How long has the Minister and his predecessor known about the Flinders Street station fiasco? Who else will be sacked and when will they be sacked? Why was not the Minister able to handle this issue himself? Why was it necessary for Cabinet to authorise these sackings? Why did the Premier and Cabinet have to be involved in this decision?

I call on the Minister to make available to the Opposition by noon tomorrow all documents and advices that relate to the dismissals that exist and the dismissals which have been indicated will be made.

The Opposition wants the issue of Ministerial involvement cleared up; involvement by the previous Minister for Transport, the involvement of the current Minister for Transport and involvement by members of Cabinet who clearly have knowledge of it.

This matter needs to be cleared up urgently if the propriety of the Government is to continue in any way, shape or form.

Miss CALLISTER (Morwell)—I direct the attention of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources to the Home Energy Advisory Service, which is a service that was introduced by the Government in March 1983 and has been progressively implemented across the State.

As the Minister would be aware, I have contended for some years that it is an important service and should be provided in the Latrobe Valley. I am interested in receiving advice from the Minister on the progress of the implementation of the Home Energy Advisory Service within the Latrobe Valley.

The service is of special relevance to low and fixed income earners who qualify under certain eligibility criteria; specifically they must have a Commonwealth health care card and their average energy bills in one quarter should be more than $100.

The scheme offers advice from trained experts who visit homes and counsel householders on ways and means of improving their energy consumption and thereby reducing fuel bills. The service is not confined to conventional fuels such as gas and electricity, but also embraces a range of other fuels such as oil, wood and kerosene used in households.

Apart from providing advice, if the advisers recommend it, funding up to $250 is available to assist in fitting items to the house to assist in improvements or defraying costs of energy components of the household budget. That might include ceiling insulation, leaded hot water pipes, and draught stoppers on doors and windows being provided within the $250 limit.

I have been persistent in my representations concerning the introduction of this service for the Latrobe Valley. A number of eligible householders have initiated inquiries about such a service through various agencies that have been established to assist such people, including the Regional Housing Advisory Council and members of Parliament.

The original application for such a service was made by the City of Traralgon and the Shire of Morwell under Community Employment Program funding. I supported that application and spent some time dealing with council officers to facilitate it.

Therefore, I ask the Minister whether he can advise on progress being made towards the implementation of this particular service in the Latrobe Valley.

Mr J. F. McGRATH (Warrnambool)—I refer to the Minister for Public Works an article in the *Warrnambool Standard* on 4 September headed "Blunder Proves Costly". It states that:

> A Public Works Department blunder at Hawkesdale High School caused cancellation of a $133 191 contract; and the loss of thousands of dollars by local traders.

The scenario that pre-empted that decision to cancel the contract raises grave concerns about the procedures used by the Public Works Department in actually assessing and approving contracts.

A contract was let to a Mr Michael Lemmio, who recently arrived in the Warrnambool area, supposedly from Western Australia. Mr Lemmio had no previous track record with the Public Works Department; in fact, he had no driver's licence, no vehicle and no equipment.

He was the successful tenderer for a $133 000 major cyclic maintenance job on the Hawkesdale High School.

Upon commencing work at the high school, it became obvious to a subcontracter carpenter that Mr Lemmio was out of his depth, that he had no understanding of building generally and certainly had no understanding of Public Works Department tendering on the department's requirements.

He was contacted on several occasions by the local public works inspector for that area, a Mr Ray Broadbent from the Hamilton region. Mr Broadbent tried in vain to have the situation corrected to minimise the loss to the local traders, and, indeed, reduce inconvenience to the school.

It is my belief that Mr Broadbent, although diligent and vigilant, was frustrated by the system. Mr Lemmio continued to work even though he had not signed a contract and had not paid a deposit. I shall be asking a question shortly about how that could happen.

The people involved with this contractor have many thousands of dollars outstanding and the lack of co-operation that I have received from the Public Works Department does not augur well for its ability to try to correct its errors.

I am sure the Minister would be concerned about the matter. He already has a copy of the paper that outlines the scenario, and I trust he has had time to read it because it casts grave aspersions on the Public Works Department and the procedures to be used when granting major contracts.

I am led to believe that a contract worth $200 000, which has now been amended to $150 000, is not subject to investigation; and yet, here was a man who not only was incapable of handling the contract but also did not have the financial resources to raise the deposit to officiate at the signing of the contract. That is a disgraceful performance.

I should also say that, at that point in time, there was a change in zones within the Public Works Department, and Hawkesdale went from the Warrnambool zone to the Hamilton zone. I might add also that I have some criticism of the inspector in the Warrnambool area for his handling of the situation.

I therefore raise the following questions: what procedures were followed through to investigate the competency of the contractor to complete the work required under the contract; what investigations were carried out into the background of the contractor who had only recently arrived in this State; has this contractor undertaken work on behalf of the Public Works Department before; what investigations were carried out as to the contractor's ability to pay suppliers; how is it that a contractor can commence work on a site without having signed all appropriate documents; and how is it that a person of no fixed address can obtain a contract of this size from a Government body?

Mr DELZOPPO (Narracan)—The matter I raise with the Minister for Water Resources concerns the metering of water supply to units and flats in strata title complexes.

It is the practice of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to provide one meter to the body corporate, irrespective of the number of units that are drawing from that supply. In some cases where there is a large number of units, a second meter is provided. It means that individuals bear a proportion of the account that is not related to usage. I believe that is totally unfair.

In one case that I know of, the proposition was put to the Board of Works that individuals could supply their own meters at a cost of some $60. The answer to it was, "Yes", but the sting in the tail to that answer was that, of course, the board would not read that meter.

The electricity and gas supplies are individually metered to these units, and yet the water supply is metered under this very, to say the least, unusal type of distribution.

In a letter to a colleague of mine in another place, a lady complaining of this particular situation states:

> Under the Strata Titles Act, the liability and entitlement of each owner is determined at the time the strata plan is approved, so it would seem to me to be illegal for the body corporate to charge on any other basis, such as by the number of occupants in each dwelling.

One's concern is further heightened when one learns about the situation of this particular person. The letter also states:

> At the complex at which I live, there are 16 units and two water meters. Nine of the units have a single occupant, six have two and one has four people living in it. Our entitlements and liabilities are equal, but it is, of course, very obvious that four people will use much more water than one.

I believe an injustice is being done to people in flats and units. These are usually retired people, and I ask the Minister to alter the system so that a fair and equitable distribution of cost is borne by each of the people using water in such a strata title complex.

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon)—I direct to the attention of the Minister for Water Resources a request from a Mr Michael Edgar of Cochranes Road, Ceres, concerning the Wurdee Buloc/Petival water supply scheme. Farmers in the area that would be affected by that scheme have received letters from the Geelong and District Water Board dated 27 August 1986. Those farmers believe the water scheme proposals will cause the existing water arrangements for those rural properties to be terminated on 1 December 1986.

I should like to give the Minister the relevant correspondence and request that he and officers of his department closely examine any alternatives available to rural holders. It is of vital importance to people who have been in receipt of water for 40 years or more to be able to exercise their options of continuing to receive water.

The scheme put forward by the Geelong and District Water Board may be too grandiose at this stage because an insufficient number of people are prepared to come in on the scheme.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The first matter raised by the honourable member for Frankston South concerned land near the Frankston railway station. The situation is that that land is not required for railway purposes.

Mr Weideman—It is already being used.

Mr ROPER—A small proportion only is required and the Government is carrying out inquiries to establish what is required for railway purposes. Discussions are continuing about a number of matters neighbouring on the Frankston station and I expect these to be satisfactorily resolved, especially matters relating to the operation of the railway.

The honourable member for Hawthorn raised the question of the Flinders Street station redevelopment.

Mr Kennett interjected.

Mr ROPER—I wonder whether the honourable member is suggesting that the action taken by the Director-General of Transport about the two persons he named should not have occurred. The Government supports the director-general in that matter.

A thorough review of the management of this major and exciting project has been carried out by the director-general at my request. As a result, improvements in cost control and leasing arrangements have been identified.

I had expected to be asked about this this morning but the Opposition, as always, was somewhat late and decided to concentrate on last week's news during question time this morning.

The following action has been taken: firstly, the responsibility of the Melbourne Transit Authority for the project, both for the building and leasing, has been made clear. Secondly, a new project manager has been appointed. Thirdly, available shops on the concourse have been put out for public expressions of interest, tenders for which closed on 11 August. Fourthly, Mr Kudlicki, an employee of the State Transport Authority has, I understand, been dismissed.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Minister is referring to a document that is obviously well prepared. I ask that the document from which he is reading be made available to the House in the custom and tradition of Parliament.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—On the point of order, as the Leader of the Opposition well knows, honourable members on both sides of the House may refer to notes. That does not come under the general rule relating to files

and formal documents. Clearly, the Minister for Transport is referring to notes, just as I shall refer to notes when I reply to matters raised by honourable members. The proposals moved by the Leader of the Opposition should not be supported.

Mr RICHARDSON (Forest Hill)—On the point of order, Sir, a distinction must be made between notes that are jotted down by an honourable member and a document that has clearly been prepared for a Minister, who, in this case, is a Minister not only of the Crown but also a Minister who is in a lot of trouble.

The point about that piece of paper is that it is a document which has been prepared for a Minister in this Government on a matter that is before the House. The Leader of the Opposition is perfectly correct within the forms, traditions and Standing Orders of this place to request that that document be made available to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! It is generally accepted by past practice and procedure that copious notes are referred to and are used by most honourable members. I also accept that Ministers who are asked questions without notice must take notes on the subject. At this stage I shall accept that the Minister is referring to copious notes. If he is not referring to notes I am sure he will act in the usual manner with any document that he has.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—Obviously the Liberal Party does not want to know the answer. I was saying that Mr Kudlicki, as an employee of the State Transport Authority, as I understand it——

Mr Leigh *interjected.*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! The honourable member for Malvern will come to order. Serious allegations have been made and most honourable members will want to listen intently to what the Minister is saying.

Mr ROPER—As I was saying again before the honourable member for Malvern interjected, as with Mr Riboni of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, action will also be taken in respect of Metropolitan Transit Authority officers who fail to carry out their responsibilities adequately.

I point out to honourable members that this project was conceived to change the face of one of Melbourne's major landmarks, a landmark which had been allowed to fall into significant disrepair and total neglect by the former Government. Melburnians, particularly commuters, have seen the benefits of what is occurring and have benefited from the changes. As the project is finalised——

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! This is the last warning I shall give. There is only a short time to go before the House adjourns, but if the conduct of the House does not improve, it will be adjourning much sooner because I will not put up with the interjections.

Mr ROPER—The point I was making, as Melburnians and commuters will appreciate, is that the Flinders Street station area is being and has been significantly upgraded. As a result of the review carried out at my request, a number of improvements have been made in the arrangements, and the dismissals to which the honourable member referred have been a result of that review and the tightening up of the administration of that project.

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Water Resources)—The honourable member for Narracan raised the matter of metering water to flats, units and properties with a number of users on the one meter or two meters. In most cases flats and units will be using less than the 150 000 litres which are allocated to each of those consumers so that there will not be problems in what the Board of Works estimates to be 80 per cent of the cases.

The honourable member asked how the problem can be solved for the other 20 per cent that may use additional water to the 150 000 litres allowed for each consumer. Normally,

it would be possible to reach agreement in body corporate meetings on the division of the excess water or additional water beyond the 150 000 litre allocations, but where a body corporate or group of occupants consider that that leads to some injustice, the board has suggested that individuals can use in-flow meters that they can read themselves. They can make that decision at body corporate meetings.

The board will send officers to discuss the matter with the body corporate and will discuss ways of making an equitable distribution of the cost of extra water and the means of reducing consumption.

Difficulty arises with buildings that have already been constructed and have only one or two meters to service a number of units, because the fitting of additional meters is complex and costly. In the future it will be possible for every new block of flats or units to make provision for the fitting of meters, but considerable damage would be caused to existing blocks of flats or units if the water supply system were to be recirculated around the buildings to enable individual consumption to be metered.

The board has taken up the matter and I have written to the honourable member indicating that the board's officers are prepared to discuss details of individual cases.

The honourable member for South Barwon raised the question of the Wurdee Buloc/ Petival rural water supply scheme. That matter has been brought to the attention of the Geelong and District Water Board, which has decided that the ageing channel system should be replaced. The board proposed a scheme to reticulate water to users and a majority were against the proposal, so a stalemate has been reached. I will take up the matter with the Geelong and District Water Board, seeking a discussion of the matter, and I shall forward the results to the honourable member.

Mr WALSH (Minister for Public Works)—In reply to the honourable member for Warrnambool concerning the Hawkesdale High School, my information is that officers of my department checked out this matter and that the contractor, Lemmio, was able to satisfy them, on the basis of information supplied at the time, that he was capable of doing the work. I understand that he had done other work at Beech Forest in the Otways, which was to satisfaction. After the department was contacted again, my officers went to the site and found that the contractor was not abiding by the contract and, after a short period, my department took over the contract.

The honourable member for Warrnambool says that a contract had not been signed. How could the department have taken over the contract if no contract had been signed? I will have that matter checked.

The honourable member also raised the point concerning some local traders being out of pocket. Traders in this State and in this country have an obligation to check out the people with whom they deal to see whether they are able to pay their debts. It is not the responsibility of the Government or the Public Works Department to go to people and say that a certain contractor can pay his debts because he is working for the Government. A contractor can buy whatever he likes. Should the Government be responsible for that? The honourable member must realize that there was a lack of accountability in the Public Works Department under the previous Government, but I assure honourable members that that has mostly been cleaned up. If there is a problem concerning this matter, that will be cleaned up. I will have it investigated further to see what can be done about it.

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The honourable member for Bendigo West referred to a Ministry of Housing development in the Bendigo area. I inform the honourable member that the Ministry of Housing has a program for the future development of public housing in Bendigo and it intends to proceed with that planned program as is. It is true that there are municipalities out of the 210 municipalities in Victoria, although only a handful, that persistently and consistently reject Ministry of Housing development within their areas. I say to those people that the Government is not prepared to accept resistance

to the development of public housing in any area. On those occasions where municipalities have held us up and forced us to the tribunal, we have won 98 per cent of the cases.

We shall continue to build public housing where a need for affordable public housing exists. There are problems associated with areas surrounding Bendigo that perhaps it would be improper for me to comment on until discussions take place between the Ministry of Housing and representatives of those municipalities that are resisting the particular type of development.

It must be remembered that the Government and the Ministry have changed policy in respect of the number and size of developments of Ministry housing in particular areas. It is our intention to restrict development to 30 or 35 units in any one particular area, and in many cases we have gone well below that figure. There will be an exception to the rule, which will be in the development proposed for the William Angliss estate and which was on the drawing boards long before we changed that policy. Approximately 280 to 300 units will be developed by the Ministry of Housing.

So far as Bendigo is concerned, I advise the honourable member who raised the question that it is the intention of the Ministry to proceed with its planned development for public housing in the Bendigo area. With regard to those councils that resist Ministry of Housing development, one of which was adverted to some time ago by the Leader of the Opposition when a particular council objected to a spot purchase in its area, I share the view of the honourable gentleman that there can be no distinction whatsoever between public and private housing development.

Where it is possible to develop public housing alongside private development—that is the desirable mix that any Government can contemplate and can execute—it is our intention to continue to do that, irrespective of the opposition that we receive from a mere handful of councillors. So far as Bendigo is concerned, we shall honour our obligation in Bendigo and build where need exists in accordance with our plan.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—There were two matters brought to my attention, the first one raised by the honourable member for Murray Valley concerned the payment of liquor licence fees falling due this month.

The honourable member suggested that the current industrial stoppage that is affecting beer supplies to some areas is causing a cash flow problem with a number of licensees. From my experience of this industry and from prudent business people in all industries, the licensees would be able to cope and would be prepared for situations of this sort. I do not think it is appropriate that there should be any general decision made by myself or the Government to defer the payment of these fees.

However, if there are individual instances that the honourable member wishes to bring to my attention, I am prepared to examine them on their merits, but I will make no particular commitment on what the response will be.

This industry is one in which there has been tight regulation. There are expectations about payment arrangements and payment times. I repeat: I am sure the vast majority of members of the industry are prepared and have organised their finances to cope with this situation.

The second matter raised by the honourable member for Morwell concerned the Home Energy Advisory Service. This service was introduced by the Government as part of an energy conservation program and was designed particularly to assist low and fixed income earners. To be eligible for help one must firstly, be eligible via a Commonwealth health card requirement and, secondly, have spent at least $100 on household fuel bills during any quarter over the previous twelve months.

The program has been very successful. So far 24 000 homes in the metropolitan area have been assisted and serviced under the scheme, together with 500 in the Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong areas.

I made commitments to endeavour to extend the service to other sections of the State as soon as convenient and financially feasible. I am pleased to be able to respond to the honourable member for Morwell and to indicate that the service will be introduced in the Latrobe Valley during October this year. I congratulate the honourable member for Morwell on her persistence in this issue. She has raised the matter with me on many occasions and I am sure she will be pleased to hear that this further step is now able to be undertaken.

Advisory service officers are currently being trained and a director will also be appointed to assist with the implementation of the scheme in a very important part of the State, namely, the Latrobe Valley, which is so ably represented by the honourable member for Morwell.

The Government proposes to extend the scheme to other areas of the State progressively over the months and years ahead, and I shall inform honourable members as those steps are put into place.

The House adjourned at 11.22 *p.m.*

Wednesday, 10 September 1986

The SPEAKER (the Hon. C. T. Edmunds) took the chair at 11.6 a.m. and read the prayer.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FLINDERS STREET STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—Will the Minister for Labour explain why, during his administration of the transport portfolio, leases on property at the Flinders Street station complex were granted to persons described as "Ministerial advisers, relatives of Ministerial advisers and friends of the Ministry"?

Mr CRABB (Minister for Labour)—Whether or not the question is in order, I shall answer it. On the issue to which the honourable member is referring he is drawing a long bow. The only probable basis for such a question to be asked would be that the wife of a Ministry of Transport employee entered into the lease of a shop at Flinders Street station.

There are 40 000 or thereabouts employees under the administration of the transport portfolio and I do not think all members of those employees' families should be debarred from any such commercial transactions associated with Government activities. Any relative of any person who is associated with the Minister's office should not be debarred from the normal business activities of any other citizen of the State.

Government employees at least should be exceedingly careful that everything they do in relation to any Government jurisdiction is done according to *Hoyle*—in a proper way that would apply to any other citizen of the State. I believe that applied in these circumstances.

THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE FRAUD

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—I refer the Treasurer to media accusations that certain ethnic groups have been involved in fraud concerning third-party insurance claims. Has this matter been brought to the attention of the Treasurer and, if so, what action has he taken to investigate these very serious allegations?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—Will the honourable member repeat the first part of his question?

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—I repeat the question: recently there have been very serious media accusations that certain ethnic groups have been involved in serious organized fraud of third-party insurance claims. Has this matter been brought to the attention of the Treasurer and, if so, what action has either he or the Government taken to investigate these very serious allegations?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The general problem of fraud has been drawn to my attention, certainly, but I have not taken an approach that concentrates on any particular ethnic group. I have taken an approach that encourages and provides resources to the Motor Accidents Board to ensure that there is a comprehensive program towards getting rid of fraud in the system.

The honourable gentleman would be aware that the Government has appointed a computer expert who has introduced a system which enables a matching-up of various claims in geographical areas. Obviously that has been a problem in the past because people have defrauded the system of third-party insurance.

If one has a look at the acceleration in costs of third-party insurance, one sees that most of it has been in the common law area. By far the overwhelming bulk of it is associated with the payment of lump sums. We have taken a very strong view about eradicating that system of fraud in the present framework.

The honourable gentleman would also appreciate that this is a major reason for introducing fundamental reforms to third-party insurance in the State.

PRICES SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY REVIEW

Mr POPE (Monbulk)—Can the Premier inform the House whether the Government will support a review of prices in major Victorian supermarkets by the Prices Surveillance Authority?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I noted the reports in today's press of the suggestion that the Prices Surveillance Authority would undertake a study of prices in our two major supermarket chains. I want to make it very clear that the Victorian Government will take whatever steps are necessary to assist such an examination at the State level.

We are prepared to lend the authority the support of our Prices Commissioner in that review. There is no doubt in my mind that an essential element in the prices and incomes accord, of which I made some mention yesterday with respect to the wages side, is a determination to do whatever can be done to keep a check on prices.

It is not unreasonable to expect an appreciation of the economic difficulties that we all face, which means wage restraint from unions, provided there is a corresponding prices restraint from retailers and manufacturers on the other side.

That is what I am saying, and I am delighted to hear support from the National Party and I hope it will come from the Liberal Party, too. This is an enormous problem that we face. People outside Parliament House are saying, "Okay, we are prepared to cop a lower increase than the consumer price index and we accept the wage decision, but when we go to the supermarket the prices are higher every day!". They are saying that there ought to be some check.

I am pleased that the study is being suggested and I hope it receives the support that it should receive from retailers and manufacturers. We want restraint and reasonableness from those sectors of our community.

Mr Ramsay interjected.

Mr CAIN—To pick up the comment from the honourable member for Balwyn, we have played a considerable role in ensuring that the costs of business are reduced. I shall cite only one example.

As the honourable member for Balwyn knows, through WorkCare, the costs of workers compensation have halved. It is saving Victorian industry in the order of $500 million a year. The average levies paid by employers were only 2·2 per cent of wages, lower than the Government's original commitment of 2·4 per cent and a vast improvement—as they will all tell you out there—on the 10 per cent or thereabouts that employers were paying before WorkCare was introduced.

Clearly Victoria is one of the most competitive States in this country. We want to see that reflected in prices on the shelves of our supermarkets. These are tough economic times and people accept these are tough times. It is in no one's interest to have large price increases and we want those who are responsible for fixing prices to trim their margins just as wage earners are trimming their margins.

FLINDERS STREET STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West)—Will the Minister for Transport explain why it took so long for action to be taken in the matter of corruption surrounding the Flinders Street station project even though the Minister was aware of it some eighteen months ago when he took over the transport portfolio from the present Minister for Labour?

The SPEAKER—Order! I ask the Minister for Transport to advise me whether he is responsible for this aspect of administration.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—Certainly in relation to this question.

I firstly point out that questions of corruption were investigated by members of the Victoria Police, who found that there was no charge that could be proceeded with and, therefore, ceased their inquiries.

As I stated some time ago, if anyone has additional information, he should bring that forward. The decision to cease inquiries was made last year by the Fraud Squad and no further information has been brought forward that would allow that squad to proceed with its inquiries.

GRAIN FREIGHT RATE

Mr W. D. McGRATH (Lowan)—Will the Minister for Transport advise the House when Cabinet made the decision on the preferred freight rate to be applied to grain for this coming harvest?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I appreciate the question from the honourable member for Lowan because it provides a good example of what the Premier said in answer to the question from the honourable member for Monbulk. It is an extremely good example of the Government showing considerable restraint and ensuring that prices are kept as low as possible, in this instance, to assist the rural community.

The Government considered the way in which the grain freight rate would be set this year and took into account the increasing efficiencies of the grain harvest arrangements of V/Line that have resulted from work by the Grain Elevators Board, V/Line and the port authorities of Geelong and Portland.

The Government decided that it should pass on those efficiencies to the farming community. In this financial year, because of the difficulties of the farming community, the Government has decided to pass on efficiencies that it knows will occur but which have not yet come into effect. The Government has charged on the basis of the 1988–89 expected cost of moving an average grain harvest.

That decision was made and was discussed on a number of occasions with the National Farmers Federation and I certainly appreciate the comments and advice of that federation on this matter. The decision was made earlier than otherwise it might have been made so that officers of the Ministry of Transport could ensure that farmers understand the benefits of the decision.

What is also clear is the extremely strong support the Government's decision has received from Professor Lloyd, who carried out the recent major inquiry. In a letter to *Stock and Land* of Thursday, 28 August, Professor Lloyd praised the Government for exceeding his expectations in reducing the grain freight rate.

Professor Lloyd expected that there would be a decrease over two years of some 14 per cent; his recommendation for the first year was 9 per cent. In fact, as he stated in his letter, the decrease was some 13 per cent.

The decision taken by the Government after consultation with the National Farmers Federation has received strong support in rural Victoria, and the Government believes it will assist in ensuring the continuation of use of the rail system for transporting grain, a

policy that is not necessarily any longer supported by the Opposition, which would wish to deregulate these matters, and, presumably, leave to the shires of this State the significant road costs that might well follow. Having made an early decision, the Government is now out explaining it to the farmers so that they may be aware of the benefits of the Government's decision.

HARNESS RACING BOARD

Mr SIMPSON (Niddrie)—I ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation: in view of the allegations made by the honourable member for Gisborne during the autumn sessional period that the Harness Racing Board would incur a major loss in its 1985–86 year, will the Minister advise the House of the board's actual financial results for the year, and can the Minister advise the House of the results of the police investigation into alleged stolen documents from the Harness Racing Board?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—An accusation was made earlier this year by the honourable member for Gisborne that the Harness Racing Board would suffer a loss in excess of $330 000 based on information given to the honourable member. This was a serious statement so far as I was concerned and so I immediately contacted the board about the true situation because if that were so some sort of action would have to be taken.

The board advised me that that was not the true situation and that the information produced to Parliament was from a document that had been—in its words—stolen or missing from the files of the board. Although the official figures have not yet been produced, the accusation of a $330 000 loss will, in reality, be a profit of more than $1 million, which is a difference of approximately $1·4 million overall from the original claim.

So far as the question about the document is concerned, I have had talks with the Police Racing Squad which is led by Senior Sergeant Bill Kneebone. The police have not been able to ascertain where the document is and they have met a wall of silence. They asked the honourable member for Gisborne where he got his information but he was, I believe, unprepared to tell them.

The situation is that the Harness Racing Board will produce a healthy profit this year, which will be good for the sport overall.

FLINDERS STREET STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—I ask the Premier: if no Ministerial corruption, mismanagement or cover-up has taken place in relation to the scandal over the Flinders Street station complex, will the Premier ensure the immediate release of all documents on the matter, including the Ingersoll report just recently completed?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I believe the Leader of the Opposition will appreciate that the Government has undertaken a wide range of changes in respect of management in public authorities in this State and certain persons have been given certain functions to perform. Mr Ingersoll has been given functions to perform, and I believe he is doing them well.

The Government has acted—and I believe it was a proper action—to improve the management in transport as well as in other areas of government and, unlike the previous Government of which the Leader of the Opposition was a member, we have not been mesmerised by the problems in transport.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On a point of order, my question was quite specific. I put it to you, Mr Speaker, that the Premier is now debating the issue, which has nothing to do with what the Government inherited. The question is: will he, or will he not, release the documents?

The SPEAKER—Order! I have listened to the Premier. I do not believe he is debating the subject and if he is I shall call him to order. There is no point of order.

Mr CAIN (Premier)—Obviously the Opposition does not want to hear what I was starting to say, which was that we were prepared when we came to government to tackle the transport problem. The Government's first priority was to rescue the infrastructure, which was in a terminal state of illness. The Government injected large sums of capital funds and what we have now are excellent trains, trams, buses and other facilities.

Having done that, the Government decided there was a requirement to examine the management and a systematic review has taken place of wide-ranging management issues.

The matters to which the Leader of the Opposition refers are part of that process and a special example of a review that has been ongoing in transport for some time and which is a key to a more efficient transport system.

The Director-General of Transport, as I said before, has a key role in achieving all of those targets and aims. He is making a number of recommendations of which the Minister for Transport is aware, together with a number of decisions consequent upon the examination that the director-general has conducted.

Contained in that examination is consideration about a number of matters that concern individuals and the Minister for Transport will examine the extent to which those rights of individuals are affected and obtain advice as to the proper course in respect of documents that are held by the Director-General of Transport.

I repeat, the director-general is making decisions based upon a management and administration review which was required and which has been undertaken by him as asked by the Minister for Transport.

There have been problems in management administration in respect of the Flinders Street railway project. As the Minister for Transport said during the debate on the motion for the adjournment of the House last night when this matter was raised, those problems have been identified and will be examined and put right. That is being done. The Director-General of Transport will consider the nature of the documents in the course of that examination.

PRAWN FARMING IN VICTORIA

Miss CALLISTER (Morwell)—I ask the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources to outline the progress that has been made in discussions with Chinese authorities on the possible introduction and development of prawn farming in Victoria.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I thank the honourable member for Morwell for her question and ongoing interest in this issue. Honourable members will be aware or should be aware that the Government has been exploring for some time with the relevant Chinese authorities the potential of applying Chinese technology to develop prawn farming in Victorian waters and to the indigenous Victorian prawns.

Prawns, of course, are in increasing use within our community and, in fact, a large number of prawns are being imported into Victoria each year at a cost of some millions of dollars. Farming techniques are not being used to catch prawns in Victoria at the moment. The Chinese, for years, have successfully introduced prawn farming techniques into that country and their technology is being adapted in other parts of the world as well. To the credit of the Department of Industry, Technology and Resources, together with the Latrobe Regional Commission and Mr Barry Murphy, MLC, this issue has been under consideration for some time.

I am pleased to be able to inform honourable members that during my recent visit to China I was able to sign an agreement with the China National Fisheries Corporation, together with the Victorian agent, Zian Num Trading Company, on behalf of the Victorian Government, to further examine this proposal. The agreement provides for the Victorian Government to assist the Chinese authorities to send out to Victoria four technical experts

from 1 January for a one-year period. These people are acknowledged world authorities in this area and will work in Victoria for approximately twelve months, partly at Queenscliff in the Marine Science Laboratory, which honourable members realise is an important institute, under the Ministry of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

They will also work partly at the development of a pilot mariculture centre to be situated in Gippsland. It is of some disappointment to me that the Opposition treats a venture of this sort as a matter of some ridicule when it has significant potential not as a public sector initiative but, in essence, in the final run, for the private sector as well.

Many persons in Victoria who are interested in the development of the prawn industry are eagerly waiting to learn whether this proving-up of Chinese technology will be successful.

It has potential to be a matter of great significance for further industry development in Victoria and has a potential to save some millions of dollars spent currently on the importing of prawns into Victoria under the present arrangements.

I look forward to informing honourable members of development over the next year as this important pilot initiative takes place.

FLINDERS STREET STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—I ask the Premier: is it not a fact that Cabinet was party to the decision to sack persons in relation to the Flinders Street scandal because of the involvement of more than one Minister?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—If the honourable member for Hawthorn is not yet aware of what is occurring at the Flinders Street railway station, he has been wasting the time he has spent at the Ministry of Transport office. He should be well aware that what has been put in train is a thorough review by Mr Ingersoll of the Flinders Street railway station project, as I said before, in the context of a management review. The decisions that Mr Ingersoll announced yesterday are decisions made by management and by him.

I do not know whether the honourable member for Hawthorn has any recollection of being in government or any knowledge of it but, if he did, he should not ask such a stupid question. I do not mind spending my time in this place answering questions that are premised on a sound basis, but that one is not.

Perhaps the honourable member should leave it to the shadow Minister; he might know a lot more about the structure of railways than the honourable member for Hawthorn.

Mr Gude—Answer the question!

Mr CAIN—I have explained the position. If the honourable member for Hawthorn does not understand the structure of the transport system, what occurs and who hires and fires, I suggest he seek some advice and assistance from the shadow Minister for Transport.

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, it is quite clear that the Premier is debating the issue because he does not appear to have understood what the question was. The question was quite specific; it related to Cabinet involvement in the final decision of the dismissal of employees.

The SPEAKER—Order! On the point of order, I ask the honourable member to commence his point of order again as I could not hear it.

Mr GUDE—On the point of order, Mr Speaker, the Premier obviously does not understand the question or is deliberately seeking to mislead Parliament. He is debating the issue; the question was specific.

The SPEAKER—Order! On the point of order, the honourable member for Hawthorn understands the rules of the House, and he cannot make such an allegation. I ask the honourable member to withdraw the allegation that he has just made.

Mr GUDE—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I withdraw the allegation of deliberately misleading Parliament, but I make the point that the Premier is avoiding what was a specific question: what specific involvement did the Cabinet have in the dismissal of the employees? Did it have knowledge of the dismissals? Did it authorise them? That was the basis of the question; it was simple and clear and we need an answer.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Hawthorn asks me to rule on a point of order that he has raised suggesting that the Premier is not answering the question. As the honourable member is aware, the Premier may answer the question in any manner that he so desires. He is not permitted to debate the question and I do not believe he is debating the question. There is no point of order.

Mr CAIN (Premier)—If the honourable member for Hawthorn does not understand, let me spell it out again for him. He has not benefited at all from the holidays. I thought he would come back rested and refreshed. He is obviously even more befuddled, more confused and more tired of mind than he was before the holidays.

As I told him, the shadow Minister for Transport will tell him who hires and fires staff in the transport area. The honourable member for Hawthorn should be aware that they are not matters for Cabinet. The honourable member was near the door once but he does not seem to understand what occurs in Cabinet.

Management has a job to do. Mr Ingersoll has been given a job to do, and any decisions he makes in respect of persons in management are his decisions. This Government is not involved in discussions and actions that the former Liberal Government was involved in. Cabinet makes decisions about policy and about a wide range of issues. However, it does not become involved in the trivia and nonsense that was part and parcel of the former Liberal Government. The former Liberal Government went down the gurgler because of all the rubbish with which it became involved.

The Government has chosen for management positions people who are competent to make decisions and to administer departments. The former Government could not do that. The Government chose Mr Ingersoll because it had confidence in him. He has a job to do and is making decisions not only about those matters mentioned yesterday, but he is also closely examining middle management right across the Ministry. Mr Ingersoll is examining work practices to see whether the loads should be retained or spread amongst a wide range of management positions in transport and elsewhere.

This Government places great store on having efficient management and has given authority and power to people in positions of control, and that is in contrast to what the former Liberal Government did. Chief administrators can make these decisions themselves.

The fact that a stupid question has been asked by a member of the Opposition indicates how ill-prepared it is for government. It is obvious that members of the Opposition have no understanding of what decisions are made by Government and of what decisions are made by management down the line.

The honourable member for Hawthorn has hyped himself up overnight. He bounced into the Chamber last night like a kewpie doll, full of himself, and has since done no work on the issue. He spent his time sitting at the Ministry of Transport office for hour after hour and still does not understand how basic decisions are made.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr CAIN—All the honourable member for Brighton wants to do is to put up taxes. If the honourable member for Hawthorn is to ask questions in the future, I ask simply that he should base them on a solid premise.

PETITIONS

The Clerk—I have received the following petitions for presentation to Parliament:

Fluoridation of water supply

TO THE PREMIER AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

Inasmuch as the Victorian Cancer Registry shows that Victorians have the highest incidence of rectal cancer in the world and also rank among the top countries for colon cancer, lymphoma, bladder cancer and melanoma we request that:

1. Since fluoride is a carcinogen the Government should immediately stop the fluoridation of the water supplies and repeal the 1973 Act now.

2. In so doing restoring to we the people the freedom of choice so essential to those who believe in democratic principles.

And we your humble petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

By **Mr Hockley** (60 signatures)

Accident compensation

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria respectfully sheweth:

1. That the current losses being incurred by the State Insurance Office in compulsory third-party motor vehicle insurance claims must be the subject of firm and comprehensive Government action.

2. That the initiatives of the Government in attempting to combat the abovementioned losses are to be commenced.

3. That the attempt by the Government to remove the right of individuals to sue for damages at common law is, however, not acceptable to the community.

Your petitioners therefore pray that:

The Parliament of Victoria will act to rectify the current losses being incurred by the State Insurance Office but will do so without destroying the right of the citizens of the State of Victoria to seek damages for personal injuries.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Cooper** (32 signatures)

Kindergartens

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth:

We are concerned that any child who is assessed as not yet ready for school and is required to complete a second year of kindergarten will not automatically be funded but only be funded on a case by case basis.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Legislative Assembly will support automatic funding for any child requiring a second year at kindergarten.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Cooper** (227 signatures)

It was ordered that the petitions 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:

National Companies and Securities Commission—Report and Financial Statements for the year 1984–85.

Parliamentary Officers Act 1975—

Statement of Appointments and Alterations of Classifications in the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

Statement of Persons Temporarily Employed in the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

Town and Country Planning Act 1961:

Lillydale—Shire of Lillydale Planning Scheme 1958, Amendment No. 201.

Mornington—Shire of Mornington Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 184.

Port Fairy Planning Scheme 1959, Amendment No. 33/1985.

Tambo—Shire of Tambo (Lakes Entrance) Planning Scheme, Amendments Nos 65, 68, 69.

Yackandandah—Shire of Yackandandah Planning Scheme 1965, Townships of Kiewa and Tangambalanga, Amendment No. 4/1986.

Victorian Prison Industries Commission—Report and statement of accounts for the year 1984–85.

GRIEVANCE DAY

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I move:

That the operation of Standing Order No. 59 requiring the question that Grievances be noted to be proposed on every third Thursday, be suspended for the remainder of 1986 and that the Standing Order have application on Thursday, 2 October, Thursday, 30 October and Thursday, 4 December 1986.

The motion relates to Grievance Day operations in the Legislative Assembly during the current sessional period. To explain briefly, when framing the proposed sitting dates for the sessional period, inadvertently and certainly without any premeditation, as it would work out in practice, there would be no Grievance Day. Under the present Standing Orders arrangements, Grievance Day falls automatically as the third Thursday flowing from the date when the session started, irrespective of whether the House is sitting in that particular week.

Under those arrangements, it would have been unreasonable and unfair on the honourable members concerned that there would not be an opportunity for what is traditionally a day for honourable members on both sides of the House to raise grievances under the Grievance Day arrangements.

This motion is designed to remedy that situation. That is, it designates each Thursday of the third, sixth and ninth weeks of the sittings for traditional Grievance Day times.

The motion does raise the general issue of whether the present Standing Orders should be amended to overcome situations of this sort, and I shall give further consideration to that matter later this year.

However, I believe this is a straightforward motion and one that I am sure has the support of honourable members on both sides of the House.

The SPEAKER—Order! I am advised that the motion requires a seconder.

Mr CRABB (Minister for Labour)—I second the motion.

Mr HANN (Rodney)—The National Party certainly supports the motion and I thank the Deputy Premier for introducing it. The National Party was concerned, as was the Opposition, when it first learned that the Government had changed the sitting dates for the spring sessional period and opted for a two-weeks-on, one-week-off session which, of course, specifically excluded the Grievance Days.

The compromise or the proposal that the Deputy Premier has now put forward overcomes that situation. It seems to me that it provides honourable members with the same sorts of opportunities they would normally have had.

I thank the Deputy Premier for moving the motion and indicate the National Party's support for it.

Mr AUSTIN (Ripon)—I indicate the support of members of the Opposition for the motion. We had considerable discussions about it when it was found that, inadvertently I suppose, there would not be any Grievance Days during this sessional period. We accepted the fact that that was the way that the agenda had worked out because every third Thursday fell on the weeks that Parliament would have off.

I thank the Deputy Premier for agreeing to allow three Grievance Days during this sessional period of Parliament. That is quite fair and proper, and I thank him for it.

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth)—Mr Speaker, I should like to address you on this motion because, when the practice of having a Grievance Day debate started in this place, it was customary for Ministers of the Government either to respond directly in the House or, more particularly—in order not to utilise back-benchers' opportunities on that day—to give a considered reply by letter.

That practice seems to have fallen by the way, and it detracts from the point of Grievance Day. Grievances are raised by honourable members usually as a result of representations made to them by constituents. If this place is to operate as a proper forum, it is not only a matter of courtesy to honourable members but also a matter of importance to the public that Ministers respond to the grievances raised.

I therefore ask the Deputy Premier to discuss this matter with his colleagues to see whether that can be properly attended.

Mr RAMSAY (Balwyn)—The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has indicated the Opposition's support for the motion. I simply indicate my concern that we should even have to consider such a motion. There should be a system in this place that ensures that grievances will be heard on a regular basis, and I urge the Deputy Premier to proceed with the examination, which he has indicated will be made, of this particular matter.

I would hope that we would have an arrangement that, without question, grievances would be heard for the full 4 hours on every third Thursday that this House sits.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Polwarth raised a matter which I do not believe is relevant to the motion before the House. He raised more a matter of a grievance.

The motion was agreed to.

BROADCASTING OF QUESTION TIME

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I move:

That this House authorises the broadcasting and rebroadcasting on radio and television stations of recorded sound excerpts of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly during 1986, subject to the following conditions:

1. Excerpts for broadcast may be taken from the Question Time proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Other proceedings may not be recorded unless authorised by Mr Speaker.

2. Excerpts shall be recorded from the audio signal of proceedings transmitted by the House monitoring system only by representatives of accredited media organisations. No alteration to the sound relay equipment is permitted without the permission of Mr Speaker.

3. Excerpts are not to be used for the purposes of satire or ridicule.

4. Excerpts shall not be used for the purpose of political party advertising or in election campaigns.

5. Fairness in reporting with reasonable balance between both sides of the House is to be achieved by avoiding undue concentration on any one member.

6. Excerpts must be placed in context. Commentators should identify members at least by name.

7. Media personnel are required to obey any instruction given by Mr Speaker, or through him by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, the Serjeant-at-Arms or the Housekeeper.

8. Any breach of these conditions may result in the immediate suspension of the privileges by Mr Speaker.

The motion deals with the broadcasting of Parliamentary proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. This issue has been raised from time to time both in the House and in the media. I well recall the matter being raised on a number of occasions during the term of the previous Liberal Government and its declining to proceed in any way.

Over more recent times, the issue has been developed in two different forums. Firstly, through its official Parliamentary Press Gallery, the press has asked that this matter be given further consideration. Secondly, as I understand it, Mr Speaker, you have chaired an ad hoc committee of representatives of each of the parties to consider steps of this sort.

As a result of those processes and requests, honourable members now have the motion before them. I hope honourable members will have taken the trouble to understand something of the background to this situation. For many years, Parliaments throughout the world resisted a move of this sort. It was considered that the intrusion of radio or television would affect the operation of Parliament, that the circumstances under which honourable members would be speaking and acting would be different as a result of that fish-bowl situation in which they would inevitably find themselves.

However, the balance and the weight of opinion is certainly moving in favour of direct and greater opportunities for the media—and hence, of course, the public—to be given access to the day-to-day proceedings of Parliament.

The Government has accepted that that is the direction towards which we should move and are moving, and hence the motion now before the House.

The motion is put in a number of parts. It provides for the House to authorise the broadcasting and rebroadcasting on radio and television of the recorded sound excerpts of proceedings for the remainder of the sittings in 1986. It specifically refers to 1986 because it is a significant change, as I believe honourable members would recognise and be aware. It is believed that we should use this chance to reassess at the end of 1986 how we found it worked out in practice. I am not suggesting that should be the end of the situation. On the contrary, I have been an advocate of moving in this direction.

We should assess whether this is the best way of operating or whether it should be extended or changed in any way for 1987 and beyond. There is to be this pilot period for the proposal now before the House this sessional period.

The motion provides for broadcast of excerpts of question time to be an as-of-right situation for the Parliamentary Press Gallery. For times other than question time, it will simply be the opportunity for honourable members and for the press to approach the Speaker and seek his concurrence to other matters, which they would no doubt deem to be of significance, being approved for broadcast as well. I am sure, if he did so approve, the Speaker would notify the House of his decision.

For example, I consider that the Budget debate that will take place next week and the Budget reply that will occur some time later will almost certainly be matters on which the Parliamentary Press Gallery will seek the opportunity for broadcast tape to be made. It is a logical and quite proper step.

I am sure other important issues will develop during the sessional period on which the request will be made. I believe the judgment of the Speaker is proper in those circumstances. That is an appropriate first step along this path for the Legislative Assembly to take. As I said earlier, we will reassess the situation at the end of 1986 to ascertain what changes would be appropriate at that time.

The second condition indicates the mechanism to be used: the audio signal of proceedings transmitted by the House monitoring system, access to be given only to accredited media organisations. That is understood in the way that the Press Gallery has traditionally operated in this place.

Conditions 3 to 6 reflect a similar development in other Parliaments in Australia attempting a proper balance in broadcasting. People may find those words and that

approach unacceptable. Again, an assessment will be made at the end of 1986 to determine whether those guidelines are appropriate and whether further guidelines are needed.

Conditions 7 and 8 make clear the authority of the Speaker in the implementation of the scheme. That would be the vehicle within which the Press Gallery representatives would operate.

I thank Mr Dan Webb, the chairperson of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, for his proposals on this matter and for his assistance and endeavours on behalf of the Press Gallery to implement such a step.

Finally, I reiterate the point I made at the start. Parliament will be different if we continue along this path. The way in which honourable members speak and behave in the House will change over a period if the situation occurs—as some people would regard as the ultimate—of constant radio and television broadcasts.

I am assured by the Press Gallery that there is no big audience in this wide world for the broadcasting of proceedings, but no doubt some people will be interested.

This is a momentous step for Parliament and for the State. The approach taken by the Government is balanced and proper. I reiterate that a reassessment of the situation will be made at the end of 1986 and I shall look forward to the comments and views of honourable members from all corners of the House at that time.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—Parliament consists of honourable members of various political persuasions who are all charged with responsibility and accountability to the electorate. The provision of audio recording of proceedings is a step in the right direction within that responsibility and accountability to the electorate.

However, Opposition members believe the Government has not honoured its commitment to open government that the Premier so stringently put forward to the community leading up to the 1982 election. If audio proceedings are considered, it is unacceptable that they be restricted to question time rather than to the whole proceedings of this House.

I accept, as stated by the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources, that there is not a great audience for the broadcasting of the proceedings of this House. However, from time to time matters will arise which the media may wish to record, either for accuracy or simply for openness. Therefore, it is unfair and irresponsible of the Government to say that the broadcasting provisions towards which we are now working should be restricted to question time.

The broadcasting of all proceedings should be there as a right, not as something that must be decided independently by you, Mr Speaker. I do not in any way cast doubts on your ability to make such decisions. However, if one is talking about open government and about a Parliament which is about people and for people, one must be prepared to go more than halfway towards providing that open government. The community should have continual access to the proceedings of the people's Parliament.

Mr Pope interjected.

Mr KENNETT—It is all right to say that the Liberal Party had the opportunity for 27 years. I accept that. What happened in the past does not necessarily make the reasons for doing something today correct or incorrect. It must be judged on its merits. However, if the Government is serious about having the public as informed as possible, why is it prepared to bring in this innovation to a small part only of the proceedings of Parliament?

The Liberal Party is concerned that the broadcasting of proceedings may be restricted to question time. I hope the National Party will support me in an amendment that I shall move that will enable the media to have access to the audio recording of the entire proceedings of Parliament. No balance would be provided if the broadcasting of proceedings were restricted to question time.

The rules and regulations governing this House specify that each question asked at question time is limited to 1 minute. Not necessarily in the past two days, but in previous sessional periods the Premier and Ministers have taken 12, 15 or 20 minutes to filibuster their way through the question time proceedings. At one stage, it was considered that the procedures of Parliament could be further reformed by ensuring that on every day of the sitting a certain number of questions would be asked at question time, regardless of the length of the answer. The occupiers of the opposition benches at any given time are confined to a certain time for the asking of questions. That has been part of the Parliamentary procedures and traditions.

However, the Government, with a broad brush, has been able to answer at length and, in so doing, has made a mockery of question time.

The media should not have to come to you, Mr Speaker, each time it wants to record a particular segment of proceedings. The community has a right to access to this place for every moment that Parliament sits.

I cannot understand why this Government, which comprises the political party that argued strongly for openness of Parliament, freedom of information and openness of government, wants to limit access to Parliamentary proceedings to the community.

When the notice was first issued about this change in procedure, the point was clearly made that agreement was needed of all parties. Regardless of whether there is agreement, the Government intends to push this motion through on the vote. That is disappointing because the Parliament has the opportunity of expressing its maturity in opening up the proceedings fully.

In another place and, I hope, supported by the National Party, the Liberal Party will move that access be given to the recording of proceedings during every hour that the other place sits.

I object to the concept of a restriction on the full recording of Parliamentary proceedings. I have just heard that the National Party may not support the amendment I am about to move.

Mr Hann—You have not shown us the amendment.

Mr KENNETT—The honourable member for Rodney should not get upset. All I have said, Sir, is that I believe the National Party will not support the amendment.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr KENNETT—One does not need to be a Rhodes scholar to understand the simplicity of my argument. I hope the National Party will recognise that in this instance a sound logical reason exists for the public to have access to the proceedings of Parliament.

I do not know of one good reason why the public should not have access to audio recordings and, with due respect to the Deputy Premier, I do not consider he offered one reason. He said the matter will be taken step by step. No valid reason has been given why all the equipment is in place to record the proceedings. It is permanent equipment, but at a certain point in time in the daily proceedings of this place the recording process can be stopped by turning off the switch.

I hope Parliament, the Deputy Premier and the Government will accept that this is not a political issue. It should be regarded as an apolitical issue to assist those who serve Parliament, be they Parliamentarians or the media and, more importantly, to give the public greater access to the workings of Parliament. It is a fairly logical case. It is not made because we are members of the Liberal Party, Labor Party, National Party, or because we are in opposition or in government. It is made simply because it makes common sense. If it makes common sense, having installed all the equipment, simply to allow the tapes and audio to continue to roll, surely there is benefit to be achieved for all.

The motion is broken down into eight conditions. I shall move an amendment to the motion, and apologise for the way in which the amendment is being handled. I thought this matter was to be dealt with tomorrow, not today, so I had not prepared copies of the amendment. I move:

1. After the word "sound" (where first occurring) insert "and video".

2. Omit Condition 1 and insert:

(*a*) radio and TV media to broadcast balanced audio excerpts of all Parliamentary proceedings, without prior approval;

(*b*) television news filming or video of debates in Parliament only with the approval of the Presiding Officers who would in each case consult the Parliamentary Party Leaders.

The SPEAKER—Order! I take it that the Leader of the Opposition has no copies of the amendment to circulate?

Mr KENNETT—No, I apologise on that point; it is not that I am trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes.

I congratulate the Government for trying to meet the needs of the media and the public. However, I am concerned with the Government's interpretation of the right to broadcast only proceedings of question time. I should like to ask the Deputy Premier and the Deputy Leader of the National Party if they would accept a trial period, which is what they have suggested, but the other way around; let us have a trial period for the broadcasting of the whole proceedings first and, if at the end of that period there is any reason to question the way in which the trial has taken place, Parliament could amend the provision. A trial for only a limited part of the proceedings makes a mockery of what Parliament is trying to do, which is to allow greater access to Parliament by those whom we are elected to serve.

As I said, a trial period of the broadcasting of all proceedings is not difficult and it is not political; it is in the interests of the community that we are elected to serve. It would be an advancement for Parliament. I do not envisage any problems with it, and if there are any problems that cannot be identified now, the only way in which they can be properly addressed is to have a proper trial of the broadcasting of all the proceedings and then assess the process at a later stage when adjustments can be made.

I commend the Opposition's amendment to Parliament. There is nothing to fear from change but change itself and, in this case, change will be brought about initially for a certain period. Surely Parliament is not afraid and has no reason to be afraid of the comments honourable members make and for our entire deliberations to be officially recorded and, where the media believes there is a public interest, to have that audio passed on to the community that we are elected to serve.

Mr HANN (Rodney)—Firstly, I point out that it is difficult to debate the motion and the reasoned amendment of the Opposition without having a copy of the amendment in front of individual members. The amendment ought to be circulated as a matter of urgency.

The SPEAKER—Order! We are trying to do so as a matter of urgency at the moment.

Mr HANN—This matter has been given considerable consideration under your leadership, Mr Speaker, and I congratulate you, the Clerks and those honourable members who have been involved, as well as representatives of the Press Gallery, on this issue. It is a significant change in the history of the Victorian Parliament and it is a move which the National Party welcomes.

It is appropriate to allow an audio recording of the activities of Parliament, and the National Party believes the Government proposal for a trial is the appropriate way to go. The Leader of the Opposition almost had me convinced at one stage of his argument, but when he added the word "video" he turned me right off because that is a matter that has not been given due consideration. It has not been considered in an in-depth way. It is a logical change, but one that would need to be addressed with considerable care.

The National Party recognises that there is merit in allowing the various media groups that attend Parliament to record the proceedings at question time. National Party members have some concerns about the onus which is placed on you, Mr Speaker, under condition No. 1 where the broadcasting of other proceedings is at your discretion. It is not a task with which you would have any difficulty in coping, and we trust your judgment in that regard, but it does mean that broadcasting will not be restricted only to question time.

For example, it seems that the Budget debate could be authorised for broadcasting, as well as other important debates from time to time. I presume that debate on the Transport Accident Bill will be a matter on which you may give approval for broadcasting. It seems there is an option for extending the provision beyond question time and, for that reason, the National Party supports the motion.

The National Party has one small reservation about the extracts used. Some record ought to be kept by media groups of the actual excerpts used so that a member of Parliament could double check if he heard that he had been quoted on a radio station or television station but had not been able to listen to the broadcast. There should be some requirement for a register to be kept. If it is not possible to retain the actual excerpt it may be possible at least to document the excerpt that was used. I raised that matter with the Deputy Premier, but he indicated that it was probably better to leave that requirement out of the conditions in the motion.

The other issue which the National Party wanted to raise related to breaches of the conditions. Under condition No. 8, any significant breaches of the conditions will result in the suspension of all privileges by the Speaker. All privileges ought to be denied from that stage, not just privileges associated with that particular media outlet, and the matter should be reviewed.

It places considerable onus on individual media personnel to ensure that they do not disadvantage their colleagues as well. If there are breaches of the conditions, particularly condition Nos 3 and 4, I suggest that all the privileges ought to be withdrawn at that stage and the matter reviewed.

I am pleased to indicate that the National Party supports the motion. It does not support the Liberal Party's amendment. However, the National Party considers it appropriate to have a trial period, perhaps starting after Christmas in the autumn sessional period. At this stage, the National Party is prepared to allow the broadcasting of proceedings of Parliament.

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The Government supports strongly indeed the proposition that there should be audio recording and broadcasting of question time introduced in this Parliament for the first time. This can lead only to a better informed community and, indeed, to an improved community perception of Parliament.

Listening to the Leader of the Opposition complaining, as he was, about the Government having dishonoured its commitment to the process of open government and, indeed, to having carried out a whole variety of other offences against public information in restricting the audio recording and broadcasting to question time—at this stage, for a trial period—reminded me strongly how it was said of another politician that anyone who extended the right hand of freedom to him was in grave danger of losing a couple of fingers. I think the honourable gentleman completely missed the point.

Mr Kennett—You missed the point.

Mr MATHEWS—He completely missed the point that the limiting of the broadcasting of proceedings of this Parliament to the question time period has been undertaken very much in the interests of the Leader of the Opposition himself. In fact, if the Government had been responding to representations from the society for the prevention of cruelty to Kennett, it would not have done it otherwise because, frankly, the Leader of the Opposition needs to be saved from himself, and the only way in which that can be undertaken effectively is by this limitation.

By his continuing interjections, the honourable gentleman shows a substantial command of criminal language which, no doubt, faithfully reflects his mentality. The only way in which the honourable gentleman can be saved from himself is to have this rebroadcasting limited to the proceedings of Parliament at question time.

The honourable member for Malvern interjects that the Leader of the Opposition does not want to be saved from himself. That impression may well be shared by many people in the community, formed on the basis of the behaviour that is frequently manifested by the Leader of the Opposition. I notice that the honourable gentleman has been invited to the Italian ball again this year and that once again he has accepted. I cannot imagine a better example of the Leader of the Opposition not wanting to be saved from himself! However, the honourable member for Malvern is better placed to know about these matters than anybody on the Government side of the House.

Opposition members themselves would want to think carefully before agreeing to a proposition that would have their Leader constantly, throughout the proceedings of Parliament, obliged to watch his words. Parliament is taking a significant step forward in agreeing that, for the first time, its question time proceedings should be available for rebroadcasting. It is not a step about which niggling or dissent should occur but, rather, one which should be backed wholeheartedly by both sides of the House.

The Government welcomes the support that has been forthcoming from the National Party and wishes the Liberal Party would associate itself with the motion.

Mr AUSTIN (Ripon)—It is a pity that the Minister for the Arts brought the debate down to the level of slinging insults at the Leader and members of the Opposition.

The Liberal Party has had a considerable amount of discussion with you, Mr Speaker, over a period concerning the introduction of these changes. Basically, the Opposition welcomes and supports the motion.

I also support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I believe the rebroadcasting should not be narrowed to question time, even if that includes a broadening at your discretion, Mr Speaker. It ought to be possible to include and embrace all of the proceedings of Parliament because, after all, as we have seen, question time in this place over recent times would not be very welcome to the community because it has deteriorated tremendously since the present Government came to office and it is continuing to deteriorate week by week.

Many other occasions such as the Grievance Day debates, adjournment debates and other notices of motion would be of far more interest to the community generally and to the Victorian electorate.

The Deputy Premier has said that the introduction of audio recording and rebroadcasting is being considered for a trial period; that this is an important and historic change, and that what occurs under these changes will be reviewed at the end of the Budget sessional period. No doubt he has said that in good faith. However, honourable members all realise that when changes are made—again in good faith, and with the approval of all political parties—we may get three months down the track and find that the rules of the game have changed slightly. In other words, when the Government has won the changes that it wishes to bring about, the opposition parties then find themselves in a position of weakness, without the same bargaining power that they might originally have had.

For that reason, I support the amendment. I am sure the media would prefer to see the amendment included so that all the proceedings of the House can, when desirable, be incorporated in the changes that will be brought about by this motion.

Mr RAMSAY (Balwyn)—The Minister for the Arts completely misrepresented the position to the House a few moments ago. He suggested that the Government's motion will mean that only excerpts from question time should be available to the electronic media. That is not the situation at all.

The Government's motion is that excerpts from question time should be available to the electronic media without permission and that excerpts from proceedings in debate in Parliament at other times should be available only with your prior permission, Mr Speaker. The point of the Opposition's amendment is to remove from you, Sir, the responsibility for in fact censoring the availability of material to the media so that we, as a Parliament and an open, democratic community, can be perfectly open and even-handed about the availability of this new resource to the community in general.

The Government is not seeking to restrict the availability of material to question time. The motion indicates that material would be available at other times as well. The Opposition believes material should be available to the media as a matter of course at any time during the sitting of Parliament.

What is the Government's difficulty about this? Clearly, the Minister for the Arts does not have any real difficulty, as he allowed his argument to descend to directing personal abuse at the Leader of the Opposition, and that really begs the question entirely. The Minister should be ashamed of himself for letting his presention in the debate degenerate to that level.

The Opposition is looking for a clear, straightforward procedure whereby audio recordings of Parliamentary proceedings can be taken by the media and used at any time within the guidelines that are set down in the rest of the motion.

Clause 1 reads, "Other proceedings may not be recorded until authorised by Mr Speaker". It is not clear whether that authorisation has to be given before or after the event. There are no guidelines on which occasions you, Mr Speaker, would approve or deny such recordings. It would place an unfair burden on your office, Mr Speaker, if you were to be the censor of particular proceedings.

There are some difficulties with the other guidelines which should be considered today. Undoubtedly those guidelines will be watched very closely. For example, under clause 3, "Excerpts are not to be used for the purposes of satire or ridicule". Perhaps it is clear what that means: that is an instruction to the press representatives that they are not to use excerpts for flippant purposes.

However, there are occasions when an honourable member, a Minister or even the Premier makes satirical or ridiculous comments during question time. As recently as yesterday the Premier of the State spoke about his cubbyhouse when he was eight years of age as though it was some massive State secret. That sounded very like satire. It made the Premier look ridiculous. Does it mean that the press would be able to use that particular excerpt from question time? Would the use of those proceedings be interpreted as satire or ridicule? These are some of the issues that have to be worked out.

The main thrust of the Opposition's proposed amendment is that this new resource—the electronic media, recording excerpts from Parliamentary proceedings—should not be used to differentiate between question time and the general proceedings of the House. If audio recordings are to be used for question time, they should also be used to provide the community with a full coverage of proceedings in this place.

It is to be hoped that both members and Ministers alike will rise to the occasion and make their performances in the House worthy of electronic recordings for posterity and worthy of being broadcast across the sound waves of the nation.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—The time has come to look at this issue in a practical way. As was said in my absence, for which I apologise—I had a serious commitment for half an hour or so—the House is taking a giant step forward in agreeing to the broadcasting of question time.

The House has just heard the honourable member for Balwyn question how certain things have been handled. Whenever one takes a giant step forward there are problems of how issues will be handled, and there will probably be criticism by members on both sides

of the House on how the media will handle this issue. However, honourable members are going to have to watch themselves for half an hour, three-quarters of a hour or an hour and sort out procedures and standards which, I hope, will add dignity and responsibility to the Parliament.

The National Party supports the broadcasting of question time for a trial period this session. I would be the first to accept that all honourable members are going to have to perform much better than they have in the past. The standard of behaviour and the presentation of questions and answers by honourable members and Ministers alike will have to be very different.

Common sense dictates that the rules will probably have to be altered. The Leader of the House has compiled the guidelines in good faith and to the best of his ability. Naturally, criticism will be levelled at those guidelines, but I believe the guidelines are reasonable, depending upon how they are interpreted by the media.

The Parliament is fortunate in presently having a Speaker who has the confidence of all three parties, and I say that without any hesitation or reservation. Parliament is fortunate that the honourable gentleman is not a new Speaker; he is an experienced Speaker who has not only occupied the chair for four and a quarter years but he has also been a member of the Parliament for more than nineteen years and, importantly, is therefore well suited to deciding whether recordings should or should not be made.

I can speak only personally on this particular point, but whatever decision you, Mr Speaker, make, whether it be right or wrong, I will respect because I know it will be made in good faith and in the interests of the common good. Such a decision would not be made on behalf of the Labor Party because your record, Mr Speaker, shows that you have been totally fair in the decisions you have made during your period in the chair.

Criticism can be levelled at certain honourable members for not wanting to open up the proceedings of Parliament to the public. However, the House is now moving to open up Parliamentary proceedings through the electronic media for a trial period, and it should not be forgotten that every word which is uttered in this place can be recorded openly by the press, which is legally protected in such proceedings.

I cannot help but smile when I hear some honourable members arguing for opening up proceedings because those honourable members could well be the first people embarrassed by the change they are arguing for.

Mr E. R. SMITH (Glen Waverley)—The current debate should be about accountability, and I congratulate both the Government and previous speakers on the arguments that they put forward for the motion and the proposed amendment.

If the media is to be held accountable, as it is in all parts of the Western World, there should be no restrictions placed on it in this place.

I came here after having spent most of my working life as a journalist. Members of Parliament are already in the public eye, otherwise they would not have been able to become members of Parliament in the first place. Therefore, members of Parliament are used to being accountable. Why should they worry about whether certain segments of their behaviour are going to hold them accountable to the public they represent?

From time to time I have been ashamed of the behaviour of certain members of this place when I have had groups of people from my electorate visit the Parliament. I do not wish to reflect on the behaviour of any individual member. I certainly have great respect for the way in which you, Mr Speaker, have managed to bring the House back to order from time to time. However, when I have had groups of young people, students, scout groups and the like from my electorate visit the Parliament, I have felt like hiding because of some of the scenes that those groups have had to witness in this place.

The media is the watchdog of the people. It is the media that makes members of this House and any other public institution accountable to the people whom they represent—

the public in general. Although I agree with the main thrust of the motion, by placing a restriction on the media one will then have some honourable members some of the time putting on good performances and at other times putting on the usual scenes that one often sees in this place.

This morning was a perfect example of how question time should be conducted because all honourable members knew they were being filmed and recorded. Any restrictions on the media should be removed so that honourable members are seen warts and all.

The military, during the Vietnam conflict, often took along representatives of the media. I observed that, whenever the media went with the soldiers we never had any problems. We could never complain about the media treatment of anything because when representatives of the media went with the soldiers, they had to live with them and put up with the same inconveniences and hardships that the soldiers had to put up with. It was only when events were reported second hand that we had problems, and the same thing happens in this place.

If the media is allowed to broadcast and report on the behaviour of honourable members, warts and all, one will not have a stilted Parliament as will occur if restrictions are placed on the media.

The Leader of the National Party described the move as a great step forward. I do not think it is a great step forward. It is a normal progression. Why should honourable members be allowed to come into this place and put on scenes and act in ways that their families and friends would be ashamed of? The proposed amendment, if agreed to, would make all honourable members more accountable to the community.

If we agree to introduce broadcasting in the restrictive way the Deputy Premier has proposed, we are in effect censoring what happens in this place. Censorship is in the mind of the beholder; it is exactly as the person, who thinks he or she is being censored, feels by being restricted and by having certain sections only of the debate included so that one can go back to the media and say, "Look what you have done".

Honourable members should not be ashamed of anything they do or say in this place. The Labor Party has its principles and we in the Opposition have ours. Whatever those principles may be, we believe in them and we should have nothing to be ashamed of. The proceedings of Parliament should be thrown right open. We should throw open the complete running of this Chamber to every person who wants to know about it.

I often find it restrictive when I bring people into this place and they cannot take notes. That has always been so, but in today's open society it is an unnecessary restriction.

Any person who wishes to come into this place to make drawings or sketches is not allowed to do so. If we have anything to hide, we should not be here in the first place. Let us throw away the restrictions and make ourselves accountable. Let us get back to being proud to be the people we should be, in this place representing the people of our electorates.

Mr MACLELLAN (Berwick)—I support the motion and the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. The amendment illustrates the difference and the gulf that exists between the Opposition party—the Liberal Party—the Government party and, on this occasion, the National Party as well in that the Opposition is suggesting that the experiment—and we accept it is an experiment; we accept it will be reviewed at the end of the year and it will apply for only a few weeks from now until the end of the sessional period in December—should be undertaken on the broadest front by allowing members of Parliament to bear the responsibility of being heard by the public for what they themselves have said.

I accept the point made by the Leader of the National Party that many members would be embarrassed by what they may have said in the heat of the moment, or what they said carelessly or perhaps if they have had to correct something later.

The motion states that it is all right for the media to comment about Parliament but not to record and play back for the public the very words the Parliamentarians have used.

Mr Speaker, in the work of the Standing Orders Committee its members have received statistical reports that suggest the number of questions raised during questions without notice has gone down and down over the years. Fewer questions are being asked. We are getting more long-winded answers, more Dorothy Dixers and more arguments and challenges about whether Ministers are debating the answers to questions or whether they are really answering the questions.

The Government's motion invites the media to be able to record and play back question time. That is where the Opposition members, the National Party members and back-bench members of the Government are subject to the very fine controls that you have to exercise, Mr Speaker, as to the form and relevance of the questions, of not asking questions about subjects referred to on the Notice Paper and of questions not referring to matters debated in Parliament during the current session. All honourable members know the difficulties about those rules.

Those who ask the questions are going to be asking them under precise rules and then you, Mr Speaker, will rise in your place and say, "If you ask the question and the Minister is not answering the question, that is a matter for the Minister; he or she can answer it any way he or she wishes, apart from the fact that the Minister cannot debate it".

I have not yet during my research in recent weeks found an occasion when you, Mr Speaker, have found one of the Ministers to be debating the question. Nevertheless, we still expect that on occasions you might discover that some Minister has been debating the question. Why should not other debates be similarly recorded? Why should there not be excerpts from the debate on Grievance Day and on other occasions which may be important and of interest to the public and which might be sensibly and maturely used by the media to inform the people of Victoria about their Parliament and about their Parliamentarians?

It is a simple fact that perhaps only a few members from the Opposition side of the House will be able to ask a question without notice. The others, by this motion, will be muzzled. They will not be heard. No excerpts of what they say will be heard because they will not get a chance to ask a question. That is the simple fact of the matter and one on which the Government is relying.

If one turns to the Government side of the House, with its questions committee and the distribution of questions around the back bench to members who bravely stand and read them to their Government Minister, one will also find that there will be many on the Government side of the House who never have the opportunity of asking Ministers questions of their own. They do so on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting in the evening, on Grievance Day and on other occasions in the Parliamentary calendar, but their comments will not be able to be recorded.

Therefore, the motion represents an experiment that is to be reviewed. It is a new initiative and something that will have an impact on the way in which Parliamentarians perform in the House and the responsibility they bear for what they say in the House. That relates to the tone of the remarks, which is something that *Hansard* cannot record. *Hansard* cannot say, "The honourable member for Berwick sneeringly said" and then record the remarks. *Hansard* cannot record all the nonsense that comes across in a direct tape recording of one's own voice. Members of Parliament ought to be brave enough to front up to what they say, to expect that they will make mistakes and accept that they will suffer embarrassment about them.

As to the contribution, if one can call it that, of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I regret that it was not recorded and was not available for playing on the public radio stations so as to give the public a real insight into their Minister for Police and Emergency Services, or it may be that it was the Minister for the Arts; I am not sure. It is festival time and I do not know whether he was performing as the Minister for Police and

Emergency Services or as the Minister for the Arts! I will leave that to everyone's imagination because, although the speech was recorded and will be written into *Hansard*, it will not be played on the airwaves—and it would not be under the terms of the motion.

I refer to the telling point made by the honourable member for Balwyn and one of which I am sure that you, Mr Speaker, will be conscious. You, Sir, will have to decide, under the terms of the motion, when the media may report proceedings other than during question time. You will not know in advance, I presume, whether something of interest will be raised on Grievance Day. Therefore, how will you give a ruling in advance? When an honourable member has made a telling point, will you be approached by the media afterwards to see whether the debate can be released for the media to play it back. You, Mr Speaker, will have to make sensitive decisions under the terms of the motion moved by the Deputy Premier. However, you would be excused from that heavy responsibility under the terms of the amendment moved by the Opposition.

The Opposition cannot understand why the National Party and the Government are shy and why they do not want their words recorded except during question time. That is what it will mean to back-bench members of the Government and for those non-Ministerial members of the Government. We will never hear their voices on the radio as they are heard in Parliament except when they are reading a question prepared by somebody else, distributed by the questions committee and handed around before question time. Their contributions, which are rare enough, to any other debates will not be exposed for public digestion. That is the reason for the embarrassment of the Government and that is the reason it opposes the amendment.

The Opposition is prepared to wear it—in the terms of the Minister for the Arts. The Opposition is prepared to wear the public judgment. The Minister presented a good argument in favour of accepting the responsibility and impact of the amendment on members of Parliament and the way they speak and behave in this place. Members of Parliament are elected by the public and are expected to perform to some standards. The media should have the opportunity of using the voices of members of Parliament even if it is an embarrassment to them. That is one of the responsibilities they have. The Government is saying, "In a democracy one can comment about Parliament, join a Parliamentary Press Gallery and report the proceedings; one can get the *Hansard* copy". That is the case if one is lucky enough to get the *Hansard* copy because, if anything embarrassing has been said, a member is likely to say, "I cannot supply the 'Greens'; I have not corrected them yet". All honourable members know that is the way it happens.

Honourable members will be able to say that the "Greens" are not available and that the journalists will have to wait for the daily *Hansard* which will not be available until the next day: that will ensure that the media only reports the incident; the media will not be able to quote directly the words used by honourable members.

The Government's motion gives a clear preference to front-bench members of the Government party at question time. They will be asked Dorothy Dix questions by their back-bench members. They will exploit all the rules and the restrictions of question time. They will rave on and hope that the live recording will be broadcast by radio stations.

The Opposition is prepared to go further and to say that the opportunity should be extended more broadly to encompass other debates. I support the amendment to the motion. I believe it would be a useful experiment to conduct between now and the end of the sessional period just before Christmas when a reassessment will be made of whatever changes are made. The reassessment should be made on that broad basis, not on the basis of some petty advantage Ministers perceive in having their contributions recorded live and other honourable members opportunities suppressed, which is the intent of the Government's motion.

I believe, if there is to be live recording and broadcasting of any part of Parliamentary procedures, the media is entitled to have the whole lot and to have the whole lot under a set of rules that can be applied that excuses Mr Speaker from the need to pick and choose

as to when it goes beyond question time. It puts responsibility on honourable members on all occasions when they speak in Parliament to speak as representatives of the people and not to create the sorts of difficulties and problems that have arisen during Parliamentary debates that have not been voice recorded but have simply been bowdlerised by a "Green" being corrected and a later personal explanation, perhaps, being given in Parliament. I believe honourable members ought to be prepared to wear the responsibility of live broadcasts of their contributions.

Mr Fordham—You have said that six times now.

Mr Kennett—Say it again then, so that he understands.

Mr MACLELLAN—The Deputy Premier is not an inspiring character; nevertheless, he almost inspires me to use the remaining 19 minutes which I am allotted under the rules of this place to debate this issue, but I will try not to take the bait and I will simply say that he completely misjudges the Opposition's views on the matter.

The views of members of the Opposition are that the media ought to be given the broadest opportunities. The media should not be restricted. If voice recordings are to operate, they should go beyond question time and be used for any part of any debate in Parliament.

Honourable members should accept their responsibilities as members of Parliament and should have the courage to have broadcast on radio what they might say in the House and to wear it if that is embarrassing to them and if it produces a difficulty for them. They should not rely on a narrow little opportunism of members on the front bench of the Government party who will then try to feed the media with their words without giving that opportunity equally to all members of the House.

Mr Fordham—You have said the same thing seven times.

Mr MACLELLAN—The Deputy Premier is almost on the brink of destroying his own motion because the press could have recorded that comment and played it on the radio so everyone would know that the Deputy Premier has said that I have said it seven times. I would have to wear it, and that would be fair enough. However, he wants to avoid any opportunity of that happening by restricting media broadcasting to only what he says when it is his occasion to have back-bench questions asked of him by the Government's questions committee.

The Opposition's view is quite firm—extend it to the broadest range of debates in Parliament; do not narrow it down, give the media a clear, realistic and proper opportunity of reporting to the public what members of Parliament are doing when they stand and speak in the House.

Mr B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East)—All I can say is that I am very pleased the procedures in this House are not being recorded for broadcasting purposes by the media at present because the public would see what time wasting occurs on nitpicking responses to a fairly straightforward motion that was moved in the House.

It is tragic that a motion dealing with the proceedings of the House and a matter affecting the rights of members of Parliament when speaking in Parliament is being treated on a party political basis. Over the years, generally speaking, amendments to Standing Orders and motions affecting the operations of the House have been accepted unanimously. It is tragic that a proposal which is being put forward on an experimental basis and which effectively will operate for only a few weeks of the remainder of this year should be argued to the extreme lengths that it is being debated today.

I reject the amendment moved by the Opposition. Any objective analysis of the amendment would reveal that the difference between the wording of the motion and that proposed by the amendment is minor. However, paragraph (*a*) of the amendment refers to one of the conditions under which voice recording should be made and states that radio and television media should broadcast balanced audio excerpts of all Parliamentary

proceedings. The phrase "all Parliamentary proceedings" means that the media will be expected to broadcast excerpts of all Parliamentary proceedings—that is, the media will have to broadcast the whole day's sitting and not just some events that may have occurred. If that is not what the Opposition meant to say, why is it worded that way in the amendment? It is crazy and ridiculous. The amendment falls on that basis alone.

I agree that there are problems and dangers involved in this proposition. One matter that concerns me was referred to earlier by the Deputy Leader of the National Party. There is a question of what sanctions can be imposed on the media for any breach of these conditions. How does a political party or an individual honourable member register any objection to the way in which the media has treated a particular debate? Is the matter raised as a breach of privilege of Parliament and the rules of the House? Just what will happen?

Further, what controls are to be exercised on the use of live broadcast material by any third party? For instance, a third party might record extracts of the broadcast which would then be used by other radio stations. From time to time some of the alleged public affairs programs indulge in a satirical portrayal of current events with the aid of caricatured puppets and the like and it would be possible for excerpts of radio broadcasts taken from other radio or television stations to be used in connection with this satire.

It is fair to ask what protection would be afforded in that situation. Maybe the copyright laws will apply. As I do not know enough about this particular subject, I do not know the answer.

If that situation did occur and the House found there had been a breach of the conditions outlined in the motion, would all the media be penalised because of the faults of one particular group? This should be considered during the trial period, which is the remaining weeks of this sessional period, to see how it works.

As I have no worries about my behaviour or performance in the House, I am not concerned about the proceedings being broadcast. The point being made by the honourable member for Berwick and some members of the Government seems to imply that the Speaker will be dogmatic or restrictive in his attitude to recording of proceedings. It is reasonable that that requirement be set in place during this trial period. If a representative of the media approached the Speaker with a request to record all the proceedings of the House, I would be surprised if the Speaker denied that representative that right.

Why is the Opposition assuming that the Speaker will place onerous restrictions on the recording of the proceedings of the House? Frankly, I should be surprised if any member of the media wanted to record all the proceedings. If the Speaker gives permission, that would be fair.

I am concerned about the way in which the Opposition has debated the use of short excerpts. One would think the public is in for hours and hours of broadcasting of the proceedings of Parliament. We would be lucky if any more than 10 or 20 seconds is broadcast each day. I do not know why members of the Opposition are getting themselves into a knot over the need to record everything that takes place in the House.

Again I point out the need for a record of what excerpts are used when the media quotes from any broadcast of the proceedings. A permanent record should be kept so that honourable members can ascertain what extracts have been used. I have experienced a situation in which comment has been made about something I said in a broadcast which was not understood by a person who was listening to it. It is impossible to get an accurate account of what has been broadcast.

On some occasions honourable members are entitled to know precisely what excerpts have been used. That requirement would not place too onerous a task on the media. They could ask to provide a copy of the words used which could then be made available to the honourable members concerned. Perhaps the copy could be laid on the table in the Parliamentary Library.

The original motion is sensible and a step forward, and I support it.

Dr COGHILL (Werribee)—I support the motion and shall speak in opposition to the amendment. It is incredible that the Leader of the Opposition, after the length of time he has been in Parliament, would move an amendment in this manner and in this form.

After the number of years the Leader of the Opposition has been in Parliament he ought to know that if notice is given of a motion on one day, the motion will be listed for debate on the following day. In moving his amendment the Leader of the Opposition said he was not prepared to debate the matter until tomorrow. Mr Speaker, you know and everyone else knows that since notice of this motion was given yesterday, it is on the Notice Paper for debate today.

I am pleased to have been associated with the various discussions that led to the motion being brought before the House today. As you, Mr Speaker, know, I have participated as representing the Government in the activities of the ad hoc committee that dealt with this matter.

The committee has been useful. Its meetings were attended by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Gippsland East, among others. I was also involved in discussion at the Government level. Under the auspices of the Speaker and the Government, the discussions have clearly indicated that the issue is important and significant, and should be carefully considered.

It is no accident that it has taken so many years for the Victorian Parliament to address the issue of broadcasting of proceedings. The potential has existed for the matter to be raised at any time but it has been only under the leadership of you, Mr Speaker, that the Press Gallery has found a favourable audience to which it can address this issue.

During the debate I listened with interest to the comments of the Deputy Premier in moving the motion, of the Leader of the National Party, who supported the motion, and of the Opposition in support of its amendment. Although I have my differences with the National Party and its Leader on policy issues, I have tremendous respect for the wisdom of the Leader of the National Party on matters of Parliamentary procedure. All honourable members should take into account the points he made in speaking to the motion and against the amendment.

It is disappointing that members of the Liberal Opposition have been so disrespectful of the traditions of this place as to ignore the advice of the Leader of the National Party and to speak of an ill-considered revolutionary change which would be implemented overnight by their amendment to the motion.

The Leader of the National Party pointed out that the honourable member for Balwyn said that certain matters are not clear from the wording of the motion and will have to be interpreted and developed with experience. He said that it is important that this limited trial period be used to iron out those particular issues to enable us to make a considered decision at the end of this sessional period or the end of the autumn sessional period. Only then can we as a Parliament, decide on what should apply in the future.

The House would be well placed to do that. I strongly support the adoption of the procedures outlined in the motion in this limited and appropriate manner.

It is also important to note that the proposals of the Liberal Party go to extraordinary lengths. Even the Federal Parliament does not allow the recording and broadcasting of the adjournment proceedings. There are good reasons why the Federal Parliament has never allowed the broadcasting of the adjournment proceedings, but those reasons are totally disregarded by the Opposition. It just wants to go on regardless of what may be the issues at stake and suddenly introduce a revolutionary change without having properly considered it. I am pleased to support the motion and urge all honourable members to oppose the amendment.

The sitting was suspended at 1.1 *p.m. until* 2.4 *p.m.*

Dr WELLS (Dromana)—History will show that this debate will prove to be one of the great debates of the 50th Parliament. That will be so because it is about democratic freedom, which is based upon free speech. Free speech is based upon the right to freely hear, and it is a fact of life that Victorian people are not free to hear the proceedings of Parliament as they should be.

There is no question that the print media is of enormous importance. The radio and television media are of equal if not greater importance. That can be easily shown by canvassing the knowledge of Victorians about the proceedings of this place. I submit respectfully, but in full confidence, that a survey of the people will show that they know little of the actual proceedings of this place. As I move around and talk to people, I know that they know little or nothing about some of the debates in Parliament. It is for that reason that this issue is of major importance.

Should Parliament decide to accept the amendment of the Liberal Opposition to make it possible for excerpts—and honourable members are referring only to voice excerpts of debates—to be broadcast, it could influence the knowledge of people about every matter that comes before the House in the future of this Parliament and Parliaments to follow. That will bring a change to this place for the first time since the print media appeared.

It is important to realise what the amendment of the Opposition is about. The amendment states:

(*a*) radio and TV media to broadcast balanced audio excerpts of all Parliamentary proceedings, without prior approval;

(*b*) television news filming or video of debates in Parliament only with the approval of the Presiding Officers who would in each case consult the Parliamentary Party Leaders.

It is proposed that the media have the right to make voice excerpts without further authority as they so choose. Anything else requires specific approval, and I emphasise that point. The amendment is not about making television rights automatic.

Parliament represents the people; it is about the business of the people. Parliament must inform the people what it is about. Earlier today I spoke with an eighteen-year-old youth about this proposal. His view was that Parliament has a responsibility to ensure that when Bills are passed, the people are made aware of them. That is the opinion of one young Victorian who believes that young people do not hear enough about what happens in this place.

The transcending importance of television and radio means that they are the most powerful media in getting across a position to the people of Victoria. Only a percentage of Victorians read newspapers.

It is clear that Victorians do not know or hear enough about what happens in this place. I have heard no demur from the principle that democracy is best preserved by public debate. I remind the House that it was Lincoln who said that government is for the people, by the people, of the people. It is not fair to trivialise the debate by referring only to anecdotal points. Honourable members must remember that our great democratic principles have been fought for through many Parliaments.

There can be no defence against not letting the people hear and see. What has the Government to hide; what has any member of Parliament to hide in this matter? Why stop the viewpoint of the Opposition of the day from being heard? Whatever favours a Government or Opposition today will swing the other way the next time around. My viewpoint does not favour the position of the Opposition in this Parliament; it favours the rights and needs of the people of Victoria.

With great respect I say there are a number of ways in which Parliament must change so that it may move into the modern era by taking maximum advantage of telecommunications, and modern equipment. To meet the needs of modern men and women, Parliament has no choice but to change in the next few years if it is to remain

relevant. It hurts me to say that, in my opinion, some of the things said today about restricting the freedom of the people to hear what is said in Parliament restricts the freedom of speech and will make this place a laughing stock.

It is often said that people do not know what goes on "up on the hill", that they do not much care because it does not really affect lives and yet we all know, because we value democracy and freedom, that what happens here does affect the daily lives of every Victorian. We will all do a better job for the future of this State if we ensure that people are better informed about this place and what it does.

If Parliament is opened up to the media, it will display its weaknesses or strengths, it will display its hard work or its laziness and it will display the great debates or the small issues, on which our lives depend. No Government, no Opposition and no political party will gain or lose from this in any unreasonable way. There can only be gain for the people and, therefore, for Parliament.

To restrict the efficient broadcasting of what is being said in this place can only protect sub-standard performances and matters or activities which individuals or parties may wish to hide. I dissociate myself entirely from the intellectual dishonesty of any proposition to prevent the people being informed. I do not wish to hide my performance or in any way to obscure my representation of my electorate.

Whatever I do, as was said by the honourable member for Berwick earlier, should be open to the people to hear. If a Parliament of a democratic land is not totally open to the people, what else is there? Is this not the ultimate defence of the people? Is this not the place where people are protected, encouraged and served? What rational intellectual defence can there be against the proposition that the people should know and hear what goes on in Parliament, under the stewardship of the members whom they elect?

Churchill once said that he believed democracy was not too good until he looked at all the other systems that were around. The ballot box, the freedom to speak and the total freedom of the media, print and electronic, are the ultimate defences of people in democratic lands. There is only a small number of great and truly free democracies in the world and we today are wishing here to restrict that process in what is one of the oldest and greatest democracies. If that should happen, we must surely feel in the future that this was a day of shame in the history of Victoria.

Democratic Parliamentary Government is based not on Parliament alone but on the people hearing what has happened in Parliament. It involves a close inter-working relationship between Parliament and the media. We degrade our efforts and ourselves and we degrade the contributions of the men and women of the media when we disrupt that close working relationship. If Parliamentarians do that, they deserve to incur the righteous wrath of the media.

This motion, more than anything else I have heard in this place during my short time here, is one that will break that relationship. It is interesting that the proposition came, firstly, from the media representatives to Parliament. Parliament was asked whether it would permit a change that has been permitted in other Parliaments in Australia. The response of Parliament, of Government and perhaps from an all-party committee has, I suggest with respect and sensitivity, been less than adequate. It is certainly not the response of wise and courageous leaders, which Parliamentarians are supposed to be. It is a narrow constricted response which says, "We will let you have this little bit, but we are not game to go any further".

My reply to the comment made earlier from the cross benches that they wish to accept the motion as a beginning is that if we do accept this nothing more will happen for a long time. At the end of the trial period if we endorse the proposal that the Government has brought forward, nothing else will happen thereafter.

This historic 50th Parliament is one in which we should turn over a new leaf and introduce a new era. We should get on with the job of what all political parties in this

nation pay lip service to and that is full, open, efficient, frank and honest Government. If Government in this place is all of those things, let the people hear and decide for themselves.

I implore you, Mr Speaker, to unshackle Parliament, set it free and let the people be informed. History will thank you and record with great affection that you served the people in a way that Parliaments prior to this have not been served.

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Water Resources)—I move:

That the question be now put.

The SPEAKER—Order! The debate has been going for one hour and a quarter; the Opposition has had six speakers, the Government has had three speakers and the National Party has had three speakers. Accordingly, I am prepared to accept the closure motion.

The House divided on the motion (the Hon. C. T. Edmunds in the chair).

Ayes	42
Noes	36
Majority for the motion	6

AYES	NOES
Miss Callister	Mr Austin
Mr Cathie	Mr Brown
Dr Coghill	Mr Coleman
Mr Culpin	Mr Cooper
Mr Cunningham	Mr Crozier
Mr Ernst	Mr Delzoppo
Mr Fogarty	Mr Dickinson
Mr Fordham	Mr Evans (*Ballarat North*)
Mr Gavin	Mr Evans (*Gippsland East*)
Mrs Gleeson	Mr Hann
Mr Harrowfield	Mr Hayward
Mrs Hill	Mr Heffernan
Mr Hill	Mr Jasper
Mr Hockley	Mr Kennett
Mr Jolly	Mr Lea
Mr Kirkwood	Mr Leigh
Mr McCutcheon	Mr Lieberman
Mr McDonald	Mr McGrath (*Lowan*)
Mr Mathews	Mr McGrath (*Warrnambool*)
Mr Micallef	Mr McNamara
Mr Norris	Mr Pescott
Mr Pope	Mr Plowman
Mrs Ray	Mr Reynolds
Mr Remington	Mr Richardson
Mr Roper	Mr Ross-Edwards
Mr Rowe	Ms Sibree
Mrs Setches	Mr Smith (*Glen Waverley*
Mr Sheehan	Mr Smith (*Polwarth*)
Mr Shell	Mr Steggall
Mr Sidiropoulos	Mr Stockdale
Mr Simmonds	Mr Wallace
Mr Simpson	Mr Weideman
Mr Spyker	Mr Whiting
Mr Stirling	Mr Williams
Mrs Toner	
Mr Trezise	
Dr Vaughan	
Mr Walsh	
Mr Wilkes	
Mrs Wilson	
Tellers:	*Tellers:*
Mr Andrianopoulos	Mr Perrin
Mr Seitz	Dr Wells

PAIRS

Mr Cain	Mr Gude
Mr Crabb	Mr Maclellan
Mrs Hirsh	Mr Ramsay
Mr Kennedy	Mr Tanner

The SPEAKER—Order! I shall proceed to put the various questions. The Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources has moved item No. 2 on the Notice Paper to which the Leader of the Opposition has moved amendments which are similar in intent but which are not completely dependent on each other. Therefore I shall put the amendments separately.

The House divided on the question that the words proposed by Mr Kennett to be inserted be so inserted (the Hon. C. T. Edmunds in the chair).

Ayes	27
Noes	52
Majority against the insertion of the words	25

AYES	NOES
Mr Austin	Mr Andrianopoulos
Mr Brown	Miss Callister
Mr Coleman	Mr Cathie
Mr Cooper	Dr Coghill
Mr Crozier	Mr Culpin
Mr Delzoppo	Mr Cunningham
Mr Dickinson	Mr Ernst
Mr Evans (*Gippsland East*)	Mr Evans (*Gippsland East*)
Mr Hayward	Mr Fogarty
Mr Kennett	Mr Fordham
Mr Leigh	Mr Gavin
Mr Lieberman	Mrs Gleeson
Mr Perrin	Mr Hann
Mr Pescott	Mr Harrowfield
Mr Plowman	Mrs Hill
Mr Ramsay	Mr Hill
Mr Reynolds	Mr Hockley
Mr Richardson	Mr Jasper
Ms Sibree	Mr Jolly
Mr Smith (*Glen Waverley*)	Mr Kirkwood
Mr Smith (*Polwarth*)	Mr McCutcheon
Mr Stockdale	Mr McGrath (*Lowan*)
Mr Weideman	Mr McGrath (*Warrnambool*)
Dr Wells	Mr McNamara
Mr Williams	Mr Mathews
	Mr Micallef
Tellers:	Mr Norris
Mr Heffernan	Mr Pope
Mr Lea	Mrs Ray
	Mr Remington
	Mr Roper
	Mr Ross-Edwards
	Mr Rowe
	Mr Seitz
	Mrs Setches
	Mr Sheehan
	Mr Shell
	Mr Sidiropoulos
	Mr Simmonds
	Mr Simpson
	Mr Spyker

AYES	NOES
	Mr Steggall
	Mr Stirling
	Mrs Toner
	Mr Trezise
	Dr Vaughan
	Mr Wallace
	Mr Walsh
	Mr Whiting
	Mr Wilkes
	Tellers:
	Mr McDonald
	Mrs Wilson

PAIRS

Mr Cain	Mr Gude
Mr Crabb	Mr Maclellan
Mrs Hirsh	Mr John
Mr Kennedy	Mr Tanner

The SPEAKER—Order! I shall now proceed to the second amendment, which is to omit condition No. 1 and to insert the following:

1. (*a*) radio and TV media to broadcast balanced audio excerpts of all Parliamentary proceedings, without prior approval;

(*b*) television news filming or video of debates in Parliament only with the approval of the Presiding Officers who would in each case consult the Parliamentary Party Leaders.

The House divided on the question that the paragraph proposed by Mr Kennett to be omitted stand part of the motion (the Hon. C. T. Edmunds in the chair).

Ayes	52
Noes	27
Majority against the amendment	25

AYES	NOES
Mr Andrianopoulos	Mr Austin
Miss Callister	Mr Brown
Mr Cathie	Mr Coleman
Dr Coghill	Mr Cooper
Mr Culpin	Mr Crozier
Mr Cunningham	Mr Delzoppo
Mr Ernst	Mr Evans *(Ballarat North)*
Mr Evans *(Gippsland East)*	Mr Hayward
Mr Fogarty	Mr Heffernan
Mr Fordham	Mr Kennett
Mr Gavin	Mr Lea
Mrs Gleeson	Mr Leigh
Mr Hann	Mr Lieberman
Mr Harrowfield	Mr Perrin
Mrs Hill	Mr Plowman
Mr Hill	Mr Ramsay
Mr Hockley	Mr Reynolds
Mr Jasper	Mr Richardson
Mr Jolly	Ms Sibree
Mr Kirkwood	Mr Smith *(Glen Waverley)*
Mr McCutcheon	Mr Smith *(Polwarth)*
Mr McDonald	Mr Stockdale
Mr McGrath *(Lowan)*	Mr Weideman
Mr McGrath *(Warrnambool)*	Dr Wells
Mr McNamara	Mr Williams

AYES	NOES
Mr Mathews	
Mr Micallef	*Tellers*
Mr Norris	Mr Dickinson
Mr Pope	Mr Pescott
Mrs Ray	
Mr Remington	
Mr Roper	
Mr Ross-Edwards	
Mr Rowe	
Mr Seitz	
Mrs Setches	
Mr Shell	
Mr Sidiropoulos	
Mr Simmonds	
Mr Simpson	
Mr Spyker	
Mr Steggall	
Mr Stirling	
Mrs Toner	
Mr Trezise	
Dr Vaughan	
Mr Walsh	
Mr Whiting	
Mr Wilkes	
Mrs Wilson	
Tellers	
Mr Sheehan	
Mr Wallace	

PAIRS

Mr Cain	Mr Gude
Mr Crabb	Mr Maclellan
Mrs Hirsh	Mr John
Mr Kennedy	Mr Tanner

The motion was agreed to.

TELEVISING OF PROCEEDINGS

The SPEAKER—Order! Before calling for further notices of motion, I should advise the House that after receiving the usual request from the President of the Press Gallery, I have approved of the filming and recording of the Treasurer's delivery of the State Budget next Wednesday and also of the response of the Opposition and National parties at a later date.

FORESTS (BOWATER-SCOTT AGREEMENT) BILL

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to ratify, validate, approve and otherwise give effect to an agreement with Bowater-Scott Limited and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL (REPEAL) BILL

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to give the Industrial Relations Commission of Victoria jurisdiction over the terms and conditions of employment of staff employed by certain academic institutions, to repeal the Post-

Secondary Education Remuneration Tribunal Act 1980, to amend the Council of Adult Education Act 1981 and the Industrial Relations Act 1979 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (REGISTRATION FEES) BILL

For **Mr CRABB** (Minister for Labour), Mr Fordham (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Labour and Industry Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—I move:

That I have leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Country Fire Authority Act 1958.

Mr AUSTIN (Ripon)—In view of the importance of the Country Fire Authority, can the Minister explain what is involved in the Bill?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (*By leave*)—The Bill makes a minor alteration to the arrangements for spark arresters for tractors that were introduced in the last sessional period.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Emergency Management Act 1986 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I seek clarification. When the Minister introduced the Bill, he stated that the Treasurer was with him. Is it a form of the House that the Minister with the Minister introducing the Bill has to be with him? I seek clarification whether the Minister not introducing the Bill has to be in the House when the Bill is introduced.

The SPEAKER—Order! The matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition is not a point of order; it is a point of procedure. I am advised by the Clerks that the question has never before been raised in my presence. I am also advised that the person who is with the Minister moving for leave to bring in a Bill does not have to be with the Minister.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ROAD SAFETY BILL

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I move:

That I have leave to bring in a Bill to re-enact, with amendments, the law relating to motor vehicles, to repeal the Motor Car Act 1958, to make consequential amendments to various Acts and for other purposes.

I had intended to have the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with me and, in view of your ruling, Mr Speaker, that remains the case.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—Mr Speaker, I again raise the point of procedure that I raised a few moments ago. I ask you, through the Clerks, to determine—perhaps for your ruling at a later stage—just what is the relevance of having a Minister arguing that another Minister is with him.

This is now the second occasion on which a Minister has indicated that another Minister is with him when neither of the Ministers named as being with the Ministers moving the motion has been in the Chamber at the time. That is absurd in my view. It may not be relevant, but I believe it would be well worth having the point clarified.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr KENNETT—Who would want to be with the Minister for Transport at this time anyway?

The SPEAKER—Order! On the point of procedure, I refer the Leader of the Opposition to Standing Order No. 128, which appears to cover the point of procedure he has raised with the Chair.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

RACING (SUNDAY RACING AND BETTING) BILL

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Racing Act 1958 and the Sunday Entertainment Act 1967 to allow racing and betting on racing on Sundays and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

TRANSPORT ACCIDENT BILL

The debate (adjourned from May 8) on the motion of Mr Jolly (Treasurer) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton)—This is a Bill to radically alter Victoria's compulsory third-party insurance system in respect of Victorians or other people injured in motor accidents in Victoria.

The Bill would establish a totally no-fault scheme and totally abrogate the existing right of Victorian citizens to sue for damages where their injuries in a motor accident result from negligence by another road user.

The Bill adopts a common-denominator approach to benefits, applying the same benefits in relation to pensions, lump sums, other benefits and various impairment benefits, in accordance with a guide to assessment of impairment, on a strictly uniform basis without any consideration of the individual circumstances of the motor accident victim concerned.

It applies exactly the same benefits, irrespective of fault, to the innocent victim of a motor car accident—who may have contributed nothing to the causation of the accident from which the injuries result—as it provides to the driver whose reckless or negligent behaviour may have been 100 per cent responsible for the causation of the accident.

The position of the Liberal Opposition on this Bill is as follows: firstly, I want to make very clear that the Liberal Party not only acknowledges that reform of Victoria's compulsory third-party scheme is necessary but also it submits to the House that there has been inexcusable inaction on the part of the Government, which has substantially caused the existing problems of the present scheme.

Secondly, the need for change arises from the cost of the existing scheme and not from any complaint about the quality of the benefits it provides. Thirdly, the destruction of common law rights is not necessary, is unjust and is incompatible with the values of the Victorian community.

Fourthly, other alternatives are available to that proposed by the Government that do not involve simply maintaining the existing scheme. Fifthly, for example, I refer to the Liberal Party's "Liberal Motorcare" policy released earlier this year, which would preserve the availability of both no-fault benefits for all Victorians and limited common law rights; and the proposed modified form of common law rights, which would preserve the basic and traditional rights of innocent victims, and particularly the most seriously injured of innocent victims.

Sixthly, as a further example, similar—but not identical—reforms have been proposed by the Law Institute of Victoria, which also would have involved the retention of no-fault compensation and common law in a modified form.

Seventhly, the cost of either of those proposals in terms of the premium and other charges to the Victorian community would be very similar to those proposed by the Government, including those which are inevitably involved in meeting the unfunded liabilities and accumulated losses of the existing third-party scheme.

Eighthly, in order to give effect to the Liberal Party's support for reasonable reform of the existing third-party scheme, the Liberal Party will propose amendments which would achieve the following results: (1) the preservation of modified common law rights; (2) the placing of a ceiling on the no-fault benefits proposed by the Government in order to contain the cost, within reasonable limits, for the scheme as a whole; (3) the reintroduction of the insurance concept, which becomes necessary when one introduces a third-party element into the scheme; (4) the removal of a number of specific anomalies, particularly in relation to clause 41 of the Bill, which would virtually preclude those interested in motor car clubs and the like from pursuing their recreational activities, and; (5) a series of consequential amendments flowing from the basic changes, particularly the preservation of modified common law rights.

Ninthly, the Government should be under no illusion about the fact that the Liberal Party considers this Bill and the matters it raises as involving questions of fundamental principle that are of fundamental importance to the Victorian community and its basic rights under British law.

The Bill raises fundamental questions of the safeguard role that the Victorian electorate has entrusted to the opposition parties in Parliament. The Government does not have absolute power. The Constitution establishes a bicameral system of government and the people of Victoria have entrusted the opposition parties with the role of performing a safeguard function to protect their interests and rights in important issues such as the one raised by the Bill.

I turn to the background of this issue and, first of all, to the question of common law rights. Common law rights are not confined to motor vehicle accidents or, indeed, to workers compensation. It is a concept of British law that has subsisted for more than 200 years in all British jurisdictions, including in Australia and in Victoria.

It provides that where one person, a member of the community, exercises insufficient care or does not exercise the reasonable care that flows from the ordinary anticipation of the consequences of that person's action in relation to the interests and the person of other people, a person who is damaged as a result of that lack of care has the right to take action to recover damages.

Those damages are not designed as retribution against the wrongdoer. That has never been the concept underpinning the damages, neither in principle nor in quantum. What damages have been designed to do is, as far as money can compensate, to place the innocent victim in the position he would have been in had the negligent person not acted

as he did. Flowing from that is a whole series of limitations, such as the limitation of causation to reasonably anticipated consequences; the limitation of the quantum of damages to the damage which could reasonably be expected to flow from the negligent action and, in particular, the concept of contributory negligence where, if the injured party was negligent to some extent relevant to the causation of the injury or damage, he must make a proportionate contribution by way of damages being reduced by the extent of his own negligence.

Therefore, it is clear from that fundamental concept of British law, extending as it does beyond motor accidents, that the purpose of the law of negligence, the law of tort, is not and never has been to wreak revenge or retribution on the wrongdoer. The thrust is quite the reverse. It is to restore as far as practicable to his former position the victim of the negligence. That is the case with motor accidents in exactly the same way as it is the case in any other area of negligence action.

Victoria has had a compulsory third-party insurance system since 1941. The State has intervened in commercial relationships and imposed an obligation on the owner of every motor vehicle to take out third-party insurance cover. The purpose of that insurance cover is not to protect the interests of the driver or the person who causes the accident, it is to protect the claim of the person who is entitled to damages. By requiring that the third party's right to damages is secured by an insurance on the motor vehicle, the legislature has ensured that the damages award that the victim obtains will actually be met.

Again, that is the reverse of the way in which the Government has sought to project the scheme. In 1974, following the passage of the Motor Accidents Act 1973 by this Parliament, a no-fault accident compensation scheme was established that underpinned the common law rights of Victorian motorists and other road users.

It is notable, Mr Acting Speaker, that despite the rhetoric of the Government and the accusations made against the Liberal Party, those no-fault benefits were introduced by a Liberal Government. Contrary again to what the Government has asserted, they provide for prompt payment of benefits. Indeed, medical and hospital expenses are not only promptly paid but the victim does not actually make any payment. I know this from the experience of my own family. In our case and, as I understand it, in the normal course of events, the medical and hospital charges are paid directly by the Motor Accidents Board. There is no question, as the Government has suggested, of people being in a waiting situation, with no income, expenses piling up day after day and starving because the scheme does not provide them with protection against the consequences of the negligent road use of another motorist.

Indeed, even with income benefits, I am advised that it is normal for an assessment to be made of the entitlement of the victim within a period of two months. It is not uncommon for an assessment to be made six weeks after the filing of a claim or six weeks after an accident. An inhibiting factor arises in some cases when it is difficult because of the condition of the patient to assess the likely duration of income benefits. Because the scheme is predicated upon the payment of lump sum benefits, to protect the beneficiary against taxation effects on those benefits, the scheme necessitates a delay in the determination of benefits until the likely duration of incapacity can be reasonably determined.

However, I am advised that in numerous cases it is clear within a period of six weeks after the accident, whether the person concerned will be completely incapacitated for a period that would entitle that person to the full extent of the no-fault benefits—an amount of $20 800—and that within a period of two months that payment is made.

The concept that the Government has sought to convey in its argument, its advocacy and even in advertisements paid for by the taxpayers of Victoria, that Victorians injured in motor accidents are being left neglected with inadequate protection by the existing scheme, is simply not borne out by the facts.

A further matter to which I wish to refer concerns the interrelationship of the third-party insurance scheme and the benefits under that scheme with the Commonwealth social security system and other benefits provided by Federal and State Governments for persons who are in necessitous circumstances, especially those unable to work because of illness or injury.

Australia has a sophisticated scheme of social security benefits that are maintained by the Commonwealth Government. In the main, those benefits apply to all Australians on a uniform basis. They provide the same level of protection to the victims of motor accidents as to anybody else.

If you, Mr Acting Speaker, or I were to have an accident while walking down the front steps of Parliament House and became incapacitated, unable to work or to obtain the salary that we enjoy by being members of this place and if we had no other source of income, we would be entitled to Commonwealth social security benefits.

Those benefits apply to all classes of victims. It is simply not accurate for the Government to suggest that if lifetime no-fault accident compensation benefits are not provided, an injured Victorian will have no protection. Indeed, if Victoria did not have a no-fault scheme, as is the case in other States and if there were no common law, under the Commonwealth social security system victims injured in motor accidents would be entitled to exactly the same benefits that apply to the rest of the community.

That raises a particular issue relating to third-party insurance generally. It is a compulsory scheme. Every Victorian motorist is required to contribute to the fund. That has always been the case. It is proposed to be the case under all the various schemes that have been proposed in this State. I know of nobody who has suggested that it should not be a compulsory scheme.

What then are the implications of that compulsion and why does the Government take the view that it should do two things? First of all, that it should usurp the responsibility of the Commonwealth to provide ongoing social security benefits and impose upon Victorian motorists the obligation to compulsorily fund a level of benefits higher than that provided to the rest of the community for injury resulting from any other class of accident.

What is the justification for that? I submit that there is no justification for singling out motor accident victims and saying that, in the case of that particular class of injured Victorian, the State will, by force of law, require every Victorian motorist to fund benefits for those victims higher than those that the Commonwealth provides for every other class of injured Victorian.

Moreover, by doing so in the WorkCare context, the Victorian Government has imposed a massive financial burden on the Victorian community. The present Bill would impose the same massive financial burden on Victorian motorists in the context of the proposed third-party scheme. It is providing windfall revenue for the Commonwealth by excusing the Commonwealth from the outlays that would otherwise apply in meeting its responsibility to provide social security benefits for workers covered under WorkCare or for road users injured in Victoria, if this Bill were passed. They would receive pensions and benefits under the no-fault scheme to the age of 65 years, instead of the social security benefits that they would otherwise receive. The burden of providing those benefits is thereby shifted from the Commonwealth, as is the case in each State except Tasmania, to Victorian motorists in the case of third-party insurance, and to Victorian employers in the case of WorkCare.

The Government has recognized that point in a booklet that it put out publicising the WorkCare scheme. It makes the point that approximately $1500 million of additional revenue would pass to the Commonwealth as a result of the introduction of WorkCare because of the factor I have just outlined and certain other factors relating to increased taxation receipts. Those two factors are of particular importance and will become more

relevant as the debate proceeds. They bear on some of the fundamental questions of principle that the Bill raises.

I turn now to the question of why the State has adopted this approach, as have Labor Governments in other States. It comes back to the question of Australian Labor Party policy, particularly at the Federal level. From the days of the Whitlam Government, the Australian Labor Party in Federal Parliament has had a policy of introducing a national no-fault compensation scheme covering all classes of accident, not confined to workers compensation claims and third-party motor vehicle claims, but all classes of accidents.

In 1974 the Woodhouse committee, otherwise known as the National Committee of Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation in Australia, reported to the Commonwealth Parliament. As is well known, the Woodhouse committee recommended the establishment of a complete no-fault accident compensation scheme, both in the sense that it was to be exclusive of all other remedies and also that it was to apply universally to all classes of injury.

It was proposed that there be, by force of Commonwealth law, the complete abrogation of the historic common law rights of Australian citizens, that no Australian injured in an accident would be entitled to sue for damages. The Federal Government at the time—the Whitlam Labor Government—took up those proposals and introduced a Bill. That Bill was called the National Compensation Bill. It went through the House of Representatives of Federal Parliament and then to the Senate. On 30 October 1974 the Senate referred to its Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs the question of the legislative competence of the Commonwealth to abrogate common law rights in favour of a total no-fault scheme.

In the course of its deliberations, the Standing Committee obtained opinions from three eminent Queen's Counsel. It is particularly important to note the three Queen's Counsel concerned. The first was Mr Murray Gleeson, QC, from New South Wales, who is still a distinguished member of the bar in that State and an eminent QC. The second was Mr Richard McGarvie, QC, now a justice of the Victorian Supreme Court. The third was Mr F. G. Brennan, now Sir Gerard Brennan of the High Court of Australia. It is hard to conceive of three more eminent counsel to advise on those important constitutional points.

Each separately delivered an opinion to the committee, and all three found, in the most conclusive terms, that the Commonwealth did not have the power to substitute no-fault benefits for common law rights. In the final analysis, the proposed Federal legislation did not proceed. That resulted in a change of Australian Labor Party policy, which, if we can trace it through the past, becomes relevant in this debate.

I shall briefly take the House to the Federal platform of the Australian Labor Party. In the platform of the 30th Federal conference of the ALP there was no mention of a national no-fault accident compensation scheme. Rather, under the heading, "Social Welfare" the policy stated:

> The provision of social security benefits in such contingencies as, for example, sickness, unemployment and old age, and including a national compensation scheme to replace third party and workers' compensation insurance and covering all disabling injuries suffered by a member of the community, so as to guarantee families and individuals a minimum income sufficient in general to maintain an acceptable standard of living.

There is no separate reference to a national accident compensation scheme. It is significant that the statement is contained within the body of the policy dealing with social welfare and is particularised as an example of social security benefits in terms of that policy.

In 1977, after the Woodhouse inquiry and failure of the National Compensation Bill, the Labor Party slightly changed the format of its policy. The Federal ALP constitution and rules, as approved by the 32nd national conference under the heading "Social Security" read:

Labor believes that all income support programs should be the responsibility of the Australian Government. In accordance with these principles and pursuit of these aims, a Labor Government will:

There are a series of points following that introduction, and the sixth point stated:

introduce a national compensation scheme with universal coverage, based on a no-fault principle, to cover injury and work related illness for all workers regardless of sex or marital status.

It had been particularised down to the level of a quite specific policy commitment, albeit still under the heading of "Social Security". That followed the failure of the Federal initiative.

At the 33rd national conference in 1979, again under the heading "Social Security" and under the sub-heading of "Income Support", the Labor Party gave a similar commitment to introduce a no-fault national compensation scheme. In 1982, again under the heading of "Social Security" an income support commitment was given in the following terms:

Labor's eventual aim is the establishment of a universal minimum income scheme to provide an adequate standard of living. Employment policies and a fair taxation system will be supplemented by the provision of social security payments.

It then states:

Labor <u>will</u>

The word "will" is underlined for emphasis in the policy document. It continues:

c. National Compensation and National Superannuation

12. Labor will develop, in co-operation with the States, a national compensation scheme, on a no-fault basis with universal coverage for all injury and for work-related injury and disease.

Two important things happened in that transition. First, the scope of the intended national compensation scheme was extended to cover all injuries howsoever caused. Second, and more important for present purposes, it was the first time one saw the introduction of the words, "Labor will develop, in co-operation with the States".

So that the Labor Party, although adhering to its overall objective of a universal minimum income scheme, when it comes to particularise the means for implementing that national objective, advised by those three eminent Queen's Counsel and accepted by the Senate as being outside the power of the Commonwealth, proposes that it be done in cooperation with the States on a national basis. The same thing appears in virtually identical terms in the 1984 platform, constitution and rules, as approved by the 36th national conference of the ALP in Canberra.

As appears from this document, having failed in its national objective in the Federal Parliament, the Labor Party set itself on the course of sweeping aside the traditional common law rights of Australian citizens by subverting the Australian Constitution by relying upon the powers of the State Governments—unfortunately for the people of Australia, Labor Party State Governments—to set up the means by which a national compensation scheme might be introduced.

It is especially important to appreciate the reasoning that led to the conclusion that the establishment directly of such a scheme was contrary to the Australian Constitution. What was said was that the Commonwealth Constitution did not permit the Federal Parliament to substitute a benefit such as a pension, or a weekly payment, for the common law right. The Commonwealth had no power to abolish the common law right. The situation would have been different if, at that time, no common law right at the State level had existed but was simply one of the benefits provided under statute. In that case, the Commonwealth might very well have been able, consistent with the Constitution, to substitute a national benefit for the State benefit.

Clearly, what the Labor Party proposes in this series of initiatives led by the Victorian Government in WorkCare and now in this horrific Bill is to lay the ground for the subversion of the Australian Constitution by creating a series of benefits and by the

complete abrogation of common law rights in the case of the third-party insurance scheme; to set the ground for the Commonwealth to subvert its own Constitution and to legislate at national level to provide a national no-fault compensation scheme involving the complete destruction of common law rights in this country. It is nothing less than a subversion of the Australian Constitution, a subversion in which the Victorian Government is a willing and eager participant. Indeed, it has been part of the State platform of the Australian Labor Party that complementary legislation would be passed.

That is not the end of the story. In the Melbourne *Herald* of 20 August 1984 there appeared a report headed, "We'll help set up new compo: Hawke", which indicated that the Prime Minister had written to the State Premiers and to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory offering help in establishing a national no-fault compensation scheme. The article states:

> The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, has written to State Premiers and the Northern Territory Chief Minister offering Federal Government help in setting up a national no-fault compensation scheme.
>
> It is understood the Government decided there was room to offer a "financial sweetener" to the States because of the possible substantial savings in the area of social security payments.

The article then discusses a speech made by Senator Evans, then the relevant Minister, shortly before this report, and the *Herald* reports him in these terms:

> Senator Evans told a seminar at the Australian National University at the weekend the Government's ultimate objective was to have an integrated Commonwealth-State nation-wide scheme which ensured speedy compensation at reasonable levels for all individuals injured in any kind of accident.

The report goes on further to refer to Senator Evans, saying:

> He said the common law fault principle could not be eliminated from all fields immediately and the Government would tackle gradually the major problem areas of motor car accidents, industrial accidents and other accidents including sporting, criminal and domestic injuries.

So we have from the then Federal Attorney-General an express admission that the ultimate objective is to sweep away common law rights entirely and to adopt the strategy of using the States as the Trojan Horse to implement no-fault schemes at the State level in selected areas and to set the ground for the Commonwealth to subvert the Constitution and legislate to abrogate totally common law rights.

As a result of that information coming to the notice of the Opposition, the Opposition made requests under the Freedom of Information Act and obtained a copy of a letter from the Prime Minister to the Victorian Premier dated 18 July 1984. That letter indicates that, consistent with the article from which I have just quoted, the Prime Minister had written to all the States making a proposal. However, it differs in one important respect from that article, so I shall take the House briefly to the letter and quote certain extracts from it. It commences:

> You will be aware that both the National Platform of the Australian Labor Party and the policy upon which my Government was elected in 1983 contain a commitment to the establishment of no-fault accident compensation.

Some discussion of the basis of that policy follows, and the letter continues:

> The ultimate objective, about which there is a large measure of agreement, is to have an integrated nationwide compensation scheme which ensures speedy compensation at a reasonable level for all persons injured in any kind of accident. There are, however, two important qualifications determining the Commonwealth's approach to this objective.
>
> First, as has been consistently emphasised, this essential social reform cannot be tackled by the Commonwealth Government alone but requires the active participation and cooperation of State and Northern Territory Governments. It has not been our intention that the Commonwealth would embark on a national scheme of its own but rather a Commonwealth-State cooperative approach be developed. Secondly, it is recognised that an all-encompassing no-fault compensation scheme is a long-term objective. It seems expedient to proceed by stages, identifying significant classes of accident where the no-fault principle can be progressively implemented.
>
> I write now to suggest that, as the first step in this direction, your Government might give consideration to the introduction of a no-fault transport accident compensation scheme, accompanied by the abolition of common law claims arising from such accidents.

The Prime Minister refers to the then current proposals by the New South Wales Government as being worthy of close attention as a model, notably proposals from which the New South Wales Government subsequently resiled.

The Prime Minister goes on:

Following consideration of this matter by the Commonwealth Government, I am willing to offer the Commonwealth's cooperation in any steps which your Government may decide to take towards the establishment of a no-fault TAS in your State.

He then discusses the advantages that the Government sees in that and continues by making an important qualification, one which ought to strike fear into the hearts of Victorian motorists and taxpayers. He says:

My expression of willingness to lend Commonwealth support for initiatives you might take in this respect is made without financial commitment, but the Government has authorised the Attorney-General, in close consultation with the Treasurer and Ministers for Social Security and Health, to enter into discussions with his counterparts in the States and the Northern Territory about possible forms of assistance which might be able to be provided by the Commonwealth to Governments contemplating the introduction of a no-fault TAS.

Subject to your agreement, I would propose that these discussions should begin as soon as possible.

That letter was kept secret from the Victorian public until yesterday. Indeed, the *Herald* article suggests that misleading information had been leaked about the extent of the Commonwealth proposals. Honourable members will recall the mention of a "financial sweetener". I repeat: until yesterday that letter had been kept secret.

From what it discloses it is patently clear that the Commonwealth and State Labor Governments are proposing to conspire against the Australian community—to subvert the Commonwealth Constitution and to totally abrogate the historic right of Australian citizens to take action against those who cause them damage by their negligence. It is proposed initially to proceed by way of abrogating common law rights in the areas of third-party and workers compensation insurance. It is proposed then to extend that to other areas of injury arising from other types of accidents and the ultimate objective is the subversion of the Australian Constitution and to provide for a Commonwealth scheme constituting the substitution of Commonwealth benefits for the State benefits that have been established under Bills like that presently before Parliament.

Can anything be clearer in evidence of that than the fact of the WorkCare legislation and the fact of this Bill; the fact of that letter and the fact that similar schemes are under consideration by Labor State Governments in virtually every other State?

The consequences for Victorians are amply illustrated by the history of the financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and this State under the WorkCare arrangements and, Mr Acting Speaker, you will recall that in its glossy booklet, the Victorian Government made the point that substantial windfalls would flow to the Commonwealth from the introduction of WorkCare, and I have already talked about the quantification of those.

It is apparent from the tight, hamfisted behaviour of the Victorian Government; its refusal to answer questions in this Parliament about that matter; its refusal to disclose under the Freedom of Information Act the correspondence concerning its claims for financial compensation and the absence of any announcement about its success in this area that no compensation has been forthcoming.

Indeed, the Treasurer and the Director of Insurance Policy have indicated in recent meetings that they consider there is no prospect of success in that or in the claim for compensation for the exclusion of benefits under Medicare.

So that not only have income replacement benefits been substituted for Commonwealth social security benefits by these schemes—to the immense cost of the Victorian community—but also the medical costs have not only been maintained, as they were already under the existing no-fault scheme, they have been substantially extended to

almost totally exclude Medicare compensation for victims of motor car accidents and workers compensation accidents in this State.

The present Bill is further evidence of the progression of this scheme to defraud the Australian population of its historic and fundamental common law rights. It is an attempt to introduce a national, no-fault compensation scheme by the backdoor following the strategy outlined in the speech by Senator Evans, in the letter from the Prime Minister and in Labor Party policy itself.

The Bill involves the total destruction of common law rights; the assumption by Victorians, and particularly Victorian employers and Victorian motorists, of virtually open-ended financial commitments at the expense of excusing the Commonwealth from meeting the commitments it meets in every other State and has hitherto met in Victoria. It is simply an attempt to subvert the Australian Constitution.

It is not simply an issue of third-party insurance. The Bill raises the whole question of accident compensation. All of that makes the Bill a fundamental disgrace; a fraud on the Australian people and a fraud on the Australian Constitution.

Moreover, it has been held out by the Government as the only alternative to the present scheme, which everybody agrees cannot be maintained. There are other alternatives, one of which is the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme released by the Liberal Opposition in May of this year.

For the purpose of the record in this debate, I wish to record in *Hansard* an outline of the basic features of that scheme. I do not propose to go into it in great detail because both the policy document and the costing have been publicly released and stand in the public record as part of this important debate.

The summary indicates that the Liberal Party accepts primarily that a new scheme is needed; that the present scheme cannot be sustained and that it has to be replaced. It accepts that on the basis of the losses accumulated by this Government in the past four years. As at the end of the 1985 year, those accumulated losses, on the judgment of the State's Auditor-General, stood at $1786 million. Of that, all but $98 million has been accumulated in the four years that this Government and this Treasurer have been responsible for this area of the State's operations.

Indeed, information contained in the Government's booklet and recent statements by the Treasurer, the Premier and Mr Baker, the Director of Insurance Policy, indicate that by the end of the 1985–86 year the losses will have been of the order, on the Auditor-General's basis, of something like $2500 million. The Government has conceded that, even on its net present value terms, the value of the unfunded liabilities is $1·6 billion.

In reducing costs under the scheme, the Liberal Party set these parameters: that the scheme should be designed to promote road safety; it should be fair to both motorists and to the victims of road accidents; it should be responsibly and equitably funded; it should be cost effective and it should be designed to give priority to the innocent victims of motor accidents, especially the most seriously injured.

The Government has at least paid lip service to those objectives. The Liberal Party alternative provided a scheme which met those criteria. In relation to benefits, it proposed four levels of benefits: the first was an excess so that the first $650 of loss, whether it be earnings, medical, hospital treatment costs or other costs, would not be reimbursable under any part of the scheme; that they would not attract no-fault benefits and no common law action would be taken in respect of them.

The second level was what was called the "universal benefits level". This was a no-fault benefit level providing no-fault benefits of the same kind as proposed by the Government up to a limit of $20 800 for income replacement and five years for hospital, medical and other treatment costs.

The third level was a substantially modified system of common law rights: a right to take action to recover damages in the hands of innocent victims where negligence against another road user could be established. It is particularly important to note that very fundamental reforms were proposed which would have substantial effects on the number of claims made at common law and the cost of those claims.

It proposed that damages under the existing heads might be recovered but they might only be recovered if the claim crossed two thresholds: firstly, a definition of "serious injury" which would require ongoing and serious disability, and, secondly, a threshold whereby no damages could be recovered unless the quantum of damages to be recovered would exceed $15 000.

The first three levels were to be compulsory, contained in the relevant legislation and to apply uniformly to all Victorians.

The fourth level was an additional benefits level whereby it was proposed that a Government insurer would provide—and private insurers would be encouraged to provide—additional cover on a voluntary basis of self insurance.

Firstly, in relation to funding it was proposed that premiums be prescribed and would attach to each registered motor vehicle. The costing subsequently published supported the statement in the policy document that the scheme, as proposed, would have been fully funded from its inception at a premium of $183 for 1985–86 for a category 1 vehicle. Secondly, it was proposed that there be an insurance contribution from each licensed driver at a level of $30 annually but with a discount for those who paid three or six years in advance. The purpose of that was to require a contribution from the numerous people who, by virtue of the fact that they are licensed drivers but do not own a motor vehicle, generate risk on the roads, but at present are making no contribution to the funding of the benefits that flow from those risks.

It was thirdly proposed that there be increased penalties on Victorians who committed motor traffic offences. I indicate that the quantum of additional revenue proposed from that provision was similar to that which has subsequently been proposed by the Government, and the Government's scheme and the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme were very similar in that respect.

Fourthly, it was proposed that the existing unfunded liabilities would be met from borrowings or other sources of revenue within the Consolidated Fund, the view being taken that the current Treasurer has the responsibility, through his neglect, of having accumulated these unfunded liabilities. There had been four years of neglect and in the light of that fact it was unfair to direct those costs to existing motorists and future generations of motorists and since all Victorians, whether they are motorists or licensed drivers, share in the protection afforded by the third-party insurance scheme, it was appropriate that unfunded liabilities be financed out of the general revenue.

In relation to treatment costs, it was proposed to rectify the anomaly whereby in Victoria as opposed to other mainland States, Medicare does not provide cover for the hospital, medical and other treatment costs of the victims of motor accidents. It was proposed that that cost should be transferred to Medicare thus rectifying that serious and substantial anomaly.

The policy opposed the adoption of a pay-as-you-go funding base and, despite the Government's assurances and the phoney basis of its ten-year fully-funded strategy, the reality is that the Government has adopted an unfunded pay-as-you-go scheme.

It was proposed that there continue to be a capacity for lump sum compensation on the basis that history and actuarial costings established that there are substantial cost savings to be made by providing lump sum compensation. The reality is that to be self dependent and able to manage their own affairs, the claimants under these schemes are prepared to accept sums which are discounted below the present value of benefits like those now proposed by the Government.

As I have said in other places and, as is indicated in the "Liberal Motorcare" document, the Government's own actuary, now a director of the board of management of the Accident Compensation Commission, Mr Richard Cumpston, conducted a survey which disclosed in the context of workers compensation benefits, that the actual lump sum settlements accepted by claimants at common law represented 23 per cent of the actuarial value of pension benefits similar to those subsequently proposed by the Government under the WorkCare scheme and in this case.

The result is that benefits of the kind proposed by the Government in the Bill are likely to cost the Victorian community, in the long run, more than four times as much as a proper system of compensation on a lump-sum basis under the common law.

Next it was proposed in the "Liberal Motorcare" document, in common with the Government's proposals, that the Motor Accidents Board and the compulsory third-party insurance division of the State Insurance Office should be consolidated to form a more streamlined and efficient administration for the scheme.

Next, the "Liberal Motorcare" document proposed an attack on fraud which the Government has not been prepared to take up. All of the measures proposed by the Government in its scheme are included in the "Liberal Motorcare" document, but there are included in the "Liberal Motorcare" document, strong and effective measures against fraud which have not been adopted by the Government.

In particular they involve two classes: firstly, the thresholds proposed by the Liberal Party and their effect on minor claims would substantially reduce the scope for fraud. It is not unfair to say that a proposing fraudulent claimant would have to substantially maim himself to maintain a fraudulent common law claim under the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme. That is so unlikely that it can be fairly said that the thresholds, of themselves, would virtually eliminate the scope for fraud. Secondly, a number of other stringent measures were proposed in the "Liberal Motorcare" document which would have a substantial effect in countering fraud.

In addition, the document proposed substantial reforms to the legal system to speed the resolution of claims, to simplify them, reduce legal costs and generally reduce the total cost of the claim both with respect to benefits and administration. A number of those proposals, such as the use of a 5 per cent discount rate in calculating future economic loss, has been adopted by the Government. Others of them have not.

What has the Government proposed in lieu of that, and what are the basic philosophic differences between the major political parties in this State? Firstly, the Government proposes a bureaucratic scheme, a scheme administered by a Government monopoly involving bureaucratic Government administration, involving a forum for the resolution of disputes dominated by bureaucratic determination, by hearings officers and others who would be lickspittle to the Government in making determinations of vital interest to the Victorian community.

Secondly, it provided uniformity of benefits. No distinction was made between the negligent or reckless driver who caused injury to himself or other road users and innocent victims of the negligent road user. Thirdly, the destruction—total in the case of the third-party Bill—of common law rights, not even on a limited basis as was insisted upon by the union movement in the case of WorkCare, to which the Government succumbed. There was not even the retention of the right to sue at common law for damages for pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life. Even that concession to the union movement has not been extended to Victorian motorists and other road users.

There is discrimination against all motor accident victims compared with workers under the WorkCare scheme as a complement to the union movement and an indication of the extent to which this Government is in the pocket of the union movement.

In addition there has been discrimination against various other classes of victims, discrimination against the self employed, discrimination against professionals and

discrimination especially against farmers—against those who work on the land who may, indeed, have negative incomes in difficult economic times like those being experienced at present and they may find that if they suffer a motor accident injury, it permanently disqualifies them from any compensation in the nature of income.

There is discrimination against the young and discrimination against anybody earning over $325 a week. Since the ceiling of benefits after eighteen months is to be $325 a week, anybody now earning more than $17 000 a year will never be fully compensated under the Government's scheme.

This arbitrary notional equality is, in reality, grossly discriminatory. It involves the refusal to accord to each Victorian that individual consideration that is necessary to maintain basic human dignity. It denies the concert pianist the recognition of the fact that the loss of one finger on one hand might permanently deprive him of the whole of his professional income, whereas the loss of one finger to the vast majority of the community would involve very little impairment of their lifestyle or, indeed, in carrying on their occupations. All of that, even with that extreme example, flows from and illustrates the denial of consideration of the individuality of each victim which fundamentally is provided by the existing common law scheme.

What, then, is the philosophical difference in the Liberal Party's proposals? First, "Liberal Motorcare" is a basic no-fault compensation scheme for all Victorians which provides for reasonable indeed, on an international scale, generous compensation irrespective of fault, so that even the most reckless or negligent driver will qualify for no-fault compensation unless he falls within one of the very few exceptions such as the grossly drunk; a basic no-fault compensation for everybody, backed up, as I said before, by the Commonwealth social security system which applies to all other classes of injured Australians.

Second, the Liberal Party proposes fair and proper compensation for the innocent victim. The Liberal Party stands foursquare behind contradiction of the Government's values and erosion of a priority position for innocent victims. The Liberal Party believes it is only fair and consistent with the basic values of the Australian community that the innocent victim be compensated and be given priority in compensation and that as far as is possible, on both practical and financial grounds, the innocent victim be restored to the position he was in before injury suffered as a result of some other person's negligence.

The concept of fair play comes into it. If the average Australian is asked, "What do you think of the situation where a driver knocks down an innocent schoolchild at a pedestrian crossing and then crashes into a pole and, strangely enough, they both suffer the same injuries: do you reckon that they should get the same compensation out of our compensation scheme?" I would say the vast majority of Australians would answer, "No, that is not fair—the driver who caused the injury does not have the same moral right as the innocent victim to call on the resources of the community for compensation." That superior moral right is compounded by the fact that compulsory funding falls on all motorists. The Victorian community will not accept that the Government's proposals are fair.

The Liberal Party's scheme stands in stark contrast to the Government scheme and involves fair compensation and the basic human dignity that flows from having one's own circumstances recognised. The Liberal Party repudiates the Government's accusation that the role of common law in awarding damages is one of retribution. I reiterate that the proper purpose and intent of a damages award is not retribution; it is rather to provide proper, fair and just compensation to the innocent party.

Next, the Liberal Party repudiates the politics of envy. It does not accept that everybody, irrespective of their circumstances and earnings, should receive benefits only up to a moderately low maximum, a maximum that is below the level of average weekly earnings in the State for the first eighteen months and very substantially below the level of average weekly earnings after the first eighteen months.

Inevitably, certain compromises are involved. The very cost factors that have brought the State to the position it is in today, which the "Liberal Motorcare" policy recognised

and was predicated on, impose compromises. It is necessary to compromise and to reduce the benefits that are available to some. In the view of the Liberal Party, that leads to a criterion absolutely to recognise the right of priority claims of the innocent and especially of the most seriously injured. The "Liberal Motorcare" scheme does that—the Government's scheme does not, cannot and never will while it is maintained in the present form, and I shall refer to that later.

It is clear that the Government's scheme typifies the collectivist approach of socialist Governments. In stark contrast, the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme would recognise the individualistic values of the Australian community, which is so much at one with Liberal Party philosophy.

The Government provides a drip-feed pension system whereby every long-term injured person week by week will be dependent on a Government handout, robbed of the capacity to manage his own affairs and to make his own decisions on compensation payments and denied the rewards of running his own lifestyle and deciding how the compensation will be applied for his own circumstance and values. It is the "Big brother" ethos; the concept that the Australian and Victorian injured person is not capable of conducting his own affairs; the phoney concept of equality, an equality which demands an equality of outcomes irrespective of fairness and justice.

The Liberal Party stands for a respect for and confidence in Victorians and Australians and a respect for and a confidence in their capacity to manage their own lifestyles whereby if their damages or entitlements are put into their hands to manage, by and large, they will manage their own affairs with proper regard for what is in their own interests, in the light of their own circumstances and values—and underpinning all of that is the no-fault scheme proposed in "Liberal Motorcare" and the Commonwealth system of social security.

This debate typifies what Milton Friedman called the conflict between the socialist demand for equality—a simplistic notion of equality—and the concept that the Liberal Party stands for, freedom.

The Liberal Party acknowledges the need for change. It does not support retention of the existing scheme. It is dishonest of the Government to suggest otherwise. It is dishonest of the Government to use the taxpayers' money to try to make the Victorian community believe otherwise.

The Opposition will propose amendments to the Bill in this place and in the other place. The choice is not, as the Government suggests, simply one between, on the one hand, maintenance of the existing scheme without alteration and, on the other hand, the adoption of the Government's scheme without any modifications.

The reason for the change is cost. The present Government is responsible for the financial mess of Victoria's third-party insurance scheme. It admits unfunded liabilities of $1·6 billion. All bar $92 million has accumulated during its superintendency of this scheme. It indicates in its own publication that the agreed reforms to the common law section of the existing third-party scheme, limitations on awards of interest on judgments, limitations on benefits for domestic support and particularly limitations on the discount rate relating to calculation of future economic loss, will save $500 million out of that $1·6 billion of accumulated losses. So by virtue of those measures the losses that have already accrued will be reduced by nearly one-third.

Those are actions which this irresponsible Government might have taken at any time in the past four years—actions which could have stopped the accumulation of unfunded liabilities that the Government has allowed to go on. The vast majority of losses have accumulated over the past four years. To demonstrate that, I seek leave of the House to incorporate in *Hansard* a table showing information taken from annual reports of the State Insurance Office on the third-party scheme. Both the Speaker and the Treasurer have seen the document. I understand that the Speaker regards the document as being in order for incorporation in *Hansard* and that the Treasurer has no objection.

Leave was granted, and the table was as follows:

Compulsory Third Party Insurance—Net Profit or Loss 1971-2 to 1984-5

Year ending 30 June	Net Profit/Loss for the year	Accumulated Profit/Loss
State Motor Car Insurance Office*		
1972	(3 402 245)	(20 990 005)
1973	(7 721 968)	(28 711 973)
1974	(20 129 191)	(48 841 163)
1975	(12 276 897)	(61 118 060)
State Insurance Office		
1976	6 717 975	(61 356 703)
1977	15 469 370	(45 963 130)
1978	32 928 979	(13 049 101)
1979	8 368 523	(4 680 578)
1980	5 178 087	497 509
1981	(405 564)	
As per Auditor-General's Report (i.e. before deducting of anticipated future investment income).		
*1981	(98 105 564)	(97 608 055)
1982	(300 911 000)	(398 519 055)
1983	(156 493 000)	(555 012 055)
1984	(560 303 000)	(1115 315 055)
1985	(670 900 000)	(1786 215 055)

* State Motor Car Insurance Office includes compulsory third-party and comprehensive motor vehicle insurance.

** State Insurance Office commenced discounting for anticipated future investment income in 1981.

Source: Annual Reports of State Insurance Office.

Mr STOCKDALE—The table shows the losses and profits and the accumulated losses and profits of the State Insurance Office and, before that, the State Motor Car Insurance Office, under Victoria's compulsory third-party insurance scheme. Figures given in brackets are losses or negative figures.

There are some difficulties about tracing these losses particularly because of changes in the accounting practices of the State Insurance Office since the present Government came to office, and they affect the reports of the SIO, including the 1980–81 year and in subsequent years.

The table shows that from 1972 to 1975 losses were incurred by the State Motor Car Insurance Office. By the year 1975 the accumulated losses had reached $61 million, a figure we would all be delighted to go back to, if we knew the way to do so. From 1976 onwards the previous Liberal Government instituted measures that had a dramatic effect on the financial performance of Victoria's third-party insurance scheme.

Mr Remington—The RACV insurance company went bankrupt. I know, I was a board member.

Mr STOCKDALE—The fact that the honourable member for Melbourne was a board member probably explains the bankruptcy rather than the actions of the Government.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Kirkwood)—Order! The honourable member for Melbourne does not have the floor.

Mr STOCKDALE—Despite the matter to which the honourable member for Melbourne referred by interjection, in every year between 1976 and 1980 inclusive the SIO made a

profit on its third-party business without any accounting gymnastics of the kind the present Government goes in for. It actually made a profit in that time.

The losses of the SIO were reduced from a total of $6 717 975 to less than $500 000 in 1980. Therefore, at the end of 1980 the accumulated profit was $497 509 following a net profit of more than $5 million in that year.

In 1981 the present Government assumed responsibility for the reporting of the losses of the SIO; that is, for the 1980–81 year. That report was not released publicly until 25 May 1982, after the present Government had assumed office. The accounting practices of the SIO were changed. Had it followed the accounting policies of the previous Government it would have recorded a loss of $97·8 million that year. In fact, the Government doctored the figures and the report showed a loss of only $405 000 so that approximately $98 million of actual losses were concealed from Parliament and the Victorian people by deliberate manipulation of the accounts by this Government.

The table also shows that on the basis approved by the Auditor-General—not the basis on which the Government presents the figures—the losses for the year ended 30 June 1981 were disclosed at $98 million; in 1982 at $300·9 million; in 1983 at $156·5 million; in 1984 at $560·3 million; and in 1985 at $670·9 million.

The Director of Insurance Policy within the Treasurer's department indicated recently that the loss is approaching $1000 million for the 1985–86 financial year. By the 1981 year, the report that had been released in 1982, after the Government had assumed office, showed the accumulated losses had risen to $97·6 million. That is the legacy that was revealed after this Government assumed office.

What has happened since then? Over the four years that the Government has administered the scheme the accumulated losses have risen to $1786 million, and by the end of the most recent financial year, on this basis, it will be something in the order of $2·5 billion. The cost to this community of this Government and this Treasurer is Mr Jolly's $2·5 billion legacy!

It ill-behoves the Government to make accusations against others when its neglect has been to that extent. So graphic has been the Government's inaction in the face of the public record of its failure to deal with this matter that one is driven to the conclusion that it has deliberately allowed these losses to accumulate to lay the ground for subverting the Australian Constitution by implementing the Victorian Government's ideological obsession with no-fault compensation. This has been done deliberately to lay the ground to bring a Bill of this very kind before Parliament.

But even this basis of financial disaster does not require the destruction of the historic and important common law rights of the Victorian community.

The Liberal Party has adopted a positive approach to motor accident compensation. First a Liberal Government introduced the existing no-fault scheme. Second, it took action between 1976 and 1981 to restore a sound financial basis to the scheme to the extent that by 1980 losses had been eliminated and there was an accumulated surplus.

Third, when problems emerged after 1982, the Liberal Party sought to focus public attention on the issues and the lamentable record of this Treasurer and Government in standing idly by while the financial security of the State was imperilled in the words of the commissioner in his annual reports.

Fourth, the Liberal Party has acknowledged the need for change. Fifth, the Liberal Party has been prepared to make positive proposals in its "Liberal Motorcare" document. It was under no obligation to do so. It is not the responsibility of the members of the Liberal Party to propose the solutions for the disaster that the Government has created.

It is not common for oppositions to propose detailed and comprehensive policies in the form of the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme. It was prepared because this is a responsible Opposition, concerned about the rights of the Victorian community and about the finances

of the State. This concern has never been demonstrated for one day by the Government in the four years it has had responsibility for this area of the State's activities.

The fundamental point of disagreement between the parties is Labor's proposed destruction of common law rights. In a number of other respects the policies of the Government and the Liberal Party are in accord at the level of detail. I shall mention them because they are constantly ignored by the Government. It does not acknowledge features on which agreement exists between the major political parties and, in some cases, there is general agreement on the proposed amendments to Victoria's third-party scheme.

First is the retention of the scheme of no-fault benefits. No one has suggested—certainly not the Liberal Party—that we should totally abolish no-fault compensation. Everyone espouses the retention of no-fault benefits for even the most grossly negligent members of the Victorian community.

The second is agreement on the need for administrative reform to avoid duplication by the establishment of a single Government authority to administer the scheme.

The third is emphasis on the prevention of injuries and rehabilitation. As is acknowledged by the Government and asserted in the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme, one of the keys to containing costs—indeed a key to reducing the human misery of carnage on the roads—is constant diligence in the pursuit of road safety programs.

Mr Micallef—Such as?

Mr STOCKDALE—The honourable member for Springvale asks, "Such as?"

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Kirkwood)—Order! The honourable member for Brighton will ignore interjections.

Mr STOCKDALE—Mr Acting Speaker, it is interesting to take up that particular interjection because it indicates the lamentable record of this Government in comparison with previous Liberal Governments.

Many of the measures that have been most effective in reducing the road toll in this State, measures such as random breath testing and compulsory seat belt legislation, were introduced by Liberal Governments. The most important single road safety measure in this State or anywhere in the world has been compulsory seat belt legislation, and I am proud that that was introduced by a Liberal Government.

Fourth, there is the 50 per cent increase in traffic offence penalties proposed in the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme, and I am pleased that idea was adopted by the Government.

The Opposition endorses this measure as a means of imposing upon those who disproportionately contribute to the generation of risk a disproportionately high contribution to the funding. The Opposition supports that and, indeed, proposed the idea before the Government.

Fifth, there is an agreement between the Government and Opposition that we should move to bases which make premiums more directly related to risk. The Opposition endorses that.

Sixth, there is the proposal for an excess on all claims, especially at the level of the no-fault system. On that matter, the Opposition and the Government are in heated agreement, even to the extent of the overall quantification of approximately $650 as the amount to be borne by the claimant or by Medicare in the case of treatment costs or by sick leave benefits in the case of lost income.

Seventh, the Opposition and the Government are agreed that fraud is a serious problem and that strong measures are required to combat it. I have already outlined the fact that the "Liberal Motorcare" proposals go much further than the Government's proposals and the thresholds proposed in the Liberal scheme would virtually eliminate scope for fraud.

That is an area of agreement albeit an area where the Opposition would take much stronger action than the Government is proposing.

Eighth, there is agreement that the discount rate for calculation of future economic loss should be increased from 3 per cent to 5 per cent. That is a substantial measure and coupled with another two areas of agreement between the Opposition and the Government—which I shall outline—would knock $500 million off the accumulated liabilities. Those other areas are: ninth, limits on the benefits for domestic assistance and, tenth, limitation on the power to award interest on judgment sums.

Eleventh, there is agreement on the need to simplify and speed litigation in this area to reduce human misery and to reduce the administrative and legal costs of whatever scheme is adopted.

That is a substantial body of agreed amendments. Moreover, most of them are amendments that the Government might have implemented with the support of the Liberal Party, and, I suggest, the National Party, at any time during the past four years.

I shall now refer to the handling of the Bill, which I regret has been marked by the uncertainty, the extravagance with taxpayers' funds, the lack of consultation and the outright deception that has become all too common a feature of this Government's conduct of public affairs.

The Government had a task force working on this matter in secret for more than twelve months before it made public its proposals. During that period, not only did the Government not consult with other political parties in the State, which have a vital interest in this matter and which might have been persuaded about the merits of some of the Government's proposals by a course of disclosure and co-operation, but also there has been inadequate consultation with the community generally and virually no consultation with major interest groups which stand to be affected by the Government's proposals or any other interested parties.

There has been a lack of consultation with professional groups that will have to implement the scheme and there has been inadequate consultation with interest groups, such as car clubs and occupational groups involved in the scheme.

The Government's approach to the formulation of its proposals has generated uncertainty, which has been worrying and damaging to the public interest. For example, the Government's secrecy promoted reports emanating from legal circles that the Government proposed to abolish common law rights retrospectively. I speak from personal knowledge from approaches made to my electorate office from constituents and other members of the community. The Government's approach has caused outright anguish among injured Victorians and their families. It has also produced a flood of claims, and that was, no doubt, the intention of the Government so it would appear that there had been a higher incidence of claims under the previous scheme than that subsequently shown under the proposed new scheme. That uncertainty and those consequences flowed directly from the excessive secrecy of the Government in formulating its plans.

The Government has embarked upon an extravagant advertising campaign. It has committed $300 000 with the option of committing a further $300 000, making a total of $600 000 of taxpayers' money to engage in a scandalous and dishonest campaign of advertising.

The Government has put its hand into the pockets of Victoria's taxpayers in a massive way in order to delude those same taxpayers about the nature of the existing scheme and the Government's proposals. It is scandalous that that amount of money is ever spent by the Government; it is doubly scandalous that that amount of money is being spent on a scheme that has not been passed by Parliament and, in my view, will not be passed.

It is a waste of $600 000 of taxpayers' money. Moreover, it is deception of the worst kind. Members of the Opposition are not the only people who believe and who have

publicly stated that if these advertisements were being run by a commercial enterprise, action would have been taken against it under the Trade Practices Act or through some consumer legislation in order to have the advertisements removed from the newspapers and the airwaves because they were dishonest.

As the Leader of the National Party indicated by interjection, the Corporate Affairs Office would have been duty bound to have taken action under the law of this State to protect the public from misleading and dishonest advertising. This is a scandal of the first magnitude.

I shall read into *Hansard* exactly what the Government has stated. I refer to an Australian Reference Services' monitoring of one of the Government's radio advertisements which is, unfortunately, typical of those advertisements.

This advertisement was broadcast at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 19 August 1986 on radio station 3AW during *The Breakfast Show:*

All this talk about Common Law rights and being injured in a road accident, you probably think it's nothing to do with you. After all, you never have accidents. But if you drive you can still be hurt—right in the wallet.

If we don't change things, compulsory insurance premiums will have to go up. In fact, earlier this year the Premiums Advisory Committee told the Government they should go up to $500; but if we bring in a new system, then on January 1 next year, you'll be better off. Even if you never have an accident, you'll still be better off; and if you DO have one, you won't have to go to court for compensation. You'll get it for as long as you need it, as a matter of course.

Transport injury protection, fair treatment for everyone.

If one knew enough about the scheme to understand the literal significance of the words used in the advertisements, one would realise that the Treasurer has been extremely clever in the drafting of the advertisements. No doubt many Queen's Counsel would understand what is wrong with the advertisements.

The Treasurer is well aware that the community would have been misled by the advertisements, and it is clear to those of us who know about the scheme that the terms of the advertisements are deliberately designed to mislead. The Trade Practices Act, consumer affairs legislation and the Corporate Affairs Office have the charter of protecting people from being misled by what is intended to be misleading, even though it is literally correct.

This is misleading in two respects in that the ordinary listener would be deluded on two important points. First, he would come to believe that the only alternative to the Government's proposal is a $500 third-party premium. That is dishonest!

Mr Ross-Edwards—The Premier keeps saying that!

Mr STOCKDALE—During the past few weeks, the Premier has qualified himself as a slow learner because the scurrilous accusation that has been irresponsibly carried in banner headlines in one daily newspaper in this State says that the failure of Parliament to pass the Bill will result in $500 third-party premiums and that has emanated directly from the Treasurer, the Premier and from the socialist apparatchik that is running this element of the bureaucracy, who have been going around the State peddling lies and deceit to mislead the Victorian people.

They have gone around cleverly and carefully creating the impression that that is the only other option to the Government's scheme. That is dishonest; it is wrong and misleading. It is also important because the Government, in its own costing, has admitted that it is wrong and that the Law Institute of Victoria's proposal could be in operation, even with all the Government's qualifications and funding the existing liability that the Treasurer has irresponsibly accumulated, for $344 a year. The Government's document shows that the policy would be fully funded and would pay the backlog at $344 and not $500.

We may safely assume that the figures have not been manipulated to produce a low figure, that that is as high as the Government and its socialist apparatchik with their

computers and their rubbery figures could get the costs. Condemned out of its own mouth, the Government stands convicted of lying to the Victorian community and requiring $600 000 of the community's money to pay for this not only on the radio waves but also in the full double-page newspaper advertisements that only a large commercial enterprise could afford to pay for.

In the *Age* of 16 August 1986 and in other newspapers in this State are double-page advertisements replete with the same lies and misleading information. They say that the Government wants to save Victorians a lot of trauma, insecurity and money. Aside from the fact one would be crazy to pay for this advertisement, one would be even crazier to read it.

The second misleading and dishonest point is the impression that is created that Victorians who are injured in motor accidents will wait up to five years for any compensation. That is a lie! It has been sought to deliberately plant this in the minds of the Victorian community by the same trifecta, the Premier, the Treasurer and the apparatchik. They have gone around with this information.

Mr Baker on 9 September slipped in an interview with Mr Hinch when he made the even more overt misleading statement that people will have to wait five years for compensation. That is not true. The reality is, in relation to medical and hospital treatment costs, that Victorians receive immediate compensation under the existing no fault scheme established by the former Liberal Government. It has been in force since 1974.

If the Premier says that Victorians must wait five years for compensation, as the Treasurer said here today, he has demonstrated that he is the slowest of slow learners in this State. It appears his mind has not left the cubby house he had when he was eight years old.

Moreover, in the case of income replacement, as I have already said, it is not true to say that Victorians who are injured in motor car accidents wait up to five years to get compensation for lost income. Indeed, they may receive the full amount of compensation legally available under the no-fault benefits, and a sum of $20 800, a full year's compensation, even at the maximum rate that the Government proposes for no-fault benefits, and can be paid out within two months of the accident. It is not true that this cannot be done. The Government has engaged in a campaign of deception at the expense of Victorian taxpayers.

Alternatives are available; the $500 figure is a furphy. The Government knows it and the Government has gone on peddling these lies that we have seen set out in these newspaper advertisements.

The Government has had access to and it has indeed costed the Law Institute's proposals. The institute has had an independent actuarial appraisal of its scheme responsibly prepared by an independent professional actuary bound by the ethics of his profession to do the job legitimately and in a bona fide way.

I shall quote from the document set out in the costing by the actuary, Mr D. J. Slee, in July 1986. His conclusion is:

> What is fair to say is that:
>
> (*a*) an increase in cost is necessary;
>
> (*b*) reform can mitigate the degree of increase;
>
> (*c*) the Government's proposal or that of the LIV would both cost approximately the same amount per vehicle, at about $200 per annum in real terms.
>
> Thus, the choice between the Government scheme and that of the LIV lies not in cost but in the benefit structure.

I may have blinked but I do not recall the Government challenging that costing. I cannot recall any point since that costing was released at which the Government has taken issue with it. Indeed, prior to that, the Government had released its own booklet in which it

costed the institute's proposal on the various bases, which are set out on pages 61 and 62 of the Government's booklet. It states in part:

> The estimated fully funded premium per insured vehicle for emerging benefits in 1986–87 values under the proposed LIV CTP system is $334 assuming a partial effect of the verbal threshold.

If we want to fairly examine the alternatives, we ought to consider the full effect of the threshold, we ought to look at the excess and some of the other modifications that are proposed and the Government did that. On page 62, it reported on the actuarial appraisal of the institute's scheme on that basis. It states:

> Assuming the full impact of the verbal threshold and that first $250 of medical and hospital out-patient costs are non-compensable, the LIV proposals were estimated to reduce the total cost from $469 to $344 in 1986–87 values per insured vehicle. This represents an overall cost reduction of 27 per cent.

In other places it is indicated that that includes the funding of the liability that the Government has allowed to accumulate and there we have a premium not of $500 but of $344, out of the Government's own mouth.

Mr Jolly—Are you recommending a premium of $344?

Mr Ross-Edwards—He did not say that.

Mr STOCKDALE—I did not say that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! The Treasurer will have every opportunity to comment in his right of reply at a later time.

Mr STOCKDALE—The reality is that the Motor Accidents Board pays medical costs and can make direct payment for earning capacity within six weeks.

In so far as common law delays are concerned, it is important to note that they do not all result from the legal system. In many cases there is a need to postpone final determination of a claim until the condition of the patient has stabilised. Indeed, that is recognised both in WorkCare and in the third-party proposals, the need for assessment on a stabilised condition. In many cases that is what causes the initial delay.

The Government has attempted to mislead the Victorian community into believing that the present dual system disadvantages many claimants in that they are denied compensation at common law and are confined to inadequate no-fault benefits. It is true that some victims are injured through no fault of their own and have no common law claim. They qualify for the existing no-fault benefits under the Government's proposal and for the proposed no-fault benefits under a scheme like "Liberal Motorcare". They also have the protection thereafter of social security benefits which apply to all injured Victorians.

Why should Victorian motorists be compelled to fund a higher standard of care for victims of motor accidents? The Government's assertion is not borne out on the figures.

A survey has been conducted of the extent to which claimants who exhaust their Motor Accidents Board benefits are not entitled to take common law action. I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* a table which sets out the result of that survey.

Leave was granted, and the table was as follows:

MOTOR ACCIDENTS BOARD
VICTORIA
EXHAUSTION OF STATUTORY RIGHTS

		Year Ended 30 June 1981
1.	Claims Received	43 008
2.	Claims paid in respect of loss of earning capacity	5724
3.	o Claims in which payments were for statutory maximum of $20 800	259
4.	o Estimated number of claimants at 3. whom it is estimated have no common law right (Based on a survey of 75 per cent of the files of the 259 claimants performed by the MAB staff)	52

On this basis only 0·1 per cent of all claimants, or 0·9 per cent of all claimants seeking compensation for loss of earning capacity, exceed the statutory maximum compensation payable and have no common law rights.

Source: Conference Papers "The Motor Accident Compensation System of Victoria—A Model for Australia", Melbourne October, 1983.

Mr STOCKDALE—The table relates to a survey conducted prior to 1983 which showed the number of claimants in 1981 who had exhausted their no-fault benefits, but who had no entitlement to take common law action. Up to 30 June 1981 there were 43 008 claims. Of those, claims paid in respect of loss of earning capacity numbered 5724. Of those claims it was estimated that 259 would reach the statutory limit of $20 800. Consequently, the remainder of the claimants were fully compensated for loss of income by virtue of the then current and still existing no-fault scheme.

Of the number of claimants who exhausted their no-fault entitlements only 52 were regarded as being unlikely to succeed in a common law claim. It means that the fundamental destruction of common law rights proposed in the Bill, the almighty upheavel of this State's third-party scheme, is being undertaken for fewer than 100 Victorians, many of whom will have been injured as a result of their own negligence and who are entitled to up to $20 800 of income benefits under the no-fault scheme and to Commonwealth sickness benefits and other benefits.

In 1981 the number was 52. The number will have increased because the statutory limit has not been increased since that time and the number of accidents has marginally increased, but it could not possibly exceed 100. This fundamental destruction of people's rights is being undertaken on behalf of 100 Victorians, most of whom are likely to have injured themselves as a result of their own negligence, or, put another way, on the basis of 0·1 per cent of all claimants or 0·9 per cent of claimants seeking compensation for loss of earning capacity. The reality is that the Government is again misleading the people about the way the scheme works. What claim do those people have to compel Victorian motorists to provide them with greater benefits then they would get for any other class of injury?

Next I turn to the Government's claim that the system will control the burgeoning incidence of soft tissue claims. This had been identified by the Government and Mr Baker as a major problem. The Government booklet at pages 38 and 39 talks about whiplash injuries and describes them, inter alia, as the:

> major contributor to claims growth . . .

and

> major contributor to increased costs in the CTP system . . .

In the same interview with Mr Hinch on 9 September, Mr Baker identified the major cost problems as soft tissue injuries and other minor claims, fraudulent claims and exaggerated claims. The Opposition agrees that soft tissue injuries and other minor claims are a problem. Indeed, the published figures show that is so.

I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* a table showing figures supplied by the Motor Accidents Board.

Leave was granted, and the table was as follows:

MOTOR ACCIDENTS BOARD—CLAIMS BY TYPE OF INJURY 1982–1984

Type of Injury	1982	1983	1984
Total injuries	27 154	30 673	30 818
Sprains and strains	5 803	7 430	8 660
% Sprains and strains	21·4	24·2	28·1

Source: Motor Accidents Board

Mr STOCKDALE—This table is a survey on what I understand to be the latest available data. The table shows that soft tissue injuries, called sprains and strains, have been identified as a substantial and rapidly growing problem. In 1982 they constituted 21·4 per cent of all claims. In 1983 that figure rose to 24·2 per cent and in 1984 it rose to 28·1 per cent. The Opposition, and I imagine the Government, would not dispute the fact that soft tissue injuries continue to be a rapidly growing and serious problem. However, the Government's use of this particular item in an attempt to discredit the whole common law system verges on the hysterical.

I quote from the interview of Mr Hinch and Mr Baker. Mr Hinch asked the question of Mr Baker:

> What's wrong with having a combination of the two so that most people would go for speed and whatever, would go straight in and unclog the courts and they would go into the system the no-fault system that you're pushing and still have the option of common law where a person if they did want to go to court could go to court.

Mr Baker replied:

> Well the problem that we've got there is that in increase in the common law any element of the common law that we pack into the system as we designed it will so significantly add to the costs that it's going to be a huge impost on household budgets. What we've done here we tried to make sure as I've said that the long term severely injured are looked after and I think that we can honestly argue that we've done that—they will be on the whole, in the majority of cases, better off, except for those 1 per cent perhaps who were going to be able to pick up tattslotto and it's been even less than that—a handfull of cases. On the other hand if you're into the system for a quick ten or fifteen thousand or sometimes thirty or forty thousand if you can run the case properly, for a nick or a cut or a scratch or a bruise, well you have to forget about it unless you're prepared to pay a premium to match that.

That quotation is absolutely irresponsible. For an officer of the Treasurer's Ministry who has responsibility for this area to speak on radio and use perjorative terms like "Tattslotto numbers" and to suggest, as he is doing there, that the existing common law scheme provides "$10 000, $15 000 or sometimes $30 000 or $40 000"—if you can get a Perry Mason on your side— "for a nick, or a cut, or a scratch or a bruise" is an absolute lie. It is a lie. What is more it is a deliberate deception of the Victorian people.

The reality is that Mr Baker knew as well as honourable members that when he went on radio he would create a false impression.

Mr Jolly—Are you game to say that outside?

Mr STOCKDALE—I do not have to say it outside; his own words speak for him.

The Government's scheme does not tackle this problem. The reality is that it is the threshold scheme proposed in the Liberal Motorcare document that will tackle this problem and not the Government's proposal. The Government's scheme does not tackle the problem because it provides lifetime benefits for all injuries provided; as for the second part of the Government's scheme, after eighteen months, one can show 10 per cent incapacity. If one can show 10 per cent residual incapacity, one continues receiving those benefits, even for cases of whiplash, soft tissue and sprains and strains injuries. The threshold proposals advanced by the Liberal Party and the Law Institute would, however, deal with this costly problem.

The Liberal Party proposal for a serious injury threshold is limited to on-going and serious bodily dysfunction and disability. Moreover, there is an additional threshold limit so that damages cannot be obtained where the damages would be below $15 000. That system has a proven record in reducing claims and even the Victorian statistics show that it would be successful in Victoria.

The Law Institute has published an authoritative document based on its study of the United States of America experience. It sent a team of experts to America to investigate the threshold schemes. I shall come shortly to the results and the Government will, no doubt, indicate its information if it is prepared to do so. It has not been prepared to take the Victorian community into its confidence so far.

The Law Institute examined the American experience and its conclusion was as follows: it indicated that there were three types of schemes in the 50 states of America, the district of Colombia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. There were no-law suit, no-fault schemes operating in 16 States that paid out a range of benefits irrespective of fault and restricted some victims from suing at common law. In some cases this restriction is achieved via a threshold.

There are what are called add-on no-fault schemes operating in eight States. They pay a range of benefits to all injured motor vehicle victims without regard to fault but do not restrict any victim from suing at common law for damages. They are like the present Victorian scheme.

Then there are common law schemes operating in 28 States and these are the traditional schemes that do not pay no-fault benefits, but which maintain a right for the victim to sue for damages. They provide the opportunity for self-insurance on a no-fault basis.

The Law Institute, in its document in paragraph 3.4 says this:

> It must be understood although the schemes operating in 24 States are described as 'no-fault' they are in fact dual schemes. Not one State in the United States has abolished the right of seriously injured persons to sue for damages at common law. Such a move would be totally unacceptable and would be seen by the American community as a denial of basic constitutional rights.

It goes on to talk about thresholds in paragraph 3.6 and says:

> Thresholds are used in the 16 States with 'No Law-Suit, No-Fault' schemes so as to restrict the rights of accident victims with certain injuries or disabilities to seek damages at common law. They have usually been introduced for economic reasons.

It then referred to a number of studies that show the effectiveness of thresholds in America and conclude in these terms about the New York scheme, perhaps the most widely recognised of all. I quote from paragraph 4.10:

> In 1974 the State of New York introduced a dual scheme of motor vehicle accident compensation, details of which are set out in Annexure E. In 1978 it adopted a narrative threshold in place of a monetary threshold and this has successfully contained costs and premium increases since then. Discussions between officers of the Law Institute and insurance officials in New York disclose that upon its introduction this threshold reduced common law claims by between 60 per cent and 70 per cent on what they were prior to the establishment of the dual scheme in 1974.

In paragraph 4.11, the Law Institute states:

> The common law claims which were eliminated by the threshold were principally those for damages for pain and suffering arising from minor non-demonstrable injuries. The rights of those persons who were severely injured through the fault of another party were not impaired in any way.

Therefore, the American experience conclusively demonstrates that it is the threshold concept that combats the cost and the abuse of the soft tissue injury claims and provides the maximum protection to the most seriously injured victims of motor accidents.

Data in relation to Victorian common law claims supports this United States experience. It suggests that a $15 000 threshold, even on its own, would remove the lowest 70 per cent of claims. In combination with the definition of serious injury in the narrative threshold

proposed by the Liberal Party it would certainly remove more than 70 per cent of common law claims.

It is obvious that virtually all whiplash and other soft tissue injuries could not meet the definition of "serious injury" in the Liberal Motorcare policy and I read that definition to demonstrate that point.

At page 39 of the Liberal Motorcare document the definition of "serious injury" reads as follows:

'Serious injury' means a personal injury which results in death; loss of a foetus; partial or total loss of a body member, organ, system or substantial function; disfigurement which subjects the injured person to chronic mental or emotional suffering; or impairment or limitation on the use of a body member, organ, function or substantial system such that the injured person's ability to resume one or more of his or her significant pre-accident activities is affected to a large degree over a period of not less than two years following the accident.

Moreover, there is near universal agreement that the problem is relatively minor claims for whiplash and other soft tissue injuries. That came about because of the pressure of costs on the State Insurance Office to settle claims. We are advised that the cost of litigating a claim for both sides is about $10 000.

The State Insurance Office, if it loses the claim, bears the cost of both sides and incurs all of those legal costs. The low success rate in resisting claims places immense pressure on the State Insurance Office to make settlement offers for relatively low amounts even where the injuries are non-demonstrable, minor and perhaps even exaggerated or fraudulent. The real concern is, therefore, with claims up to the bracket of $10 000 to $15 000.

Two consequences flow from the elimination of those claims by the proposed thresholds in the "Liberal Motorcare" policy; one is a significant reduction in common law claims and a significant reduction in the cost of benefits, legal costs and administrative costs. The second is the virtual elimination of scope for fraud.

First, as to the effect on claims, I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* a further table that the Speaker has seen and to which I understand the Treasurer has no objection.

Leave was granted, and the table was as follows:

Compulsory Third Party Claims 1984–85—Common Law Awards and Settlements by Value Range*

Value Range ($)	Number of Claims		Amount Paid	
	No.	% of Total (1)	$M	% of Total (1)
Nil— 5 000	9 000	40·4	8	2·7
5 000— 10 000	5 400	64·7	39	15·6
10 000— 15 000	2 900	77·8	35	27·2
15 000— 20 000	1 500	84·5	26	35·9
20 000— 30 000	1 250	90·1	30	45·8
30 000— 50 000	1 050	94·8	40	52·5
50 000— 75 000	500	97·1	30	69·1
75 000—100 000	250	98·2	20	75·7
Over 100 000	400	100	73	100
	22 250		301	

(1) Cumulative percentage of total

* Exclusive of Motor Accidents Board payments and administration costs.

In fairness, I should indicate that these figures, which purport to be, by value range, the quantum of common law claims settled by the State Insurance Office in relation to the 1984–85 year, were supplied to the Opposition as representing the results of a survey conducted within the State Insurance Office.

The Government's booklet at page 86, contains slightly different figures but the end result of each of the two sets of figures makes, substantially, the point I want to make. I am using the figures from the Liberal Motorcare policy.

They show the effect of the thresholds in eliminating claims below $15 000, and I leave aside the effect of the narrative threshold on claims for more than $15 000. That limit would remove 17 300 of the total 22 250 claims, which represents the elimination of 77·8 per cent of all claims.

It would remove $82 million of a total cost of $301 million in settling common law claims, which is 27·2 per cent of the total cost of those claims. That represents a massive reduction in claims and reflects the virtual elimination of minor claims and a substantial cost saving.

If the figures in the Government's booklet at page 86 were taken, the threshold for those figures would remove 71·7 per cent of claims and 28·4 per cent of costs, so the figures are of the same order and the Government's figures would suggest a greater cost saving could be achieved.

Both sets of figures also explode the myth of high settlements overloading the system. Settlements amounting to more than $100 000 comprise only 1·8 per cent, on Liberal Party figures, and 2·1 per cent on Government figures, of the total number of settlements.

In both cases the cost element is substantial and reflects the cost of long-term claims for the most seriously injured, but invariably these are the totally and permanently disabled and often involve paraplegics or quadriplegics.

One conclusion that can be reached is that all parties involved agree that whiplash claims and soft tissue injuries comprise a major and growing problem, but three other conclusions also emerge. Firstly, the Government's proposal inadequately addresses this issue, which it identified as one of the major issues and one of the fastest growing problems. Secondly, the Liberal Motorcare threshold proposals precisely address that issue. Thirdly, the experience in the United States of America and the Victorian figures demonstrate that the proposed thresholds would resolve this problem without adversely affecting the most seriously injured innocent victims.

By requiring substantial and ongoing injury before a common law claim could be mounted, the proposed thresholds would virtually eliminate the scope for fraud. Few, if any, Victorians would deliberately substantially maim themselves to maintain a fraudulent common law claim.

It is interesting that in relation to the no-fault benefits, the Government in its excess proposal endorses the threshold concept yet is not prepared to extend its application to the common law level of the scheme.

The excess provides that the scheme will not meet the first week's loss of income, which might be as much as $400, and the first $250 of treatment costs. Therefore, claims up to $650 will not be covered by the scheme but that cost must be met somewhere outside the system.

I seek leave to incorporate a further table which shows the effect of that excess.

Leave was granted, and the table was as follows:

ESTIMATED CLAIMS AND FULL-TERM SETTLEMENT COST OF BENEFITS, MOTOR ACCIDENTS BOARD, 1984/5 ACCIDENT YEAR, BY COST OF CLAIM

Value Range	*Number of Claims*	*Estimated Full-Term Cost of Benefits*
Less than and equal to $650	43 590	$6 800 000
More than $650	14 640	$81 400 000
Total	58 230	$88 200 000

EFFECT OF $650 EXCESS

Value Range	Saving by Excess
Less than and equal to $650	$6 800 000
More than $650 ($650 × 14 640)	$9 516 000
Total	$16 316 000

Sources: Twelfth Annual Report of the Motor Accidents Board 1984/5 page 5 and statistics supplied by the Motor Accidents Board.

Mr STOCKDALE—On the basis of figures supplied by the Motor Accidents Board in relation to claims made for accidents in 1984–85, 75 per cent of claims were for less than $650. Therefore, the excess would remove from the system 75 per cent of all no-fault claims. The Treasurer made the same point in a recent speech to a seminar, so there is no dispute about the order of reduction.

There is not only a saving on claims below $650 but also a $650 saving on claims that exceed that amount because the first $650 is not paid. The total saving of $16·316 million represents 18·5 per cent of the total benefits paid out by the board in that year. Those figures and the Government's endorsement of the threshold concept demonstrate that substantial legal and administrative savings cant be made by removing those claims and that most minor claims can be totally removed from the system.

Identification by the Government and others interested in this major cost areas, on final analysis, supports the proposals of the Liberal Party, not of the Government.

The handling of the Bill is also open to criticism on the basis that a similar experiment with WorkCare has been anything but a success. Firstly, there appears to have been a substantial increase in the incidence of claims, which contradicts the assertions of the Government about the expected benefits of WorkCare and threatens its financial basis because it is inconsistent with the way the Government costed the scheme and sought to justify it financially.

Secondly, the scheme has been an administrative shambles, which has occurred largely because the Government rushed the Bill through while it had a temporary majority in the other place and did not plan properly for its operation and administration.

Thirdly, there is insufficient data for any informed judgment to be made about the financial security of that scheme or its future performance, let alone any projections about the effects and financing of the proposed transport accident scheme.

Fourthly, the intended emphasis on rehabilitation has not been achieved. Technical problems have arisen because of the structure of the scheme and rehabilitation resources are inadequate. The Government and the Victorian Accident Rehabilitation Council—VARC—are in serious dispute with the service providers.

The professional bodies representing the providers of treatment services recently demanded a meeting with the Government. When the Government was dilatory in meeting them, they came to see the Opposition and directed attention to a series of complaints relating to medical and treatment issues against WorkCare.

The major complaints involved, firstly, insufficient communication, liaison and cooperation between the Victorian Accident Rehabilitation Council and the Accident Compensation Commission and their agents and providers; secondly, uncertainty about patients' rights; thirdly, uncertainty about providers' rights and obligations; fourthly, delays in payments; fifthly, lack of planning; sixthly, lack of statistical data; seventhly, poor return-to-work record and inadequate data about rehabilitation performance; eighthly, delays of up to four months in obtaining appointments for assessment of injuries by VARC; ninthly, lack of coordination between hospitals and other services, especially the premature release of patients from hospitals before proper treatment services were arranged; and, tenthly, the absence of a mechanism to promote patient cooperation.

It is nothing short of sheer insanity for the Government to rush into another similar scheme, given the shambles within WorkCare and the present uncertainty about the effects of its introduction and its future financial security. It is simple madness. Not only does it leave the Government uncertain about the consequences of its proposed reforms in the third-party area but also the very shambles in WorkCare and the requirement for the same people to sort out the mess the Government has generated in workers compensation will aggravate problems in the introduction of this proposed transport scheme.

WorkCare raises two other matters. Firstly, employers are concerned about the extent to which this Bill will cause the cost of journey accidents to be imposed on the WorkCare scheme thus increasing the costs borne by the employers.

Secondly, there is concern about the marked discrimination in favour of WorkCare beneficiaries compared with motor accident victims so far as benefits are concerned. There are two broad aspects to this, the first of which is the retention of common law rights in relation to pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life under WorkCare but their absolute abolition in the case of the proposed transport scheme.

The second point is the substantially higher benefits generally provided under WorkCare for the same injuries compared with the benefits provided under the proposed transport scheme. To illustrate the point I am making, I instance three particular examples. The first is the case of a 24-year old apprentice plumber who was knocked off his motor cycle by a car travelling through a red light. He suffered a dislocated hip and scarring and substantial—indeed, quite horrific—permanent damage to his right leg.

Under the present scheme he received $20 000 in no-fault benefits from the Motor Accidents Board and a lump sum benefit for lifetime compensation of $175 000 under common law. Under the proposed scheme, I am advised he would qualify for benefits with a present value of $26 208.

In addition, if he were injured and had to be compensated under the transport scheme, the present value of his impairment benefits under the table would be $13 888. If, however, he happened to be fortunate enough to have been travelling to work at the time, for the same class of benefits under WorkCare he would have received $24 910, which represents nearly double the benefit.

The second example is the case of a 25-year-old male person who had been unemployed since failing technical college as an adult student. He became a paraplegic after the car in which he was a passenger ran off the road. This is the case of a paraplegic, which is one of the most serious cases there can be. He received an amount of $20 800 from the Motor Accidents Board and a settlement of $505 000 under common law. Under the proposed system he would qualify for benefits that have a present value of $195 305.

The Transport Accident Bill would propose impairment benefits of $118 055, compared with a WorkCare benefit of $49 830. Therefore, in marked contrast to the first case, this person could actually do worse under the WorkCare arrangements.

The third case relates to a 60-year-old male retiree who suffered severe injuries to both legs in a head-on collision between his car and a vehicle travelling on the wrong side of the road. That person recovered nothing from the Motor Accidents Board and $85 000 from

a common law action. Being retired, he had no entitlement to income benefits, although he would have had the protection of the medical and hospital benefits under the no-fault scheme.

He received $85 000 at common law. Under the transport scheme, he would qualify for $12 250 for the impairment benefit, whereas, if he had been lucky enough to be a worker, he would have received $49 830.

Those figures represent the extent to which this Government has conferred a preferred position upon its mates in the trade union movement. By virtue of the Government having been forced to negotiate the WorkCare scheme with the union movement, a dramatic set of anomalies opens up between those two schemes. Honourable members should note that what I have quoted are all cases of very serious injuries. That refutes the Government's assertion that it is properly protecting the seriously injured.

If these people are entitled to that level of protection under WorkCare and if the Government regards them as the seriously injured, why do they not receive the same level of protection under the proposed third-party scheme? The answer is that they do not receive the same level of protection because the unions were not in their corner pressuring this Government through their socialist affiliations, both the unions and the Government being part of the Labor movement.

Indeed, there will be adverse impacts, compared with even the present scheme, on a large range of classes of victims under the Government's proposal. First of all, and most manifestly, there is the total discrimination against innocent victims: the innocent victims are being robbed, their assets are being plundered, their rights are being destroyed, and proper compensation is being denied directly to fund additional benefits for negligent road users who cause the carnage on the roads.

The second category relates to the various classes of individuals who would be damaged by the scheme compared with the present scheme or the alternative recommended in the "Liberal Motorcare" scheme. By and large, these reflect the Labor Party's savage ideological bias against business people, self-employed people, professionals and high-income earners.

Who are the winners in the Government's proposal? Clearly, the winners are the reckless and the negligent, the people who cause the carnage on the roads.

Who are the losers? The innocent victims, universally, are the losers. Earners with incomes in excess of $400 a week, or $20 800 a year, are denied full compensation. Unlike those who have rights under common law at present, they will never receive compensation that reflects the full extent of the income they have lost as a result of somebody else's actions.

Indeed, it is possible that the long-term disabled with earnings in excess of only $325 a week or $16 900 a year will not be fully compensated. The Government intends that, after eighteen months, benefits will be quantified to a maximum of $325 a week on the basis of that payment being tax free.

Legal advice received by the Opposition indicates that this assumption is highly problematical, that analysis of the reasoning in the leading cases dealing with taxation of benefits of this kind strongly suggests that the periodic nature of the payments proposed by the Government will cause them to attract income tax.

That will leave people receiving $325 a week, subject to income tax. Therefore, anybody who was earning more than $16 900 a year prior to the accident will never be fully compensated; and that is without even taking into account the fact that that person might have had the future potential capacity, by virtue of promotion, improvements in his status, experience or standing in his profession, to double his earning capacity. He will receive no compensation for that.

The third point is that income benefits are related to pre-accident earnings. That means that anybody, whose earning capacity in the future or even at the time of the accident is not adequately reflected in his immediate pre-accident earnings, will be disadvantaged.

No doubt, my colleagues in the National Party will amplify on the classic case of the farmer with a successful farm who has been injured during a period of prolonged drought and who has had negative income over a period of, say, two years. That farmer is in the greatest need of support from the community; he has negative income from his farming activity. He may have his ability to conduct his farming activity totally destroyed. Because of the economic adversity he faces, he is in the greatest need of all, however, because of that very circumstance he is denied income benefit under the Government's proposal.

That is absolutely ludicrous. How the Government can claim to be effecting justice is laughable.

Various other classes of people are adversely affected but, in the interests of time, I shall not go through them all in detail. Some people are likely to be unemployed at some stage in the future. When an assessment of their future benefits is to be made, they will be reduced proportionate to the time the Government considers they would have been unemployed. If a dispute arises about that, the resolution of that dispute will rest in the primary instance with the commission and after that it will be in the hands of some parasitic friend of the Treasurer appointed as a hearing officer.

The next category is non-earners. Notwithstanding the broad definition of "earners", they stand to be substantially disadvantaged. Where a woman has temporarily left the work force for an extended period to raise a family, the scheme will not take into account the fact that she might subsequently return to the work force and perform a highly remunerative, skilled or even managerial profession, whereas the common law, with its individual consideration, provides the flexibility to recognize her individual circumstances. In that way women—especially working women—will be victims of the Government's plans.

Victims not injured in work-related accidents will be disadvantaged. That goes back to the point I made earlier about the superior benefits provided under WorkCare.

Persons who cannot establish a 10 per cent residual disability or who are deemed by the Government not to be so disabled will be disadvantaged.

Minors will be disadvantaged. A woeful, inadequate assessment of their earning capacity is reflected in the Bill. Minors will be provided with compensation which, if they are dependent upon their own resources, will simply not enable them to live a dignified lifestyle from the day of the accident.

Non-earning spouses will be especially disadvantaged as will older claimants, in particular, in the denial of compensation for pain and suffering that may bedevil them for the rest of their lives and the fact that they cannot show loss of earning capacity. That was reflected in the third example of particular cases I instanced.

Self-employed people will be especially disadvantaged in two respects. They will need to provide additional, adequate insurance to cover things that would normally be covered by common law but which the Government has not seen fit to provide. Their businesses might be utterly destroyed, but they will have no opportunity of recovering compensation for that loss. Indeed, if they have been making sacrifices of lifestyle in order to plough back into their businesses the profits to allow those businesses to grow and generate employment for other people, their enterprise and sacrifice itself will erode their rights to compensation. They will have their incomes fixed on the basis of the meagre drawings they have been making in order to provide the funds for reinvestment in their businesses and that will deflate their benefits.

In addition, the wide range of exclusions in the Bill will disadvantage many people. If clause 41 were to be enacted, anybody injured as a spectator at a sporting car trial would

be totally denied compensation, as would anybody participating. Even if the vehicle involved was required by law to be registered and the owner had paid a third-party premium, anyone injured in those circumstances would not be entitled to compensation. The benefit would have been paid for but it would not be available under this Treasurer's phoney, dishonest scheme.

I come to the question of public attitudes. It can be demonstrated in short compass that the Government's scheme is out of step with the values of the Victorian community. The vast majority of Victorians do not share the Government's priority to give compensation to the guilty at the expense of the innocent.

The Government published a table at page 46 of its booklet that was paid for by the Victorian taxpayers. I seek to have incorporated in *Hansard* the relevant extract from that publication. The Treasurer has indicated that he has no objection to its incorporation.

Leave was granted, and the table was as follows:

Social Expectations

The Government has conducted qualitative research to test community views as to the role of motor accident insurance. The research pointed up concern at the rigid 'once off' nature of lump sum awards. There was also strong support for payments that bore some relationship to earning capacity, and that bad drivers should contribute more to premiums. However, the most significant finding was views as to whether benefits should be paid to all accident victims, regardless of fault. Table 2.11 displays those results:

TABLE 2.11

SURVEY OF VIEWS ON BENEFITS RIGHTS

Views on Benefits Rights	*Percentage*
The innocent driver only	6·0
The innocent passenger only	8·0
All innocent parties	20·0
All parties injured in the accident regardless of fault	47·0
Other	4·0
Do not know	15·0
Total	100·0

Source K. F. Sharp and Associates Pty. Ltd.

Mr STOCKDALE —The table is based on a survey conducted by the Government and is printed by the Government. It is, therefore, obviously selective in the same way that the Government promotes all advocacy of its policies so we can assume that it is the best that can possibly be said for the Government's case out of its own public opinion survey.

The first three categories of opinion in the survey of views on benefit rights relate to who has the right to benefit from the compulsory third-party scheme. The figures are: the innocent driver only, 6 per cent; the innocent passenger only, 8 per cent; all innocent parties, 20 per cent. They are not cumulative figures, they are separate categories. That totals 34 per cent of respondents to the Government's own survey who are opposed to any compensation on a no-fault basis. They are utterly opposed to compensation of any kind for the guilty party, they want it confined to the innocent party. Yet the Government is proposing to erode the rights of the innocent in order to increase the benefits to the guilty. That is utterly out of tune with community values, as shown in the Government's own document.

However, the Government has been up to its usual slick tricks, no doubt learnt by the Treasurer in his days as an ACTU advocate. In conclusion, the Government states that the table demonstrates support for no-fault compensation. That is absolute piffle! What it demonstrates is support for a two-tier system, a dual scheme.

Thirty-four per cent of people surveyed are so strongly wedded to a common law negligence system, that they do not want no-fault compensation at all, but 47 per cent of people are saying that they want all parties injured in the accident to be compensated regardless of fault. That is not only regardless of fault but merely regardless of fault.

The system that exists provides everybody with compensation up to $20 800 for lost income and with medical and hospital costs for five years on a no-fault basis. That is exactly what we have now and is exactly what the Liberal Party is proposing in Liberal Motorcare. That is also exactly what the Law Institute of Victoria proposes in its policies.

Far from supporting the Government, the table published by the Government supports the Opposition's position. However, that is not the end of the story. Under the Freedom of Information Act, the Law Institute of Victoria obtained the base source documents of this survey which show that the Government has dishonestly reported the results.

This is not the result of a question about what people think should be the case under Victoria's third-party scheme. That is the way the Government presented it but that was not the question. The question was, "What do you understand to be the basis of compensation under the Victorian accident compensation scheme as it exists now?" That shows, first, that the Government is so desperate and the results of its own survey were so adverse to its position that it had to publish a table that actually supports the Opposition's case and, second, it had to distort the figures by misrepresenting the question that was responded to. That is a damning indictment and ample evidence in itself that the Government is out of tune with community values.

However, we have more authoritative material on public attitudes. The Law Institute of Victoria commissioned a completely independent survey to establish community attitudes. It is a comprehensive document and I shall not read it in its entirety. However, it contained a question, "Do you agree or disagree with the statement, 'The right of an innocent victim to sue a negligent driver to recover damages as a basic legal right should not be taken away'?" What would we expect to find for a statement like that? It is fairly extreme and not qualified. It simply asks, "Do you believe common law rights should be retained?". The response was that 94 per cent agreed with that statement and 3 per cent disagreed.

The Treasurer had the unmitigated gall, having falsified his own results, to challenge the institute's figures by publicly suggesting that the question had been misrepresented by the institute.

The Law Institute of Victoria actually published its question, not a bogus summary of its questions. Moreover, I am advised that at the time he made the statement, neither the Treasurer, nor anybody else outside the Law Institute, had seen the results of the Law Institute's public opinion survey. That shows the depths to which the Government has considered it necessary to go—distortion and a $600 000 false advertising campaign. At the next election the people of Victoria will indicate that they do not accept the values implicit in the Government's scheme.

Finally, I come to the conceptual faults in the Government's scheme on questions of basic principle. I shall illustrate the lowest common denominator approach that the Government has adopted by quoting from a paper by an eminent surgeon, Dr Tony Buzzard. In a recent symposium "Critique of the Government's Reform Proposals", he discussed the attitude of the medical profession towards the Government's table "Guide for Assessment of Impairment". He utterly rejected not only the table but also the philosophy underlying it. He said:

Despite the legal profession's frequent requests for placing percentage disabilities on plaintiffs injured in workers compensation accidents, most members of the medical profession find this an unsatisfactory way of expressing an injury. Though the medical profession has "gone along" with this in the past in workers compensation proceedings, it has been my impression that this co-operation has been with considerable reluctance. I think that the medical profession reservations about this will cause considerable anger and resentment if the application of the concept is generally broadened.

In an important passage he also stated:

First, it is not possible to treat all people alike—to treat all people as though they were identical. Obviously they are not. The basic premise of Appendix A appears to me to be that all people are identical. For instance a facial scar to a labourer may not be regarded as a significant disability; in some societies it would be regarded as an asset, whereas to an attractive girl it would be regarded as a significant disability. I want now to work through Appendix A tables in detail.

. . . . .

We look in more detail, at say, Table 1.1, which relates to the upper extremity, we note that with regard to the little finger, total amputation of it represents a 3 per cent loss of the upper extremity. In my opinion, such an injury to a labourer may well be negligible, though to a pianist, or violinist or possibly even a surgeon, such an injury may prevent the person from being able to carry out his normal occupation. In other words, under such circumstances the application of this mechanism of assessment of percentage disability is meaningless and totally unsatisfactory as a realistic mechanism of awarding fair and reasonable compensation.

In conclusion, Dr Buzzard refers to the fundamental concept of the Government's proposal for long-term disability compensation by stating:

In conclusion, I do not believe that this table, or indeed any other table presently in existence, is acceptable as a means of assessing disability. It does not pay significant attention to individual variation and the complexity of the human being. What to one person may be a trivial disability, may be to another person a major disability. Such considerations cannot be embodied in a regimented guide. I would anticipate that this guide will not be acceptable to the medical profession for the reasons that I have stated. I would anticipate that if this guide or a similar one, is introduced legislatively then its application by the medical profession will produce anomalous results because of differences of interpretation produced by the table's complexity. I do not think, from a medical point of view, that this will achieve the stated aims of the proposed legislation. I think the medical profession will resent such an attempt to standardise their patients and ignore the very factors which make human beings differ from machines. I think the medical profession's ability to produce such standardised data will itself produce as much conflict as presently exists in injury assessment. I do not think it will dispel or significantly reduce the need for judicial or legal settlement.

What that says, in the words of an eminent surgeon experienced in medicine and litigation, is that the Government's scheme bears the basic socialist deficiency: it treats men and women as machines and it imposes uniformity of outcomes on top of gross differences in the significance to individuals of the same injury. It is simply not true to say, as Mr Baker keeps mouthing on radio and as the Premier and the Treasurer keep saying, that the same injury ought to have the same compensation because it means the same thing to each individual.

The reality is that the same injury will have widely different financial, human and occupational implications, let alone lifestyle implications, for different human beings, depending upon their circumstances. The Labor Party seeks to compress everybody to the same lowest common denominator mould and denies them the individual consideration which is the very basis of human dignity and without which the human being can have no dignity. To be treated as a number, to be forced into a mould, irrespective of one's circumstances, is the stuff of which communist regimes are made. It is not the stuff of which liberal democracies are made.

The Bill is one of the fundamental illustrations of the practical application of the collectivist, socialist values, mentality and philosophy of the Labor Party, compared with the humanistic, individualistic and compassionate concern of the Liberal Party for individual Victorians, recognising their individual dignity.

Second, there is the financial insanity of long-term pension-based schemes with inadequate monitoring and lack of discipline over access to benefits.

The financial cost of these schemes everywhere in the world has proved them to be a disaster in the countries and states that have introduced them. New Zealand, true to the pattern, is at this very moment in the process of winding back benefits to cope with the fact that the costs of its pension-based scheme have gone through the roof. The work of the Government's own actuary, as I have said before, conclusively demonstrates that over the full life of claims the cost of lump sums will be less than a quarter of the present cost of pension benefits like those proposed under the scheme.

Last, but not least, there comes the question of the role of the common law and the fundamental inaccuracy of the Government's perception of the role of common law that causes the Government to say and keep saying that the right of an award of damages is retribution against the guilty. This is not true and it explains the preparedness of the Government to destroy common law rights and to substitute them for limited and minimal pension-based compensation.

The reality is that the purpose of common law is, as far as possible, to put the victim back in the position he was in before he was robbed of his lifestyle, robbed of the enjoyment of his life, robbed of his income and foisted with other costs by the negligence of some other road user. It is simply unjust, unfair and unconscionable of the Government to take away those rights. The Liberal Party will not stand by and allow the interests of the Victorian community to be sacrificed by a socialist Government. Let there be no doubt about it: the Government will have to face the fact that, together, the Opposition parties will ensure that the rights of the Victorian community will not be destroyed.

The Bill will not pass and cannot pass. In conscience, in the interests of the whole Victorian community it cannot be allowed to pass. The Opposition has been entrusted by election, by democratic process, with a role to safeguard and to monitor. The Opposition seeks to do no more than to amend the scheme to restore a financially viable scheme, preserving the fundamental, basic and historic common law rights of the Victorian community.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the National Party)—Firstly, I commend the honourable member for Brighton on the detail of his contribution and on his obvious knowledge of the Bill. I have grave doubts whether he has succeeded in convincing the Treasurer to amend it, but someone had to give the detail, make the criticism and point out the weaknesses of the Bill. I assure you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that I shall not speak at the same length or in the same detail, but I shall deal with principles.

I have severe criticism of the Government for the way it has conducted the run up to the Bill. It was introduced in May and has been about for more than four months; there are amendments to come, but the opposition parties have not yet received them.

The National Party is taking the matter seriously. The Honourable Bill Baxter and I have charge of the Bill in the two Houses, and we have done a lot of work during the winter; especially has Bill Baxter. Three weeks ago yesterday the National Party had an all-day meeting on this one Bill, and that is unusual. First we had the Government's officers and they were most cooperative. They were followed by the Law Institute of Victoria, the Victorian Bar Council, the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce and several individuals. A committee of six was then formed and that committee has met on many occasions since.

I have had discussions with the Treasurer and with the Premier but, depite undertakings having been given, I have not been able to get the amendments from the Government. The National Party received a list of suggestions last Friday and a further list of suggested amendments on Monday, but those two lists bore no relationship to each other. I do not know whether they were meant to be complementary or whether one replaced the other,

but it is unfortunate that the Government has not shown more cooperation with those of us who have tried.

Last week I received a message that the public servants were unavailable and that all further communications were to be with the Treasurer and the Premier, but nothing happened after that. When the public servants were there, at least we had communication; it might not have been at a very high level, but there was communication. Since then and until today, nothing has happened.

The obvious statement that has been made and will be made 100 times during this debate is that the compulsory third-party insurance scheme is in need of change. That is accepted by everybody. It must be remembered that this Government has been in office for more than four years and has not tackled the problem. The huge debt structure that is there today, which is this State's major problem, has grown overwhelmingly in that period. There has been neglect of the area and a lack of will by the Government to tackle the very serious problem.

I make it clear that this is not and should not be a party political matter. The Bill before the House is certainly the most important Bill that will come before Parliament during the current sessional period. This State—not the Government, but the State—has a future debt of $1·6 billion that must be met. In future premiums motorists must pay not only for the present but must fund that $1·6 billion debt. We are generally agreed between the Government, the Opposition and the National Party that a reasonable period to clean up the mess of the past is approximately ten years. It may need to be made a bit longer if the figures do not turn out as well as we hope.

I make it clear from the outset that the Liberal Party has its plan, but that plan cannot come into effect without the support of the National Party; and the National Party accepts that any plans it has cannot come into effect without the support of the Liberal Party. The commonsense way of tackling the matter would be to get the backroom boys of the Government, the Opposition, the National Party, the actuaries and one or two other people whom I could suggest in a room together; tell them that we want a premium of $210, $220 or thereabouts, which is the sellable amount—not the $500 nonsense that the Premier is talking about from one end of the State to the other. We should put them in a room, give them some guidelines on which we could probably agree and have them work out a new third-party scheme and sell it together, saying to the public, "This is what we have to do to make up for the sins of the past and to give you sensible and good cover from this day forth."

These stupid statements about $500 premiums and about the Premier calling it the Kennett tax and such nonsense are completely irresponsible. It disturbs me that some of the media have fallen for what the Premier has had to say. I do not know what he does to entertain them, but he seems to mesmerise them at times. For the *Sun* to give the prominence it gave to the $500 premium nonsense is beyond my comprehension.

Mr Cain interjected.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—The *Sun* did it and you, Mr Premier, sold it to the *Sun*. The reporter in question must have been carried away with it, as were the sub-editors.

Mr Cain—Charm!

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—The Premier says it was his charm. I have never noticed it in the past, but perhaps he excelled himself on this occasion.

The present system was introduced in 1941. It is interesting that at that time some 250 000 motor vehicles were registered in Victoria, one for every eight people. In 1986 2·5 million motor vehicles are registered, roughly a tenfold increase to more than one vehicle for every two members of the population; so a remarkable change has occurred in 45 years, although not surprisingly.

Over many years—and this applies to former Liberal Governments as well as to the present Government—Governments have failed to increase premiums to keep pace with inflation and with the increase in claim payments. Their nervousness for political considerations about tackling the problem is responsible for a substantial proportion of the $1·6 billion debt. I shall give an example. The premium for a private vehicle in the country area category in 1976 was $85.40; the corresponding premium today is $161. That obviously has not kept pace with inflation in those ten years. The Government has demonstrated a lack of responsibility by failing to tackle the problem in its first four years in office.

It is not generally realised by Victorians that the compulsory third-party system is riddled with a disproportionate number of small claims. In fact, that is where the big expense is incurred. For example, of all claims made on the Motor Accidents Board in 1984, more than 76 per cent were for less than $500; and of all the medical expenses paid by the board in 1984, 87 per cent were for less than $500.

Fraudulent claims have similarly imposed a massive cost on the compulsory third-party system. It has been suggested that the fraud amounts to tens of millions of dollars. I believe that to be a fact.

The "soft tissue" phenomenon is a major contributor to increased costs, and the Government's own document states that whiplash is a major contributor; it comprises a high proportion of the small claims.

I have been told that, compared with New Zealand, which has a no-fault system, whiplash-type injuries in Victoria are running proportionately at the rate of ten compared to one in New Zealand. If that is true, it is a serious state of affairs.

I know two people very well who have seriously suffered from whiplash. Their court cases are a long time behind them yet to the day they die it is obvious that they will suffer from genuine and severe whiplash injuries. Although I am conscious of that, I am also conscious of the fact that there are many people who are fraudulently claiming for whiplash when they do not suffer from that injury.

With regard to whiplash victims not requiring hospitalisation, whiplash claims in Victoria have grown at the rate of 30 per cent compared with 5·8 per cent for other injury categories. Those figures speak for themselves.

In 1982–83 the Motor Accidents Board payment on claims involving whiplash made up 21·5 per cent of payments, totalling in excess of $42 million for major claims compared with 24 per cent of just on $50 million in 1985. The present system is suffering huge financial losses.

I shall now list a number of figures concerning the present system. In the financial year just ended, 1985–86, for the first time benefits paid out under the Victorian compulsory third-party scheme are projected to exceed income, which does not make any provision for the future.

The critical financial position is as follows: the outstanding claims liability is estimated at $2·54 billion at 30 June 1986 and an estimated unfunded liability of $1·6 billion or 62 per cent unfunded at 30 June 1986. The projected average premium per vehicle of $156 represents only 45 per cent of the $349 average premium required to fully fund liabilities. This premium would be obviously unacceptable to the community, hence the problem of achieving a reasonable and sensible premium and getting rid of fraud or trying to reduce fraud to a figure far below what it is at present. The Government will also have to look at reducing some of the benefits that it proposes.

There has been an increase in the number of Motor Accidents Board and State Insurance Office claims for registered vehicles of 7 per cent and 8 per cent per annum respectively and a real growth rate of 10 per cent per annum in the average cost of common law claims for the past five years to 30 June 1985. There is also the projected cash flow shortfall of

$91 million in the 1985–86 financial year and, finally, an increase in the ratio of outgoings to income from 49 per cent in 1979 to 117 per cent in 1985–86.

It should be remembered that the Labor Party has been in office in Victoria since early 1982 and has, for reasons best known to itself, shied away from doing anything about this serious problem.

The dual system of the State Insurance Office and the Motor Accidents Board came into existence in 1974 and it operates in two parts: the Motor Accidents Board is funded as a no-fault aspect of insurance through the payment of $28 800 for the impairment of earning capacity together with associated hospital, medical and rehabilitation expenses. The State Insurance Office covers payments under common law litigation by way of damages for pain and suffering, impaired earning capacity and the need for future care and attention of the injured parties.

One of the many things I have learned during my research is that there is virtually no cooperation or coordination between the Motor Accidents Board and the State Insurance Office. They both have their separate computer systems which are not connected in any way. One often hears the Treasurer boast of the Government's modern financial management but the honourable gentleman has done nothing to create cooperation between these two organisations.

If an investigator is called upon by one body to carry out some work, he has to search a file in one building and then go to the other building to search another file. I appreciate that the Government—and it has the support of the Opposition and the National Party—proposes to bring those two organisations under the one roof and they will have to use the one computer and so on. However, since the Government came into office in early 1982 there should have been a good degree of cooperation between the two bodies and their computers should have been linked. If that had been done the Government could have taken the opportunity of stopping much of this fraud.

The Government proposes to abolish common law rights. That is a staggering proposal. Under WorkCare the Government proposed to abolish common law rights but the unions screamed and the Government changed its mind. In every aspect of life one has a common law right except, under this proposal, if one happens to be in a motor vehicle.

Under the proposal there will be no compensation for loss of earnings for the first five days or the first $250 of medical expenses. From my research and inquiries it appears there is no guarantee that Medicare will take up the cost of the $250. I should be interested to hear the Treasurer explain whether this matter has been settled with the Commonwealth Government because it is most likely that the Commonwealth Government will not agree to take up this financial responsibility.

Further under the proposal, for the first eighteen months the loss of income will be paid to a maximum of $400 a week and a minimum of $195 a week. These payments will be subject to income tax and they will be reduced by other earnings received.

I am in some doubt as to what "other earnings" exactly means and whether investments will be included in the definition. Apparently benefits will not be paid to people over 65 years of age. Why benefits should not be paid to people over that age who are in the active work force I do not know. There is nothing magic about it. Someone of that age who is working, producing and leading a useful life should be treated the same as any other worker or self-employed worker.

The Government's proposal is that after eighteen months, "provided impairment is greater than 10 per cent by reference to a specified injury table compensation will be as follows". Impairment of 10 per cent is serious impairment. It does not sound very much, but it would be enough to stop one carrying out most occupations. If the impairment is above 10 per cent the impairment benefits rise to a maximum of $37 500 in the form of a lump sum, but that amount would be reduced according to the degree of impairment. The payment of $37 500 would be made only if there were 100 per cent disability and that

would be unlikely in many cases. To receive that amount one would have to be twenty years of age and, of course, as one becomes older that amount would be reduced.

The impairment pension would add up to a maximum of $87 500 but would be reduced according to age and degree of impairment. This represents a maximum weekly payment—wait for it—of $89.64! Where there is a partial or total loss of earnings, additional weekly payments might be payable but, of course, that is an unknown factor. In addition, certain payments will be made to spouses and children of deceased victims. This has yet to be spelt out.

The system will be funded by premiums based on three zones. The National Party has no great criticism of the three zones. There will be a 50 per cent increase in traffic fines and the National Party has no criticism of that. The premiums will be adjusted for inflation annually on a consumer price index basis. The question I ask the Premier is: why did he not get around to making increases on a consumer price index basis over the past four years? I suggest it was politically unacceptable and the Government was not prepared to take the tough step and do what should have been done.

I shall now comment on the problems with the Government scheme. First and foremost it removes the basic right of common law which every citizen throughout Australia enjoys in every aspect of life. It removes elementary justice; both the innocent and guilty parties receive the compensation. That happens in no other field. It does not matter whether one is innocent or guilty. One's wife and children could be sitting in a car parked in a specified parking place and be hit by a drunk in another car and they would be treated in exactly the same way as the guilty party.

It is absolutely incomprehensible and the only explanation is that it is part of Labor philosophy for no-fault compensation regardless of the circumstances. I make it clear that that principle is not acceptable to the National Party and the proposed legislation will not pass in its present form in another place.

As I said before, the provisions of compulsory third-party insurance are inconsistent with WorkCare and that system maintains the common law right. Because of the payment of pensions—and this is the whole basis of my argument—the scheme has the potential to place thousands of persons on a drip system for life. Under this system they will get a type of pension and they will stay on that indefinitely. Once one puts someone on a give-away pension——

Mr Jolly interjected.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—Why should the State motorists take up the responsibility? It is a Federal responsibility and I shall come to that point later. After a certain time they should become the Federal Government's responsibility either as invalid pensioners or recipients of unemployment benefits.

The Government is going to force motorists to pay people, who are injured through their own fault, a superior pension for life in certain cases. As social services, without doubt, are a Federal responsibility, this makes the scheme completely unacceptable to the National Party.

Mr Jolly interjected.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—We are not having a huge increase. I shall come to that. The Treasurer has not been listening to my remarks. The National Party will not put up with a drip system of pension payment. There will be no incentive for people to get back into the work force. After a certain period it is a Federal responsibility and the Federal Government must take it up.

Another problem is that it will be difficult to establish or determine the pre-accident earnings for self-employed people. It is easy to establish pre-accident earnings for a factory worker who earns $385 a week. Where do farmers stand in drought years when they may have a small, or even no income in that particular year? Where do people with family

trusts or partnerships stand? What about the small businessman who is not drawing a salary whilst establishing a business? They are completely disadvantaged. Obviously no one has given thought to that group of people.

One of the most valid criticisms of the proposed scheme is that the benefits do not take sufficient account of differences in various occupations. For argument's sake, the loss of a leg would be more costly to a builder than to an office worker. However, the benefits will be the same even though some people can continue with their occupations and some cannot. Imagine a carpenter who lost his left arm or, for argument's sake, his right arm—I shall make it even worse—and compare him with a politician who needs his right arm only to eat, drink or speak. A carpenter needs his right arm to earn a living. To quote an extreme case, if a politician loses an arm, he can still carry out his duties and responsibilities without any handicap from a work point of view. He would have a personal handicap, but the carpenter would not be able to carry out his normal duties. Yet, the proposed legislation makes no distinction between the two occupations.

Mr Jolly—Yes, there is, in respect of income.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—There would be no income for the carpenter. I could go on to speak about the situation in respect of physicians.

There is a maximum wage payable of $400 a week and the people who are earning more than that amount will require top-up insurance to compensate for the lack of earnings. If one wants to protect oneself—some people have a short earning life because of their particular profession—one will have to take out additional insurance. That is one way of achieving cheaper premiums; it is just like Medicare. People take out their own private health insurance and end up paying twice. That will happen in this case; it is good Labor Party policy. One group of people pays twice and others pay once.

I shall put forward the suggestion of the National Party which, roughly, is in line with that explained by the honourable member for Brighton. The National Party believes common law rights must be maintained for the innocent party under certain circumstances for major accidents. I make that a specific demand. There would be a very substantial threshold but, nevertheless, the principle must stay.

Whether or not one is in a car should not be the sole deciding factor of whether one has a case for compensation. There must be a threshold on the payment of common law awards. I do not like it, but there has to be a threshold to put premiums into a sensible category. The premiums should reflect the risk and the driving record of the person in question.

If there is to be fairness and equity, the driving record of the person in question must prevail. That applies to comprehensive insurance and it works well there. If one is accident prone one has to pay more, but if one has a good driving record, one's payments are cheaper.

The National Party believes this should be done under the demerit point system. The system is already in place. Members of the National Party checked how many people have been awarded demerit points. It is a staggering total. Millions of people have points registered against their names. However, this scheme would be an incentive for safer driving and would encourage drivers to avoid getting points. The system is that the more points one gets and the more driving offences one commits, the more one should suffer under an appropriate penalty system. As I said earlier, a surcharge should be placed on driving licences to reflect accident records and driving infringements.

On the question of medical and health costs, I do not know how far the Treasurer has got with transfers from the Motor Accidents Board to Medicare—the Treasurer might supply that information in his speech. However, the State Insurance Office and the Motor Accidents Board should merge to form one single streamlined authority. The Government agrees with this notion. The separation of the two bodies and the independence of both those bodies has been a scandalous state of affairs over recent years.

There must be—and this should take place from this day forth—a stricter monitoring of fraud and there should be higher penalties for fraudulent acts. The penalties proposed under the administration of this Government are pathetic. People are ripping the public off for tens of thousands of dollars. The penalties contained in this measure are pathetic in their severity.

It is not a very nice thing to say, and I questioned the Treasurer on this matter just this morning; however, this Government does not seem to understand that certain small ethnic groups are specialising in third-party claims. They are small groups.

Mr Simpson—Who are they? Name them.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—I could name them all. There are small groups, probably as few as eight or ten and, mostly, one small sector comprises ethnic groups and the other small sector comprises doctors. Up to the present time these people have been organised and manipulated—some live in very close communities. It is an unfortunate state of affairs. Fraud takes place across all nationalities, I accept that, and encompasses people of all backgrounds and the wealthy and the poor, no matter where they come from. However, there are pockets of three or four particular nationalities where fraud is particularly bad.

If the administration of third-party insurance were properly organised, computers would pick up the necessary evidence and steps could be taken to wipe out the fraud that is occurring. All members of the House know of the recent events in Sydney. It is interesting that the computer picked it up and pointed to a particular solicitor and a particular judge. They may be perfectly innocent but it deserves investigation.

The Motor Accidents Board and the State Insurance Office should be working together to eliminate the fraud that occurs with third-party insurance. Already, the Government has wasted four years on this matter. The Treasurer has been the Minister in charge and he has done nothing. It is very serious. The Treasurer avoided the question I asked during question time. He knows very well what I am talking about but, of course, the Labor Party is very touchy when it comes to ethnic problems.

Mr Jolly—They are the problems of individuals.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—Yes, they are, but it is in tight community groups where these people are living together and working on it.

I must mention the court system. I hope the revised Supreme Court Rules will in some degree increase the efficiency of both the Supreme Court and the County Court because there is no doubt that the court system leaves a lot be desired. As long as I have been involved in the legal system there has been room for improvement. The pre-issue and pre-trial conciliation proceedings should be streamlined even more.

I have a high regard for the Attorney-General. He is a competent person. He faces an exciting challenge in trying to reduce the waiting times for hearings before the Supreme Court. He has to give that the highest possible priority because the longer the wait the greater the disrespect in which the court system is held by the public.

Consideration must be given to not paying interest on lump sum payments. It is a sensitive issue. However, abolishing interest on lump sum payments will lead to court cases being dealt with more quickly. If a solicitor is slow, he is costing his clients money.

I believe the Government must examine the domestic help awards that have been given in some paraplegic cases. They have been given on the basis virtually of help 24 hours a day. Although these poor unfortunate people do need tremendous help, the theory that one can compensate a person with around-the-clock domestic help is not realistic.

I know I have the support of the Premier on the question of the discount figure, which will be increased from 3 per cent to 5 per cent. This change could have been and should have been made previously because that adds tens of millions of dollars to the liability of

the State Insurance Office. In this area the lack of action by the Treasurer has been very costly indeed.

I am very much disturbed that both the Law Institute of Victoria and the Government are using the best actuaries in the State—there is no doubt about that—and the Law Institute actuary, especially——

Mr Jolly—I do not agree.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—I think both are people of high repute and I am not casting aspersions on either of them, unlike the Treasurer who is casting aspersions on the actuary of the Law Institute of Victoria. I believe the Treasurer should take note of what has been put before him and just because people are not employed by the Treasurer and the Government they should not be discredited.

Mr Remington—The Law Institute discredited itself on WorkCare.

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—It is ridiculous that anyone injured in an accident should be dependent on the drip system regardless of the degree of fault. Some of them will become dependent on the State for the rest of their lives and there will be no incentive for rehabilitation. From a practical point of view, that group of people should be the responsibility of the Federal Government and not of Victorian motorists.

I suggest the income supplement of the Motor Accidents Board should be provided for a period of 18 to 24 months and should not exceed an amount in the vicinity of, say, $25 000. Medical and other expenses should be covered for a maximum of, say, five years.

The basis for that suggestion is that lump sum payments should not be made on small or minor claims, the threshold of which is negotiable. The amount that is arrived at—whether it should be $20 000, $25 000 or $30 000—will have to be decided upon after the actuaries have determined the cost of any proposed scheme.

It is in this area that the Premier and Treasurer have been extremely careless with the truth and have misled the people of the State; that is, that the major costs result from small claims. This area must be tackled by the Government.

The scheme proposed by the National Party will reduce legal costs by approximately 70 per cent, which is a major saving on the present system. The trouble with the proposed legislation is that it represents a vision held by the Labor Party for many years to have a no-fault accident insurance scheme.

Gough Whitlam proposed this scheme and, as the honourable member for Brighton said, it did not proceed. The scheme has been modelled on a New Zealand scheme that came into being when the late Mr Kirk was Prime Minister of New Zealand in about 1972–73. People who are connected with that scheme were in Melbourne recently, and it was pointed out that the New Zealand system is facing bankruptcy. It is a drip-feed system, and that is the basis of the problem. An army of people are living off the New Zealand system and will continue to live off it for the rest of their lives.

I suspect that the leaders of the Labor Party in this State have had the proposed scheme forced upon them because it is Labor Party policy. One of the factors that has saved this Government from some of its gravest disasters is that it does not have a majority in the Upper House. When the Government introduces a stupid measure it is thrown out of the Upper House and the conservative elements of the Labor Party thank God that they have been saved once again from their follies. I do not believe the Premier and the Treasurer have their hearts in this measure; they have to put it forward even though they know that it will not become law.

It is absolutely essential that some commonsense and cooperation exists between the three major political parties to enable them to work out a scheme which is in the best interests of Victoria and to reach agreement on a premium that can be afforded by the

average Victorian motorist. That can be done while retaining the common law rights for major cases to protect the innocent victims of road accidents.

I believe the Opposition will agree with the general concept that I have put forward on behalf of the National Party, but it must be done in the spirit of cooperation. There has been no cooperation since the academic group met approximately twelve months ago. In the past two weeks I have been extremely frustrated in trying to obtain copies of amendments to the Bill from the Treasurer, the Premier and public servants.

Mr McNamara—He didn't know them himself!

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—No one knows what they are, yet there are more amendments in the offing of which we have had no summary.

Mr Jolly—Do you want them?

Mr ROSS-EDWARDS—The point is that the House is debating the Bill today even though it has been told in two Government dispatches—one last Friday and one on Monday—that there are already proposed amendments to the Bill with more to come. It is ridiculous that the Bill is being debated now. It should be reprinted with those amendments so that the House could debate a clean Bill.

When the second-reading debate is finished, a working group should be urgently established to put a sensible Bill into operation. It is of no use the Premier talking about the $500 premium and calling it the "Kennett" tax because the Government will have to wear that. It is no good claiming that the Opposition is to blame for any increase in charges because the Victorian motorists will not benefit.

Let us get rid of the drip-feed system and streamline the cooperation between the Motor Accidents Board and the State Insurance Office to work out a sensible scheme. It should not be a case of the Labor Party putting its philosophy first; Victoria should be put first.

It should be remembered that the Government is establishing a scheme that will not be paid for by some distant Government; it is being paid for by the motorists of Victoria at the price of $200 a private car. The motorists want value and protection for their money. It is unfair that the ordinary motorists should have to take out their own insurance on top of their third-party premiums.

I throw back the challenge to the Government in a spirit of cooperation. The National Party will be happy to cooperate. Its representative in another place, Mr Baxter, is a respected and knowledgeable representative, as is the Opposition spokesman in this place, the honourable member for Brighton, whom I hope, will also be cooperative. The Government must lock that group into a room to work out an acceptable scheme.

If the Government is going to continue with its no-fault liability so that people can receive the pension for the rest of their lives and make the motorists pay, I give them this final message: the public of Victoria will not cop it. They will not put up with that nonsense. They want a sensible scheme.

The Government will have to act quickly. The Treasurer has neglected this serious responsibility for four years. He has done nothing, yet, in his time as Treasurer, he has given us more than $1 billion in debt due to his neglect and waste. He has a lot to answer for. He can help to make amends now if he cooperates. If he does not, he will go down in history as the person who bankrupted this State.

Mr RAMSAY (Balwyn)—One of the greatest costs this community faces daily is undoubtedly the cost of injury and death on our roads. A social cost is paid in the disruption of family and business life; a monetary cost is the millions of dollars paid for hospitals, rehabilitation and ongoing care of road victims; and, most of all, a human cost, the road toll. Each year we are killing hundreds of people and injuring thousands of others on Victorian roads.

A tremendous amount of community resources are used in the fight against death and injury on our roads. Year after year the time of this Parliament has been taken up with legislation and all-party committee meetings trying to work out ways of reducing the road toll. A great deal of the time of the police and emergency services of the State is given to the control of traffic to try to minimise the carnage on our roads. Tragically the time of the Coroner's Court is also taken up as much as anything else by deaths that have resulted from road accidents.

If we were to rid the community of road accidents, the pressures on hospitals and rehabilitation services would be dramatically reduced. Steps to combat the road toll have been taken. Governments have introduced the compulsory wearing of seat belts, random breath tests, cameras at traffic lights and the use of radar guns. The list seems almost endless, but still the road toll continues to rise.

It is of paramount importance that as well as all those preventive measures the community has some system of insurance and protection for persons who suffer injuries on the roads. Victoria currently has a double-barrelled system of the no-fault provisions of the Motor Accidents Board and the third-party insurance scheme that is covered by the State Insurance Office. However, something has gone tragically wrong with that system.

As the Treasurer well knows, he, as the head of the Department of Management and Budget, is in an enormous jam. The State Insurance Office, which comes under his responsibilities as Treasurer, is bankrupt. The sum of $1·6 billion is frequently mentioned as the deficit figure now being built up by the State Insurance Office.

The effectiveness of the system of collecting premiums from the owners of motor vehicles and paying those premiums to the State Insurance Office so that that office and the Motor Accidents Board can provide benefits has been called into question. There is evidence of the system being abused by certain minority groups in the community. All honourable members would agree that the system is inadequate and if it is allowed to continue, we are heading for disaster. It is right and proper that the Government of the day should introduce some alternative proposals to correct the shortcomings of the present system and provide for Parliament to consider a system that can and will work.

It is tragic that the system enshrined in the Transport Accident Bill contains a grave error. The Government, especially the Treasurer, has been scared into taking action that is inappropriate. The Treasurer is asking the community to accept as a principle that if I, for example, injure someone on the roads as a result of my negligence, carelessness or inattention, I am excused from any liability for the damage I have caused to a person and the restoration of that person's lifestyle. I do not have to insure myself against the risk of injuring someone as it is taken over on the basis of money being paid by all motorists of this State. The risk is taken over on the basis of a financial arrangement that is commonly adopted for everyone who is injured on the roads. I am absolved of the responsibility of being negligent and hurting a person. The right of the injured party to sue me will be removed.

The reason for that action, according to the Treasurer, is that the community cannot afford to do anything else. It is a tragic day when this community bows to economic pressures to remove from the rights of its citizens the right to protection from injury by other members of the community.

Honourable members should ask why the present system has become so expensive. It has been clearly demonstrated during the debate that it has a great deal to do with the number of cases that currently come before the courts. Some large awards are made, but significant though they are in the total cost, it is the thousands of smaller cases that go before the courts that are making the present system so expensive.

An element of fraud exists in the present system. There is also an element of the system being abused generally by people as an easy way of gaining some compensation in the case of road accidents in which they may be modestly injured.

Recently a young lady came to my electorate office and recounted the case of a road accident in which she had been involved. Her car was damaged but she, fortunately, was not injured. However, when she consulted a member of the legal profession about her rights in getting compensation for the damage to her motor vehicle, she was advised that she would find it a lot easier to get money from the Motor Accidents Board if she had suffered some slight injury than she would in getting money from an uninsured driver.

That advice was probably correct in terms of the fact that it would be easier to get money from the Motor Accidents Board in the case of a slight injury, but the lawyer involved went on to check with the young lady whether there were any medical signs, such as headaches or a stiff neck, to enable a case to be mounted. That is the position the community has reached with the present system. Some people are using the system as a convenience to help a person gain some economic advantage following a road accident.

The sitting was suspended at 6.27 *p.m. until* 8.6 *p.m.*

Mr RAMSAY—During the course of the debate this afternoon, the honourable member for Brighton, in a speech that lasted some 2 hours and 40 minutes, gave a clear explanation to the House of the importance of honourable members considering carefully the Transport Accident Bill that has been brought forward by the Treasurer. He pointed out that although the Bill may well save costs against the present system and assist the Treasurer to overcome his embarrassment so far as the $1·6 billion debt that the State Insurance Office has run up recently, it has in it a number of unacceptable elements that for the sake of the total community must be removed.

The honourable member for Brighton was not just negative in his attack on the present proposal but he put forward some carefully researched, sound alternatives that could well be brought into the system without the huge escalation in costs that the Treasurer fears.

Essentially, the problem is that the proposed legislation seeks to remove the common law right to sue from road accident victims so that an innocent person who is injured on the road will have no right to sue the guilty party for the injury that he or she has been caused. Rather, the injured person will be left to receive whatever statutory benefits the system can provide along the lines that have been spelt out by the Treasurer.

I put it to the Treasurer and to the House that there is a need to maintain that common law right in our community. There is an inherent sense of justice in the community and if we, as a Parliament, act to diminish that sense of justice we will not be acting in the best interests of the people concerned.

As a community we are expected to take responsibility for our actions. If I accidentally harm someone I have a responsibility to restore that person as far as possible, whether the injury was inflicted on the road or elsewhere. This applies in the normal, day-by-day affairs of the community.

Mr Hill interjected.

Mr RAMSAY—If my dog bites the honourable member for Warrandyte, I am responsible to see that he is restored. If the roots of a tree on my property damage my neighbour's property, I am liable for that damage; I am liable to restore to my neighbour. Why should the rule be any different when it comes to an accident on the road? If I injure someone, I should pay.

The Government says that no matter how badly a person is injured on the road and no matter who is responsible for that injury, that person will receive one benefit and one benefit only as determined by this statute.

It makes a mockery of a sense of justice and it will be doing a grave injustice to many innocent persons who may be unfortunate enough to be involved in a road accident.

The only reason the Treasurer has put forward for removing this common law right is one of expense. He says, "We cannot afford to maintain this sense of justice in our community". If that is the case it is a very sorry day for Victoria.

The proposal that the honourable member for Brighton has put forward indicates that there is a way through this dilemma, based on the fact that the vast majority of common law actions are dealing with relatively minor injuries and relatively small amounts. Surely Governments can devise a scheme that will still give protection to those people who suffer grievous bodily harm on the roads as a result of someone else's folly.

A scheme can be brought forward that will work. What will the cost be? There will be a significant diminution in the costs that face the current system with a method developed along the lines put forward by the honourable member for Brighton. The honourable member has suggested that there should be a threshold under which common law actions should not succeed. It is a dual threshold, a threshold based on the seriousness of the injury, so that only a person who has suffered a serious injury as defined would be in a position to sue. The appropriate damages that would be awarded in such a case would need to exceed a sum of some $15 000.

This would be a significant constraint against those many actions that are presently taken for small amounts in the courts, the ones that are gumming up the courts, the ones that are in total the majority of the costs.

If a person took the common law right and sued in the courts and the threshold was not reached, then the cost would come back on the plaintiff and this would reduce the number of cases coming forward. The community would still have available that very precious and important right for those persons who may be seriously injured on our roads.

It would seem the Government has not stopped to examine the practicalities of these particular proposals. They work overseas. The cost of road accident compensation overseas is nothing like that in Victoria. The threshold concept for the right to proceed at common law is practised in a number of States of the United States of America.

I refer the Treasurer to the situation in the State of New York, where it is working satisfactorily. The many small claims that arise under the Victorian system do not arise at all in that State. It should not be beyond the wit of our community to devise a workable system that can be within the bounds of reasonable cost and continue to provide this very important right to innocent persons who are injured in the course of using our roads.

I call on the Government to reconsider its position carefully. The honourable member for Brighton's proposals have been widely circulated. It is clear they will not blow out the cost of motor accident insurance.

The honourable member for Niddrie sits there laughing. He obviously has not examined the proposal that has been put forward. The honourable member interjects, "It is going to cost $500". Five hundred dollars is the premium that has been suggested by the State Insurance Office as the necessary premium if nothing is done about the present system. That is not the proposal that has been put forward by the honourable member for Brighton in the House this afternoon. His proposal is a carefully considered well-constructed proposal which I commend to the Government. It is the only system that can be seen by the community to be anything like fair.

If the Government is to remove the common law right from an innocent person who is injured at the hands of another person, simply because that person was using our roads, then as a community we will live to regret it. A community does not improve its quality

of life by denying fundamental human rights to its citizens. Government members opposite know this as well as members of the Opposition. In conclusion, I shall read the simplest of letters, just one of many that I have received from a number of constituents on this issue. It states:

Dear Sir,

I have been reading about the proposed Motor Accident legislation and am appalled that this removes the Common Law right for an injured person to sue the negligent driver.

Would you please bring your Parliamentary influence to bear, to ensure that such Common Law right to sue is retained in any Act proposed?

The Opposition is not against amendments in this area, but is looking for a better way forward. The Government is not pointing in that direction at present. It will be brought into line in another place unless the Treasurer is prepared to recognise the importance of a change of direction in the proposals as enshrined in the proposed legislation.

Mr HARROWFIELD (Mitcham)—It is with great pleasure that I support this major piece of landmark legislation by the Cain Government. The long and torturous effort from the honourable member for Brighton and the more sketchy contribution from the honourable member for Balwyn indicates that the Liberal Party is prepared to do anything in pursuit of maintaining the status quo, in pursuit of vested interests and in pursuit of its own inability to seriously tackle the difficult and major issues in the State.

The Cain Goverment has a proud record of tackling tough issues over the past four and a half years. It has demonstrated that capacity with respect to WorkCare and it has again shown it in respect of compulsory third-party insurance. Reform of compulsory third-party has been fundamentally important for a number of years. That reform has been consistently put off by previous Governments which found the issue beyond their capacity to come to terms with. Parliament must understand in debating this Bill that the crunch has come. Reform cannot be deferred; reform is urgent.

In tackling the issue of reform honourable members should realise it must be affordable reform. A number of basic problems have provoked the need for the proposed legislation that the House is debating this evening. The first and foremost is that the present system of third-party insurance is economically and financially unviable. It is costing the State and taxpayers much more than they are prepared to contribute.

As an example of that, the outstanding claims liability at 30 June 1986 is estimated to be $2·54 billion. Yet, that liability is funded only to the extent of some $0·8 billion leaving unfunded liability of $1·6 billion. At the end of this current financial year Victorians will be faced with a projected cash flow shortfall of $91 million in third-party insurance with a prospect of a more serious situation developing in future years.

The booklet that was produced by the Government in launching the Bill explains the system quite succinctly. Table 1.7 on page 9 of that document outlines the premium levels that would be required if the present third-party insurance arrangements were not to be fully-funded. We are faced, at the end of this financial year, with a projected average premium level of $349, if no changes are made to the present scheme.

However, the real seriousness of the situation is demonstrated by the fact that by the end of 1989, the fully-funded premium level for that particular year, in order to match the cost of the present arrangements, would be an average premium of $561 a vehicle. This is clearly a cost that the motorists and the taxpayers of Victoria are not able or prepared to meet.

The second reason is that the benefits provided by the present compulsory third-party insurance scheme are neither effective nor equitable in their operation. The present scheme is obsessed with people being able to establish fault in transport accidents and the emphasis that has been placed on fault has effectively meant that a large number of accident victims have been prevented from receiving the sort of assistance that they are entitled to expect in the event of them being injured in a transport accident.

Secondly, minor injuries have been compensated for under the present scheme to a much greater extent, proportionately, than the serious long-term injured victims of traffic accidents; and, of course, the emphasis that the scheme places on lump sum payouts does not necessarily provide the most effective means of meeting the long term needs of accident victims.

It is quite clear from those three points that the benefits provided under the present arrangements do not properly provide for people who are injured as a result of transport accidents.

The third major problem with the present scheme is that the scheme encourages litigation. It encourages people to have their day in court, whatever the cost, and that is especially so in respect of minor injuries.

One of the fallacies about what was said by the honourable member for Balwyn earlier when he was suggesting that people should be made to face up to their responsibilities for accidents they may have caused is that the present scheme does not effectively penalise those people. The present scheme means that someone who is injured as a result of a traffic accident can go to court and establish that someone else was at fault knowing full well that the public purse—the State Insurance Office—will meet the financial liability of that person. It does not penalise the person at fault, it penalises the publicly-funded third-party insurance scheme.

The fourth major problem with the scheme is the way in which the revenue is raised with which to fund the scheme. The premium structure of the present scheme is outdated and inequitable. In fact, it is the same premium structure, basically, that was developed in the 1940s when the present scheme was largely established.

The premiums that people pay do not reflect the accident record of individual motorists; they do not reflect the different claim experiences between regions and they do not reflect the different claim experiences of different types of vehicles.

Of course, we also continue to operate on an artificial system of boundaries that were drawn up in 1941 and that means that the people who live within a 32-kilometre radius of Melbourne pay a different premium to those who live just outside that boundary, despite the fact that their claims experiences are no different. Clearly, there is a need to develop a premium structure that is much more relevant and equitable to contemporary needs.

These four points—the problem of the inequitable benefits provided by the present scheme, the extreme cost and lack of viability of the scheme, the excessive litigious nature of the present scheme and the inequitable premiums structure point to the need for reform.

Honourable members interjecting

Mr HARROWFIELD—I would not expect my rednecked friends to understand such long words. Those points were succinctly summed up by Kenneth Davidson when he described the present scheme in the *Age* of 8 May 1986.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Kirkwood)—Order! Is the honourable member for Mitcham reading his speech?

Mr HARROWFIELD—I am quoting from the *Age*, Mr Acting Speaker. Mr Davidson said:

> Essentially, legal disputation over fault and over compensation has generated a lot of income for the legal profession, placed a crippling financial burden on Victorians in their capacities as motorists and taxpayers, encouraged fraudulent behaviour by both accident victims and their lawyers, discouraged rehabilitation and provided inadequate compensation for major accident victims.

Mr LEIGH (Malvern)—On a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker, I may not have picked this up while I was being called one of the group of rednecks, but I ask the honourable member to identify the document from which he is reading.

The ACTING SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Mitcham will satisfy the curiosity of the House on that point.

Mr Simpson—No, just him!

Mr HARROWFIELD (Mitcham)—For the benefit of the excessively slow honourable member for Malvern, the document was the *Age* of 8 May 1986. I doubt that he has ever read the *Age* but that is the document from which I am quoting, and the author is Kenneth Davidson.

In the context of those weaknesses which were succinctly expressed by Kenneth Davidson, the Government has developed a scheme that gives certainty to Victorians that if they are injured as a result of a transport accident, their needs will be properly met.

A scheme has been developed whereby benefits will be related to the cost of the injury to the individual independent of their ability to establish fault in an accident. The Government has developed a scheme that removes some of the legal excesses of the present scheme. It emphasises the needs of the severely injured motorist.

The Government has also developed a premium structure that will closely reflect the incidence of risk and road safety performance and one that does away with the lengthy delays that are so much a trade mark of the present system of third-party insurance.

It provides a speedy delivery of benefits and ensures that the injured person receives a maximum proportion of the resources that the scheme is able to provide.

Importantly, it places an emphasis on prevention and rehabilitation, which is something that the present scheme just does not do. In fact, far from that, the present scheme acts as a disincentive for people to rehabilitate from their injuries.

The encouragement that the Government is providing through the proposed scheme is also reflected in the increased emphasis being placed on the prevention of traffic accidents in the first place. Importantly also is the fact that the scheme returns compulsory third-party insurance to a financially sound basis. Victorians will be able to afford this scheme and it provides them with reasonable and sensible benefits.

I should like to return in more detail to the problem that I identified initially in respect of the way in which the present scheme delivers benefits to those people who are injured in accidents. Honourable members have heard a lot of talk from the Opposition and no doubt will continue to do so, as well as from the Law Institute of Victoria, about the importance of common law, as though it were some sacred guarantee to Victorian motorists that their needs will be looked after, should they be unfortunate enough to be the victim of an accident.

It is important that honourable members understand how common law operates in the current system. More than 65 per cent of accident victims in Victoria do not receive common law benefits because they cannot establish fault.

In many accidents, particularly in rural Victoria, where often only single vehicles and individuals are involved and where there is no prospect of their being able to establish fault, and in other accidents where serious injury may lead to brain damage, the person concerned is not able to go to court and mount a case for compensation based on fault. Those people are effectively excluded from the major component of the present system.

The system operating today prevents people who are technically at fault—it may not be a serious act of negligence but fault to a minor extent—from obtaining compensation. They are savagely penalised.

Honourable members should understand that fault at accidents need not be simply black and white. It is not necessarily the case because someone is technically at fault that he or she was negligent to any major extent. However, because those people are deemed to be technically at fault they are excluded from receiving any benefits other than the current Motor Accidents Board scheme.

Only 1 per cent of common law claimants receive an award in excess of $100 000. Much of the advertising material that has been propagated by the Opposition and some of its satellites, particularly the Law Institute of Victoria, refers to the fact that many people seriously injured in accidents will be denied their proper benefits.

The current scheme operates so that many people who have suffered only minor injuries have their day in court with a bonus payout for relatively minor injuries should they be fortunate enough to establish a technical case of fault.

Approximately 75 per cent of claimants under the current scheme receive awards of $15 000 or less. There has been significant emphasis under current arrangements on compensating and rewarding people suffering relatively minor injuries because they have been able to establish a legal case of fault.

Another point that should be understood about this so-called access to common law is that it has produced lengthy delays in providing compensation to people who are victims of traffic accidents. The average delay between the accident and date of settlement under common law arrangements is currently 28 months.

Mr Kennett—Mr Acting Speaker, I direct your attention to the state of the House.

A quorum was formed.

Mr HARROWFIELD—It is good to see that the Leader of the Opposition has the full support of his back bench. I was pointing out to the House that under common law arrangements there is now a lengthy delay of 28 months. In the case of the more seriously injured victims, delays can be up to 56 months, or even longer. Those people are placed in the ridiculous position of having to survive between the accident and the date of settlement on only a $20 000 payout from the Motor Accidents Board. What sort of justice leaves those people high and dry before they have an opportunity of joining the queue to attend court? The seriously injured person should not have to wait long but the current system forces that upon him.

Members of the Opposition should also understand that legal costs under the current scheme average 17 per cent of common law settlements, which is excessive. It is not difficult to see why the current scheme has been blown out to the extent that it has when such high operating costs are involved. The proposals put forward by the Liberal Party and the Law Institute of Victoria—this so-called dual system of benefits with its basic no-fault and common law components—must be put into context, even if a threshold level is involved.

Dual systems of compensation usually mean that the seriously ill or incapacitated person who is unable to prove fault—that does not mean that the person has been negligent—is denied adequate support. A person who becomes a quadriplegic as a result of a traffic accident is left with benefits totalling not more than $20 000 under the current base payment if he or she cannot establish fault.

The Opposition wants to perpetuate that situation under the current Motor Accidents Board scheme. It is ridiculous that people who suffer minor injuries, if they can establish fault, should both receive a Motor Accidents Board benefit component and recover common law damages and, therefore, receive more than people with more serious injuries. The proposal of the Opposition is inequitable.

A dual system also relies on monetary compensation. The scheme proposed by the Opposition relies on victims receiving monetary compensation and ignores the fact that they may require other forms of support. The proposal of the Government would provide those people with that support. It would provide not only monetary compensation but also rehabilitation support services.

Under the current scheme and under the dual schemes proposed by the Opposition and the Law Institute of Victoria a once-and-for-all assessment for damages does and would encourage an injured party to exaggerate or prolong his disability. That person knows he has one opportunity of establishing his common law entitlements and that it is in his interests under the current scheme and the proposal of the Opposition to ensure that his injury is worsened or exaggerated when being assessed. That works against the whole

principle of rehabilitation and that is the type of third-party insurance scheme the Opposition wants to continue.

The Opposition has been true to form in this debate. It has consistently opposed reform, especially when a vested interest has been involved. That was the position taken by the Opposition with WorkCare and it has been taken again in this Chamber today. The Opposition has its riding instructions and is following them to the letter in support of vested interests.

The Opposition recognises that third-party insurance cannot be allowed to continue the way it has been going. It recognises that reforms are needed but it does not have the guts to support a scheme that is equitable and affordable for all Victorians.

The Opposition sees the need for change but baulks at the tough decisions. That is what it did when it was in Government—it put it in the too-hard basket—and it is still taking that course.

The Opposition put forward a dismal package of reform that would cost every Victorian taxpayer $500. A shandy was proposed whereby people would have to pay a premium which would be topped up by a contribution that every single taxpayer would contribute from the consolidated revenue. The Opposition opposed the threshold of claims for $15 000, which will force common law settlements up to accommodate that threshold.

The effect will be to push up the level of common law settlements and to push up the costs, and once again costs will spiral as they have done under the existing system.

In commenting on the various proposals for third-party insurance reform, I believe Kenneth Davidson summed up very effectively the approach that the Liberal Party has tended to take on these sorts of issues. For the benefit of the honourable member for Malvern, I shall quote again from the article written by Kenneth Davidson that appeared in the *Age* of 8 May. It states:

> I don't think I am being unduly harsh when I assert that the Liberal Party contribution to the third party debate strategically released earlier this week, owes more to the efforts of the legal profession's attempt to protect its income than the efforts of the Liberal Party to come up with a policy designed to maximise motorist welfare within a context of liberal philosophy.
>
> . . . . .
>
> The Liberal-lawyer proposals would involve a premium of $300 a year and a tax subsidy . . .

Every taxpayer would have to foot the bill—

> . . . of around $200 a year.

Mr Davidson summed up very well the attitude of the Liberal Party when he said, at the conclusion of the article:

> While it is clear why the lawyers are behaving in the way they are, it is difficult to see the logic behind the Liberal strategy of support unless they believe the voting motorist is a complete moron.

This Government deserves the utmost credit for again taking up another issue that was for years put into the too-hard basket by previous Governments and for putting forward a package of reform that proposes a system and a set of benefits that will assist in meeting the needs of Victorian motorists; it will give Victorians the assurance that, if they are involved in a traffic accident, they will be properly looked after. That has been done in the context of a premium package that will be affordable to all Victorians.

As with WorkCare, the same is occurring with third-party insurance: this Government takes on issues that have been too difficult for other Governments to resolve, and it addresses them in a very sensible, responsible and equitable way.

Mr LEIGH (Malvern)—In all fairness, I ought to comment on some of the allegations made by the honourable member for Mitcham in his contribution to the debate. He used the old tirade of this Government and blamed all the problems of the third-party system

on past Liberal Governments. Of course, what he did not say amongst the jumble of his figures was that the blowouts have occurred under Labor Administrations.

It is true to say that over many years there was a need to do something about the current third-party insurance scheme. However, the reality is that the Labor Government is perhaps far more responsible for the mess that the system is currently in than is any previous Government of this State. The present Government has squandered, misused and mismanaged the assets of the people of this State.

The honourable member for Mitcham raised the issue of WorkCare and said what a great and wonderful scheme it is. The reality of WorkCare is that, in the end, in six or seven years' time, Victorians will pay dearly for having such a system. Indeed, this Government has already shown its inability to deal with proposed legislation, because I suspect that virtually every member of the Opposition has had occasion to deal with people who have encountered problems with WorkCare.

I quote as an example—particularly for the benefit of the Minister for Education, who seeks to interject—the fact that the WorkCare system is more expensive for a wholesale jeweller than for a manufacturing jeweller in this State. I would have thought that there would be greater danger in being a manufacturer of a commodity than in wholesale distribution. It may be, because of the bankruptcy of the Government's police policies in this State, that it has become more dangerous to be a wholesaler because of lack of police numbers in this State and, therefore, WorkCare has become more expensive in that area.

The honourable member for Mitcham also said that the Opposition did not see the need for reform. Obviously he has not examined the package that the Opposition put forward some months ago, before the thrid-party reform was introduced by the Treasurer. The honourable member certainly did not listen to the remarks of the shadow Treasurer, the honourable member for Brighton; if he had listened he might have learnt a few lessons.

Why has the Government not done something about fraud in relation to third-party insurance? As the *Willesee* and other television programs will show during this week, one of the biggest problems of the existing system has been the fact that, even until several weeks ago, there has been an estimated loss of some $100 million because of third-party insurance fraud.

I therefore put the question: why has the Government not done something about it? The answer is that too many of the Government's own supporters are participants in some of that fraud; the end result, of course, has been that the Government has backed off.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr LEIGH—I do not intend to tell honourable members on the Government side who are those members. They would perhaps know many of these people better than I, but the fact is that they have done nothing about it. I might say that I am not a lawyer.

Mr Kennett—Thank God for that!

Mr LEIGH—However, as a member of the treasury committee that had to help decide the position of the party at a committee level before the matter was taken to our party meeting, I must say that I wholeheartedly supported the shadow Treasurer and the rest of the committee on this matter. I point out that there is not a majority of lawyers on that committee. In fact, there is not a majority of lawyers in the Liberal Party; there would be more lawyers and school teachers on the other side of the House than on this side.

I shall quote from the same article that was quoted by the honourable member for Mitcham. The article that appeared in the *Age* on 8 May states:

> While it is clear why the lawyers are behaving in the way they are, it is difficult to see the logic behind the Liberal strategy of support unless they believe the voting motorist is a moron.

The only person who would believe that the motorist is a moron is Mr Kenneth Davidson because, if he did not believe that, he would not write that sort of article. Without doubt,

it is drivel. In the context of political philosophy, he would be regarded as somebody who had already drowned. There is no doubt about that.

That is the sort of rubbish that was raised at the time. This evening I watched the *7.30 Report*, which dealt with this Bill. The disgusting thing that is occurring in this State is the Government's use of the Public Service for political reasons. On the *7.30 Report* program Mr Ian Baker was pretending, or at least appearing, to be arguing the Government's case because the Treasurer and the rest of the Government did not know enough about it to be able to appear on the television program.

It was obvious, as the program commentator said, that the only person who knew what was going on was Mr Baker. If Mr Baker knows so much about the subject, he ought to be in this House delivering an address on the issue.

Mr Baker is a public servant employed in this State, and he ought to be taking the role of a public servant rather than running around pretending to be a politician and supporting the philosophy of this Government. It is a disgraceful misuse of Victorian taxpayers' funds that a person is able to do that. On behalf of my constitutents, I say that is deplorable.

I shall go to the issue. The most fundamental difference between the Government and the Opposition on this issue is that the Government has taken the view that we are all the same; that the same thing will happen in life to all of us. It is the sort of philosophy that comes out time and again in the Government's legislation.

What has happened to the rights of the individual? The honourable member for Mitcham said that the Government would give victims $400 a week for eighteen months and then $325 a week until that person turns 65. Has the Government thought about the effect of this proposed legislation on the small business man—a truck driver, for instance? Of course it has not. How many people could operate a small business on $400 a week? It is not only a question of their own personal survival but also the survival of the business while they are incapacitated. As happens with Medicare, the community will need to take out gap insurance.

The Government cannot deny that, because two weeks ago I made a telephone call to an advertised information number for the Government. I asked to have a few things explained to me. I asked about a person who ran a business and needed more than $400 a week for personal survival and for the continuing operation of the business. The Government adviser, somewhat confusedly, asked me to hold the line and I waited for 10 minutes. He eventually came back and said that what that business person would need to do would be to take out gap insurance. I asked whether that had already been worked out by the Government and he assured me that it had and that insurance companies would take up the gap.

I then asked for the names of the insurance companies that would provide the gap insurance. Almost another 10 minutes elapsed and the answer eventually was that that had not yet been worked out but, if no private company took it up, the State Insurance Office would. Once again it is the sort of mishmash that comes from Government legislation.

Although we have heard from vintage car owners, many other people in the community have not been consulted about the proposed legislation and have expressed concern. Although the Government says it consults with the community, in reality it does not do so.

Mr Micallef—With whom did you consult?

Mr LEIGH—The honourable member for Springvale asks whom I have consulted. At least I do not spend my time at the Trades Hall Council.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Kirkwood)—Order! The honourable member for Malvern should not answer interjections that are disorderly.

Mr LEIGH—The fact is that the Liberal Party has attempted to consult everybody in the community, whether they be members of trade unions or whatever.

It has been clearly demonstrated that the Premier has threatened that unless his proposition is accepted, everybody will receive notice that it is the Opposition's fault that premiums have increased to $500.

There are enough people with credibility around to suggest that the Government scheme is not the only scheme that should be considered. If the Government is serious about effectively caring for Victorians, it is in its interests to compromise. However, this Government is democratic only when it believes it is right—and that is always! Because of that, inane comments are heard from the honourable member for Mitcham about what a great Government it is and how wonderful it is to have done all these things. Self praise is no praise at all, and that sort of self praise that comes from the Government should be discounted.

A seriously injured person, perhaps crippled for life, will receive a limited amount of compensation under this proposal. A grant is available to a maximum of $30 700 for injuries. The Government has categorised loss into percentages—60 per cent for the loss of an arm, 40 per cent for a leg and so forth. It is easy to categorise such injuries if one is not the person who has been injured.

The Bill will result in people with the most need receiving the least. The people at fault will be treated equally with the innocent. I take exception to that because I believe innocent victims have the first right to any fund available.

Take the case of a person of, say, 22 years of age at the beginning of a promising career. What will happen to that person in the event of serious injury? That person should be entitled to some form of compensation for loss of earnings over his or her working life. However, the Government does not see it in that light because it considers that everyone is the same. It comes back to the political philosophy of socialism. With every form of legislation, whether it be WorkCare or third-party compensation, the Government comes back to using tired, old, dogmatic statements that I thought went out in the 1950s. It would appear that the Cain Government is operating upon the same lines as it did in the 1950s when the Government was run by another Cain.

The Government has conducted opinion polls and has done all sorts of things to misrepresent the true situation. The Law Institute of Victoria must be congratulated for running what can only be described as fair advertisements. It is unfortunate that the Government, in its use of $600 000 of taxpayers' funds, was perhaps less fair than were the lawyers. It could be argued that the lawyers had a greater pecuniary interest in the system than did the Government. However, the legal profession approached the matter in a responsible way.

Mr Kenneth Davidson, in this article in the *Age* said that if lawyers are removed from the picture that will save about $120 on each premium. What is the cost of somebody's rights? I have not examined any figures or Government documents or, indeed, anything in the United Nations that could tell me the cost of a person's rights as an individual.

It seems that this Government has set a premium on people's rights. The honourable member for Mitcham said that the Government is getting rid of this rather antiquated idea of common law rights that mean nothing. As we all know, if one goes before the courts and loses a case, one faces the consequences of that loss. That is a fair system.

The honourable member for Mitcham did not talk about the people who receive the $1 million payouts. I understand that those people represent 4 per cent of litigants but they are taking up 40 per cent of the money involved in the compensation system. It is easy for Government members to sit in this House and pass a measure such as this, but it would be a different story if any one of them was involved in an accident. I hope that does not happen because I would not wish an accident on anybody, including my political opponents.

What I have found typical of socialists over many years is that they are the first to scream. They often end up having more money than capitalists because they can afford to have socialist principles more than people who have to earn a living. It appears that the Government has forgotten about the rights of the individual. It is strange that the political philosophy of the Australian Labor Party, a socialist party, is that it represents the rights of the individual. However, the proposed legislation is about destroying those rights.

Government members, particularly the Premier and the Treasurer, ought to consider these three ways for solving the problem: the Opposition and National parties could block the proposed legislation, which would cause the Government to cry about that action and blame the opposition parties supposedly for the increases in premiums, or alternatively, the Opposition could allow the Bill to pass—and too bad for people's rights in our society!

Mr Sidiropoulos—That is the best one.

Mr LEIGH—The honourable member for Richmond is happy to see the rights of people lost. I am glad he has put that comment on the record.

The third choice, which many people wish to happen, is for politicians to sit down and work out a compromise between opposing sides in the best interests of the community. The Opposition has gone a long way towards providing many compromises in this matter.

I was one of those who was initially in favour of blocking the proposed legislation because I did not understand how it could be amended sufficiently in the interests of the public. However, I have changed my mind and I now think it is possible to amend the Bill in the interests of Victorians.

If the National Party and Liberal Party were to block the passage of the measure, the Premier would once again say what wonderful legislation he had introduced to Parliament. He would tell his own colleagues that the troglodytes in the Liberal Party and National Party—the born-to-rule members—once again blocked his legislation and he was unable to introduce his radical philosophies. The Opposition is perhaps compromising more than the Government because it is prepared to ensure that the interests of the people are put first. I do not see the Government doing that, which is a pity.

If members of the Government believe in the rights of individuals, why has the Government introduced this measure? It has introduced it because it does not believe in the rights of the individual, as the honourable member for Richmond was prepared to admit, and I am delighted he did. The Government has a choice of either agreeing to amendments that will be proposed by the Opposition in this House, or opposing them in this place and then having the amendments forced on the Government in another place.

The Premier has the choice of serving the interests of Victoria by accepting the amendments or doing what I suspect he may do, that is, to withdraw the Bill and attempt to blame the Liberal and National parties, but I do not think the community will wear that. Enough people have realised that they will be severely disadvantaged if the measure is passed. Many of the Government's own supporters would oppose the proposed legislation if they understood it.

Many people to whom I have spoken have thought that the proposed legislation will offer them complete protection, but when what will actually take place has been explained, they often say, "Good heavens, you cannot let that go through!" That is exactly what the Opposition will be doing—it will not let the Bill go through Parliament.

The Premier has claimed, as he often does, that he has a mandate. As the Premier may recall, the Opposition won a by-election in Nunawading which was fought on the basis that the Opposition would be a guardian and protector of the interests of the community. As members of the Opposition, we said that we would attempt to make responsible decisions in the interests of the community. At the next election we will bear the consequences of those decisions, although the more likely scenario is that the Government will bear the consequences of its actions.

As the community has decided that the Opposition ought to be the guardian, the Opposition has decided that the action must be taken. It can be argued that the Liberal Party and National Party face a grave risk if they are not good at communicating to the public what they are standing for, because the Government, with its huge advertising revenue, will once again swamp the media in attempting to convince people that it is right. However, I do not think Victorians are the big fools that the Government thinks they are. I do not think they are fools. The end result will be the defeat of the proposed legislation.

I am not a lawyer, but it seems in this instance that the Government and people such as Mr Davidson and other media commentators have said that lawyers have something to gain from their position on this issue, and therefore one must dismiss what they say. It is true that they have something to gain and I accept that; even the legal profession accepts that. However, there are fundamental rights and by removing common law rights the Government is beginning to place the wedge in the door because it will not be too far down the track before the Government uses the same argument in another area by saying that something is in the interests of all, and it is simply too bad for individual rights.

I do not think anybody's rights can be too expensive in a society like ours because without those rights society cannot exist. To those people who say it will be too expensive I leave them with the thought that it may be they who have the accidents. It may be a member of the Government or somebody sitting in the gallery tonight who has an accident and is faced with a lifetime of receiving only $325 a week.

I ask people to think seriously whether that is fair to someone who is totally incapacitated, whose life is destroyed, to receive that amount of money. It does not matter whether it is $1 million or $10 million, but if one is left alone in bed for the rest of one's life and not able to do anything, all the money on the planet will not be sufficient, at least to me anyway. That is the ultimate fallacy of what the Labor Party as a Government and a political party is about. Too often in recent times Government members have become the ultimate pragmatists. They have sold everybody out in a rush to gain something for the short term. In this instance, the Government is not only selling out people in the long term, but also in the short term.

I do not wish the proposed legislation a speedy passage. I cannot wait until the Opposition introduces its amendments. In conclusion, I say that one of the great failures of Parliament, or one of the great inequities was the process that allowed debate on the Financial Institutions Duty Bill in 1982 to continue until 4.30 a.m. for a few consecutive days. The people of Victoria know what the Liberal Party's position will be in the Legislative Council, and the Opposition is prepared to play that game if necessary. The Opposition will do so in the interests of the community because it has the mettle to stand it better than the Government and it knows that it is right.

If the Government wishes to serve the interests of the Victorian people for a change, I suggest to the Minister that the Government at least discuss the Opposition's proposed amendments, otherwise the Opposition will move its amendments and, if they are defeated, they will go to the other Chamber.

At the end of the day, the Opposition in the Upper House, together with the National Party, will have the final say. In this instance, the Opposition has put politics aside and has extended the hand to the Government saying that it is prepared to work with the Government. The Minister for the Arts said earlier today that the Leader of the Opposition had a hand extended to him and bit off its fingers. Here we have the reverse position where the Government is not merely attempting to bite off the fingers of the Opposition but to render the Opposition quadriplegic over the Bill. The Government should seriously consider its position and be prepared to compromise in the interests of Victoria.

Mr McNAMARA (Benalla)—I commend the Leader of the National Party and the shadow Treasurer for their contributions. It is an extremely complex Bill and any change to it needs the expert advice of actuaries and the like, because the figures are all over the place.

Third-party insurance has been an area of grave financial concern for four or five years. It would be incorrect to suggest that the problem has been brought on simply over the past four years or so: it has been growing for a number of years and has been caused by the failure of Governments of all persuasions to keep the premium rate abreast of what was being paid out and to take action to redress some of the many spiralling costs, particularly the legal and medical costs.

The same type of problem occurred in the WorkCare area. Unfortunately, the solution provided by the Government in that area has not solved the problem and we are heading down the track to future problems in that area.

I should like to follow the line put forward by my Leader: that this is the time at which the problem should be addressed on a tripartite basis. It is ridiculous that we see a scheme of third-party insurance that is currently paying out approximately $2·5 million a day and receiving in the vicinity of $1 million a day in revenue, a daily net loss of $1·5 million. We have an effective book loss at the moment of $1·6 billion and it is growing at a book loss value of $1·5 million a day, so it is obvious that the problems that beset the scheme must be addressed. Only a few years ago the third-party insurance area was profitable for insurance companies; in fact, it showed almost a 50 per cent return to the State Insurance Office and the various other companies that were underwriting insurance in this area.

The failure of various Governments to keep premium rates at a level that would at least cover the cost of administering the scheme and meeting the payouts has led to the scheme having this huge debt. The biggest blow-out has obviously occurred in the more recent years, but I think honourable members would all acknowledge that it goes back further.

I shall deal firstly with the existing scheme and the way it operates and explain the Government's proposals and those of the Law Institute, the Leader of the National Party and the shadow Treasurer on behalf of the Liberal Party. There is some slight emphasis on the National Party, but generally the opposition parties have a similar view on the major thrusts and principles involved.

The existing compulsory third-party insurance scheme operates in two parts. The first is handled by the Motor Accidents Board, which handles the no-fault aspect of insurance, and it covers lump sum payments up to $20 800. Those payments relate to impairment and loss of earning capacity, together with associated hospital, medical and rehabilitation expenses. The second part is covered by the State Insurance Office and covers payments litigated at common law by way of damages for pain and suffering, impaired earning capacity and the need for future care and attention to the injured parties. Approximately one-third of Motor Accidents Board claimants take common law action, and we know that that is where some of the major payouts occur.

An obvious need for change has been identified as premiums that have been held down for political reasons. For example, we see that private vehicle insurance in country areas was $85.40 in 1976, $98.20 in 1980, $112.95 in 1981 and $129.90 in 1983.

The explosion in the payout side of this area has been in respect of what are described as soft tissue injuries, including whiplash. I do no like to hone in specifically on whiplash injuries because I know numerous people who do suffer and have suffered whiplash injuries, and it is no laughing matter. We sometimes hear suggestions that anyone who suffers a whiplash injury is somehow making a fraudulent claim, but many people suffer serious and painful whiplash injury. It is in these non-specific, soft tissue areas of injury that cannot be identified by X-ray that people are invited to make fraudulent claims. It has been suggested by those at the Motor Accidents Board and the State Insurance Office that up to 90 per cent of all claims may have an inflated component in them: that some are totally fraudulent—I assume that would be a minority of that 90 per cent—but that all have some fraudulent component; either the claimants have increased the extent of the injury to increase the financial payout or that in certain cases additional people have later been included as having been involved in the collision. The crash occurs one day with a driver on his own and, by the time the claim is presented, it is said that, say, three people

were in the car and all are claiming compensation under the scheme. As the scheme operates at present, it invites fraud and rorts, especially in the soft tissue type of injury where it is not possible to trace genuine suffering by the people concerned.

It is interesting that, of those injuries in the soft tissue area not requiring hospitalisation, the number of cases of whiplash has increased by 30 per cent as compared with a growth of 5·8 per cent in all other categories. It seems strange that one particular form of injury that cannot be readily traced has exploded in that way. I suppose the natural assumption would be that people who have worked out how to perpetrate a fraud have worked out the easiest type of injury in respect of which to claim. Claims involving whiplash comprised 10·3 per cent of 5838 major injury claims in the non-fatal area in 1977–78. In 1984–85 that 10·3 per cent had exploded to 36·7 per cent of the 17 493 major claims, so there has been a massive growth in the number of people suffering from non-specific, soft tissue types of injuries.

Further, an excessive number of small claims, which are administratively expensive, have resulted in the currently huge unfunded liability of $1·6 billion. Interestingly, in 1979–80 the ratio of outgoings to income was 49 per cent.

During that period the scheme was running at a healthy profit, but by 1985–86, the ratio of outgoings over income had risen to 117 per cent and is continuing to go through the roof. It is certainly not abating and the longer the Government desists from making major reforms in the area the more the $1·6 billion deficit will grow.

Under the Bill the Government proposes to abolish the common law rights. There will be no compensation for the first five days loss of earnings and one will have to meet the first $250 of medical expenses. The loss of working income is identical to what happens under WorkCare.

It is also proposed that compensation for loss of earnings for eighteen months be set at 80 per cent of pre-accident earnings in a range of $195–$400. After eighteen months, provided that the impairment is greater than 10 per cent of earnings, the recipient could get on to a benefit system which would included an impairment benefit up to a maximum of $37 500, reducing, and a gratuity at a maximum of $89.64 a week, again reducing according to the age and the extent of the impairment. In cases where there has been a partial or total loss of earnings, capacity will exist for additional top-up. Provision will also exist for payments to be made to spouses and children of deceased victims.

The scheme will be funded on a three zone system where vehicles in the various zones are rated according to risk, which is a philosophy the National Party supports. Vehicles should be rated according to risk because there is ample evidence available in the general insurance area which shows that there are far fewer accidents in areas such as Geelong compared to Melbourne and certainly in country Victoria as compared to those other two zones.

The major difficulty with the proposal is the absence of elementary justice whereby if the injured—the innocent party—loses a foot, he or she will receive $6500. However, the negligent party in the accident will also receive $6500 for the loss of a foot.

Under WorkCare, people are covered travelling to and from work, as well as travelling salesmen, and so on. Under that scheme if a person lost a foot he or she would receive $48 000 plus common law rights. There is a fair variation between benefits provided under WorkCare and those contained in the proposed legislation.

The Bill also has the potential to place hundreds of persons on what is commonly called the "drip" system. Once someone is on that system it is very attractive to stay on it and that is one of the major difficulties under the WorkCare system.

Under the WorkCare system—which the Government has used as an argument for changes in the motor accidents system—if 10 000 people are injured, they go on to an annual pension. Whereas under the old system those 10 000 people were paid out in a

lump sum and that was the end of the matter. However, under the WorkCare system, if 10 000 people are injured this year they will go on to an annual pension and if 10 000 people are injured next year there will be 20 000 on a pension and so on.

It has been estimated that the average age of a person injured in the workplace is 42 years. The retirement age is 65 years, so it will take 23 years before Victoria hits a peak in terms of the number of injured workers on a pension under WorkCare. Yet the Government is seeking to establish exactly the same principle under this Bill whereby people will be put on a pension—the "drip" system—which will be attractive for them to stay on.

One could finish up with the same system that applies to those people who came on to WorkCare during its first twelve months of operation, whereby under the indexation system they are getting more than 100 per cent of what they were earning prior to their injuries. I hope this proposed scheme does not have the same potential.

A number of difficulties are involved in establishing pre-accident earning levels for self-employed people. What about a farmer injured during a drought year. That farmer would obviously be on an extremely low income but that would become his base pension under the proposed system. What of the person receiving an income from a family trust or a partnership? There is no clarification in the Bill to have such a situation even regarded as an income. That is an area that needs tightening up.

What of the person seeking to establish a small business, when, during the first few years of the business he or she would not be taking out too much money? He or she would be paying debts and getting the business established in the hope that in five or ten years' time he or she would be earning a reasonable income. However, as any Government department that assists small business would know, it takes two to three years before someone who is establishing a small business can get into the black. If such a person is unfortunate enough to have a major injury during that period, he or she would go down the drain—probably on a negative income.

The proposed benefits do not take sufficient account of different occupations because it is assumed that the loss of either a foot or a hand is equal to every person, but that is not so. If a surgeon lost his or her right hand that would have a far greater effect on his or her earning potential and future than such a loss to a solicitor, who would still be capable of carrying on a practice. In the trade area a council worker would suffer enormous loss if he lost the use of his hand in an accident. Such a worker would be in a far worse position than a solicitor, who could continue to work even though he or she would suffer pain and so on. However, the poor council worker would be finished and he would deserve more in compensation than a solicitor who suffered the same injury. Nowhere in the Bill does it provide for such a situation to be taken into account.

The proposals of the Law Institute of Victoria envisage that the scheme be fully funded because everyone knows that the same problems that have occurred in WorkCare will occur under the proposed scheme. The Government was in such a haste to streamroll WorkCare through that the Premier had to give an assurance that the premiums would not rise above their present rate for the first ten years.

However, one will find that the prediction of the Insurance Council of Australia Ltd is correct in that after ten years one will have an accumulated deficit under WorkCare of $8000 million, which will make the present deficit in this area pale by comparison. Let us ensure that this proposed scheme is fully funded.

Let us ensure that the common law right is retained, with restrictions. The National Party asks the Government to examine the proposal to establish a threshold system where persons must establish whether they have serious injuries and also that the damages exceed $15 000. If they do not fall within the threshold they are out of the system. If one examines the cost of the current system, one realises that the major costs arise from the administration of the small claims, especially in the soft tissue area. That is the area that is bumping up the bills.

An honourable member from the Government side of the House spoke about the small number of people who receive Tattslotto-style payouts. The figure is between 1 per cent or 2 per cent; those cases are a minority. However, it is those large payouts that make headlines. They do not, alone, build up the $1·6 billion deficit. The major cost over the past four or five years has been the expansion of payouts, especially in the soft tissue area, and other injuries below the $15 000 threshold.

One should consider the proposal for a $650 excess. One should also examine a discount rate of around 5 per cent. Various figures have been mooted in this area but the actuaries suggest that, with the current rate of inflation, interest rates and so on, a 5 per cent discount rate would be appropriate.

Interest should not be payable on awards and there should be a limitation on sums included for domestic help. Legal costs are another area that is obviously important under any scheme. Costs should be paid by the litigant in cases where the injury is found not to be serious. Two criteria should be examined; firstly, the establishment that it is a serious injury and, secondly, that the costs should be paid by each party when damages do not exceed $15 000.

The National Party supports the provision of loans of $20 000 pending a court decision. Obviously people find themselves in financial difficulty when they apply through the common law system if they have no cash advance. They have to keep themselves afloat, feed their families and so on. Honourable members are aware of the delays in the court system.

The National Party believes there should be provision for "no-fault" benefits. The whole system proposed by the Government is predicated on the fact that everyone is equal. That is inequitable. In many cases, people who cause accidents should be penalised. Accidents can be caused by intoxicated drivers, motorists driving at excessive speeds or motorists driving through red lights. Obviously they should not receive the same benefits as the innocent parties involved in such accidents.

One should also examine loss of income. The period proposed in the Bill is eighteen months. The National Party proposes that this should be extended to two years and that there should be a ceiling of $25 000.

The National Party proposes the deletion of impairment lump sum and annuity and loss of earnings weekly benefit and the deletion of the death benefit for children. There should also be a limitation on the payment of medical expenses to five years.

One area where the Government has not redressed the problems—and there are numerous such areas—is its inability to make suitable financial arrangements with the Commonwealth Government. If the third-party insurance payments and WorkCare awards did not exist, people would be obtaining benefits from the Commonwealth Government in the form of invalid pensions or unemployment benefits.

The mistake the Government made with WorkCare was that it was in such a rush to steamroll through the legislation while it temporarily had the numbers prior to the Nunawading Province by-election that it made no financial arrangements with the Federal Government. Victoria is saving the Federal Government millions of dollars by picking up its responsibilities. The State should have been substantially compensated.

The same can be said for the current proposed legislation. The Government is trying to steam ahead, but it should be negotiating with the Federal Government for compensation for the substantial benefits the Commonwealth Government does not have to pay out.

The Government should examine a number of points raised by the National Party. The proposed legislation provides for equivalent benefits to be paid to de facto spouses as for legal spouses. The Government should examine whether that should be the case.

Clause 6 deals with the loss of earnings. With respect to sub-clause (2) (*b*) one needs to take into account the case where an injured person is a working partner. If that is the case,

the removal of that person from the partnership may have a serious effect on the business and make it totally inoperable.

Sub-clause (2) (*g*) concerns rents or dividends. This paragraph requires amendment to cover the situation where income is derived by way of rent or dividend from a family trust or corporate entity. Many family farms and businesses are tied up with family trusts and are not bound by the normal income restrictions. The proposed legislation does not provide for them in a assessment of a person's pre-injury earnings. This is a shortfall in the Bill and the Government should reconsider the matter as it disadvantages many farming families in particular.

Clause 15, which deals with the board of management, does not provide for a nominee with business expertise among the four Ministerial nominees. The National Party would like to ensure that at least one of the nominees has a business background to ensure that the board of management has the appropriate expertise.

Clause 23, which deals with the proposed Road Safety Board, provides an inadequate definition. No detail is provided of its powers or purposes.

Clause 27 (3) (*g*) dealing with the Transport Accident Fund is open to Government abuse, especially a Government that is tight for cash. If the Government gets the scheme up and running at a profit, one might see funds diverted and used for other purposes.

Clause 38 deals with journey accidents under WorkCare. As I said, this could lead to vastly different payouts and levels of compensation for identical injuries. For instance, a person may receive only $6500 under the proposed scheme but $48 000 under WorkCare. I do not know what the Trades Hall Council is doing. I imagine the Minister for Public Works, who is at the table, would have been briefed by the Trades Hall Council and would be concerned about the loss of those benefits with the provisions of this proposed legislation taking precedence over payments under WorkCare for accidents that occur when a person is travelling to or from work.

Honourable members have received little information from the Government on the proposed amendments to the Bill. The Leader of the National Party was especially critical that the amendments the Government had intended to provide have not surfaced. For a week and a half the National Party has been told that it would be given the amendments. The Treasurer did not know of the amendments. Perhaps he is still waiting for riding instructions from the Premier, officers in the commission, the Trades Hall Council or whomever.

My final point concerns multi-insurer underwriting. A number of insurance companies are involved as underwriters for the old third-party insurance schemes.

The stage was reached where premiums went through the roof and, because no profits were being made, private insurance companies dropped out of that sphere. The Government should examine this aspect of the proposed legislation to enable private insurance companies to return to this field, as was suggested in the Cooney report on WorkCare. That report recommended that the Accident Compensation Commission should not be the solitary provider but that private insurers should also be involved in this area.

In its present form the Bill will not pass. The Government knows that the Bill will not pass and it should take the responsible view and answer the general and widespread criticisms of the Bill by both the conservative parties in this place and the community generally to ensure that any proposed legislation dealing with accident insurance is of real benefit to all Victorians. The Government should act to get out of the financial quagmire that has enveloped accident compensation insurance over recent years.

Mr SHEEHAN (Ballarat South)—I join my colleagues in the Labor Party in support of the Bill. It contains new proposals on compensation that will assist accident victims in Victoria. It is difficult to listen to the contributions of members of the Opposition and the

National Party without reaching the conclusion that the substance of those contributions is only criticism.

Although one can argue that criticism is a role of an Opposition, one can argue also that there is a need for an Opposition to put a worthwhile alternative to whatever is being proposed by the Government of which an Opposition is critical. In some instances during the debate I suppose that has happened; however, the main thrust has been basic criticism without positive suggestions on an issue that some honourable members indicated earlier should be dealt with on a non-partisan basis. I add that those same honourable members have then continued to be completely critical of what is being proposed by the Government. They have taken a hypocritical approach on the issue.

One does not have to look too far into the question of traffic accident compensation to understand that the present system is in a bad state. I have been a member of Parliament for the past four years and it has been obvious to me that administration of traffic accident compensation is a nightmare. It is even worse from the point of view of social responsibility to individuals. I have been approached by many people who have needed assistance just to gain access to the Motor Accidents Board and, although I do not intend to be excessively critical of officers of the board in making that comment, it highlights the fact that the administration of the current system is so bogged down that it is almost ineffective.

Recently a person who had a minor accident which nevertheless incurred costs of $75 filled out a claim form and it was two months before that transaction was completed. It is ridiculous that a claim for such a small amount of money should take such a long time to be finalized. Of course, with larger amounts the system becomes even more difficult to administer effectively.

Since an accident compensation scheme was introduced there has been a significant increase in the number of vehicles on the road. In 1941 it was estimated that there was one vehicle for every eight persons in Victoria; in 1986 it is estimated that there is one vehicle for every two persons. Obviously, the potential risk of accidents has increased significantly also, despite the greater mechanical efficiency of cars and the changes that have been made to road systems, and so on, over that period. The number of reports of accidents has increased and surveys have shown that the number of claims for injuries received in accidents has increased at an even faster rate. As a result, the system has been put under great strain.

Generally, it is agreed that there should be some reform of the traffic accident compensation system. It is agreed also that benefits should be paid to compensate for specific injuries that occur as a result of accidents. The costs of the current system of compensation have become intolerable. The present insurance premium, according to the Third-Party Insurance Premiums Committee, should be increased by approximately 176 per cent, that is, from $181 or thereabouts to between $400 and $500 a year. It is a heavy burden both on the community and on individuals paying insurance premiums.

Common law rights have been mentioned several times during the debate and it occurs to me that those who support the retention of common law rights are not necessarily expressing the view that the people who are injured will benefit by the retention of common law rights but that the legal system will benefit. I point out that many people in the legal fraternity do not support the Law Institute of Victoria or the Opposition on their arguments that common law rights should be retained. I refer honourable members to the *Herald* of 30 August 1986 which reported that the Dean of the University of Melbourne's Law School, Professor Luntz stated that:

> The expensive court actions to prove who was at fault in accidents was "totally meaningless." Those who were injured had the same need for compensation regardless of whose fault the accident was.

That is a very important point. It is easier to discuss common law rights and to forget the real purpose of a compensation scheme—namely, compensation for those who are injured. The report continued:

He estimated that more than 50 per cent of car accident victims did not get compensation through common law, and more than two-thirds did not get full compensation.

Prof. Luntz said many people who ended up with satisfactory payouts from the courts later squandered their investment, invested it unwisely or were defrauded of it.

Within the legal fraternity there is a deal of disputation about the value of common law rights in an accident compensation system. Over the past five years it has been estimated that the cost of premiums has increased 370 per cent and when one considers what Professor Luntz stated and what the actual increases have been over a particular period, the suggestion that common law rights should be retained is not feasible. I make the point that the compensation system should be directed towards those who are injured and not towards people in the professional field who may or may not gain from it.

I noted an article reported in the *Herald* that said that the medical world has lent its support to the legal fraternity. That does justice to neither.

One point that has been made clear during the debate is that at present no penalty is applied to the person who is negligent. The Opposition has not clarified how penalties are to be imposed if negligence has been attributed to a person who was drunk, excessively speeding, ignoring red lights or whatever. It has been suggested that this should be decided at the premium level.

I do not believe that is the important aspect when considering compensation because whether or not one is negligent, if one is injured in a road accident, the injury should be of paramount importance. This would apply especially in the case that involves hospitalization, continued medical treatment or impairment benefits.

This need is most obvious if the injured person has a family and must meet weekly or monthly commitments. Why should the family be penalised even if that person was negligent? Under the new system payments will be made according to need.

I listened intently to the comments made by the previous speaker about impairment. The honourable member for Benalla indicated that the measure did not provide impairment benefits for a person involved in an accident. He did not comment on the weekly benefit provided with some compensation. In his second-reading speech the Treasurer stated that impairment benefits were one of the major aspects of discussion and that some benefits would amount to between $37 000 and $87 000. This will be made in addition to the payment of up to 85 per cent of the salary the injured person received prior to the road accident.

Therefore, the proposed impairment benefits are more equitable than payments under the present system. Currently people can wait for many years before having their cases finalised by a court. In May 1986 the number of court cases resulting from road accidents that still had to be heard had been estimated at approximately 70 000. Those cases will still have to be heard even if and when the present system is set in place. For a while the two schemes will run together. It is intolerable that approximately 70 000 people have not yet received compensation.

Mr Perrin—What are you going to do about it?

Mr SHEEHAN—If the honourable member for Bulleen had read the Treasurer's second-reading speech he would understand the new proposal but he is probably not really interested in it. Members of the Opposition have threatened that the Government will be forced to the polls on this issue. In recent weeks they seem to have backed down on that point, which shows the lack of depth in some of their arguments. In recent days the major newspapers have reported that that appears to be the major thrust of the Opposition's argument.

It is worth repeating the words of the honourable member for Malvern because of their silliness. He said that the Upper House will have the final say on the proposal. He supports the idea of the issue going to the polls. If this issue was made the subject of a poll, the

Liberal Party would be disadvantaged once the people considered the premiums which will be payable under the present system.

Mr Simpson—$500!

Mr SHEEHAN—Exactly; $500 a person, if the present system is to be retained!

One of the major disadvantages of the present system is that it encourages a litigation mentality rather than a compensation mentality. The question often asked by individuals who have been involved in a road accident is, "How much can I get out of this road accident?" This is often the case with those who are not severely injured but who see the opportunity of making a windfall through the legal system. I am aware of a number of cases like that; however, I also recognise that there are many legitimate cases, examples of which have been presented to the House tonight.

I know of instances in which people who have received a large amount of money as compensation for an injury sustained in a road accident subsequently show no strain or stress from the supposed injury. That does not augur well for the present system because the costs subsequently increase, the system is bastardised and compensation is taken out of its proper context.

The proposed system is worthy of more serious consideration and debate than that which has taken place to date. It is a shame that some members of the Opposition have threatened to block the proposed legislation or make major amendments to it in another place. For the first time Victoria will have a single authority to examine compensation and the prevention of accidents. It will keep a watchful eye over this area.

The measure is a step forward that will benefit the whole community and reduce costs. The new system will be better and based on need.

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster)—Unlike the honourable member for Ballarat South, I stand for the maintenance of the common law rights of the little man. The Bill is yet another betrayal of the little man. He was betrayed by WorkCare and he is now being betrayed under the provisions of this scheme. What hope does the little man have against the neglect of other people unless he has someone to look after him?

Whatever one may say about lawyers—and I am not one of their greatest supporters—at least they fight for their clients. They will ensure that, no matter how big or powerful other people may be, the interests of their clients are served. I am not always in sympathy with the Law Institute of Victoria, but I can understand its anxiety about this totalitarian measure that will do away with the legal profession.

Savage inroads have been made into the work of the legal profession by the introduction of WorkCare and this scheme represents further major inroads into that work because of its attempts to do away with a lawyer's right to represent the worker, that is, the little guy.

Tonight on television some honourable members saw a fellow who has had his whole life ruined by a motor car accident. He has been awarded approximately $900 000 in compensation. Which one of us would exchange his lifestyle for the lifestyle of that man who is physically and emotionally ruined because of a serious motor car accident? He indicated that $1 million would not compensate for what he has gone through in losing vital parts of the body that no man in this place would want to lose.

There is proof in this country that the common law system does work. It works in Queensland where that State's insurance fund is entirely solvent. Its premiums are the second lowest in the Commonwealth and it also has a large private enterprise component.

Through the FAI Insurance Group, the greatest private enterprise insurance entrepreneur in this country, Mr Lawrence Adler, has captured one-third of the third-party insurance market in Queensland.

Mr Gavin—Do you have shares in the company?

Mr WILLIAMS—I wish I did. The value of shares in that company has increased by many thousands of percentage points because of the brilliance of Lawrence Adler and his ability to provide low cost insurance to the community.

How does he do it? He does it through his ability to earn money on the stock exchange. The investment ability of the Victorian State Insurance Office is hamstrung as it is restricted to investing in deadweight Commonwealth bonds, bailing out the State Development Fund and topping up State enterprises through leverage financing.

The State Insurance Office is involved in many activities that benefit the Labor Government but which do nothing to benefit the motorist by bringing about a decrease in premiums. I urge the Government to re-examine the situation in Queensland, in which both the Liberal and National parties are interested. We want freedom for the individual and protection of the individual and, above all, we want to get the dead hand of socialism out of the insurance system of this State.

The no-fault system has proved to be totally ineffective in identifying and rejecting fraudulent claims. I have seen figures indicating that one in three claims that go to the Motor Accidents Board are fraudulent. As some of the earlier speakers have pointed out, a survey has indicated that the number of whiplash claims in Victoria is ten times greater than the number of claims in New Zealand, which has a similar motor vehicle population.

It is interesting that whiplash claims are mainly concentrated in the western suburbs. Why should the people in the western suburbs have so many more claims for whiplash injuries than any other area? I have no intention of being racist, but you, Mr Deputy Speaker, would have a shrewd idea of why that is the case.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! I am afraid I do not, and that statement is a reflection on the Chair as I represent part of the western suburbs.

Mr WILLIAMS—If any honourable member telephoned the Motor Accidents Board, he would find out a few home truths about the Mr Bigs who are involved. You, Mr Deputy Speaker, would be reading my mind about who might be engaged in organising spurious claims in this field.

I regret that the community is still relatively uninformed about the proposed legislation. Despite the advertising by the Law Institute of Victoria and the Government, 75 per cent of the public still do not know what this measure is about. That was proved by a public opinion poll paid for by the Law Institute.

Approximately 15 per cent of the community support the Bill, and I presume they are mainly Labor voters. That is not a happy situation for the Cain Government. There is something radically wrong if the Government has expended $600 000 of taxpayers' money and has convinced only 15 per cent of the community that the Bill should be supported.

Other interesting figures provided in the poll are that the overwhelming majority of motorists believe motor car premiums are high, possibly too high. That is the major worry for the two contesting parties in putting up the best scheme.

The Liberal Party has consulted with the best actuaries in Victoria, who have assured the party that its scheme is workable with approximately the same premiums as the scheme put forward by the Government. Both parties are gambling. I am not a gambling man, but I have great trust in the actuaries who are advising the Liberal Party. I believe the Cain Government will be extremely disappointed when it discovers that the Opposition can put forward a scheme to the people of Victoria that will keep premiums at a reasonable level. Queensland is the proof; that State has a totally funded system and has the second lowest premiums in the Commonwealth.

It is interesting to note that 45 per cent of motorists blame fraudulent and exaggerated claims for the high third-party premiums. In all seriousness, this is why I would applaud any moves by the Government to give resources to the Motor Accidents Board, to the State Insurance Office, to the Police Force and to any other investigating agency to crack

down on fraudulent motor vehicle claims. To some extent that is at the root of what my party is about.

The Liberal Party believes it is possible with adequate use of computers and with adequate investigation to materially reduce the number of fraudulent claims. Many of them are as imaginary as in repetitive strain injury claims. It is incredible that this complaint is more prevalent in Australia than in any other country in the world.

I do not know what the matter is with Australians; we are all such hypochondriacs that when we get a bump or are involved in some minor accident we think it is the end of the world and want to retire on $1 million. There are not enough million dollars available, someone must pay and it is the motorists who have to pay.

Some 11 per cent of motorists blame lump sum payments for the high premiums. As I said earlier, I would not outlaw all lump sum payments as regretfully some are necessary and I believe none of us would want to be in that situation but not every lump sum payment is justified. I warn honourable members that if the Government's measure is passed, lump sum payments of significant amounts for these unfortunate accident victims will not be available.

The community should realise that these massive lump sum payments are a minor charge on the compensation funds and their abolition will not make a significant difference to motor vehicle third-party premiums. This will not cut them in half or even reduce them by $50.

It is disappointing that despite all the legislation enacted to reduce motor accidents, and this Parliament has the proudest record of any Parliament in the world in bringing in seat belt legislation, breathalyser testing legislation and all the other legislation to help reduce the number of accidents on the roads, and despite the reduction in the number of accidents, there is no doubt that the number of claims per vehicle in Victoria has risen significantly, approximately 2·5 per cent a year overall.

The proportion of those claims that will lead to common law action is increasing sharply and I know this is a major worry for the Government. The Government ought to investigate why this is happening and whether there is greater community awareness of the right to claim and the more frequent incidence of ambulance-chasing—that word will be well-known to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and to a number of honourable members present. When I remind you of this it is in terms of praise because you and I have lived a bit longer on this earth than many of the other over-idealistic people. We know that in the world we live in people are after a fast buck if they can get away with it.

As I said earlier, the legal profession, like most professions in this world, if it believes it can get away with a court action that will give it nice fees, will encourage people to launch those actions. I repeat what I said earlier, I am appalled about the fraud and the exaggerated claims that are made; they must be cut back. We cannot continue with a situation where the total number of common law claims a head of Victorians has been increasing by 8·5 per cent per annum. No insurance fund can endure a rate of increase such as that. An even greater worry is that the cost of settling these claims has increased even more sharply.

I am astonished to learn that the rate of increase in the settlement of claims in recent years is at the astronomical rate of 25 per cent per annum. This is three times the average rate of inflation. It is no wonder that the State Insurance Office is now $2500 million in the red with our population of approximately 4 million people.

I can understand the debt of the State Insurance Office, which is forced to undertake third-party insurance at such a grossly uneconomical premium. Its liabilities are at least twice its assets and the total income of third-party insurance premiums is approximately $500 million a year of which 70 per cent comes from premiums and only 30 per cent from earnings on investments.

This figure is totally inadequate and instead of resorting to these socialist measures, the Government would be wiser to take a leaf from the book of the smart entrepreneurs in this country who have been earning significant income from reserve funds entrusted to their charge through insurance firms.

With claims approaching $600 million a year, there is no way that any community can fund losses of $100 million a year on its insurance. These must by met be premiums or, of course, from taxes. As previous speakers have mentioned, it is important that the Government holds down the level of claims. I have every sympathy for it in its endeavouring to reduce the number of minor injuries and this is why it ought to look favourably on amendments which will be suggested by the Opposition.

I understand that we shall be suggesting a figure of approximately $15 000 as the minimum common law threshold limit. That should do away with most of these soft flesh injuries—I do not want to rubbish everybody but many of these are imaginary injuries. Much of the research undertaken by the Motor Accidents Board suggests that when people get into a motor vehicle and then have a minor accident they tend to become hypochondriacs and put in extravagant claims for sprains, minor neck problems and so forth. The State Insurance Office, knowing the heavy cost of going to law, time and again settles these claims out of court. This puts a great strain on the fund. There is no doubt that a major growth in costs over the past four or five years have been caused by these negotiated claims, which have increased by a massive 33 per cent.

I shall have a shot at the High Court on this matter as I believe the High Court decision permitting claims against future loss of earnings to be taken into account has been a factor in this situation. If one is foolish enough to climb on to a roof, then fall and break one's spine or be injured in some other way and then have permanent injury, unless one has taken out a private insurance policy there is no way that one will be able to be compensated at the level of the present high salaries.

You, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I know that our salaries are not high salaries and that members of Parliament probably get salaries that are comparable with minor clerks in public office. You, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I well know as parents of school teachers that we do not get much more than our children who are school teachers.

Why should a person—it does not matter how important that person is in the community or how highly paid that person is—get $1 million so that that person can live the life of Riley at the community's expense for the rest of his or her life because of a major injury incurred in a motor vehicle?

If the person had not been injured in a motor car accident he would not be in the fortunate position of obtaining this extravagant amount of money and would be forced to live off his private savings, the charity of his relatives, or social welfare benefits.

Honourable members on the Government side have grown quiet and they have now realised that members of the Liberal Party are not fools and I will lay London to a brick that if the Government wants to have an election on this issue it will be slaughtered.

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen)—This is an important Bill and I have some knowledge of its implications because I have been involved in preparing the Liberal Party's Motorcare policy in conjunction with the honourable member for Brighton. I congratulate the honourable member for Brighton for his detailed speech to the House. The honourable member has put a clear case to the people of what should happen to third-party insurance. I congratulate the honourable member because he has done an enormous amount of work in the preparation of his reply to the motion.

Prior to being elected as a member of Parliament, I had some six years' experience in the insurance industry as an accountant with an insurance company, so I have some understanding of the principles involved in insurance, be they third-party insurance or any other form of insurance. I consider I am in a unique position in that sense to put forward a case involving accident compensation.

The amendments that will be introduced by the Liberal Party and the National Party are worthy of support. They are comprehensive. An enormous amount of work has gone into producing those amendments and when moved at the appropriate stage the community will acknowledge that the Liberal Party has put considerable work into its consideration of this matter.

It is extremely important to examine the history of third-party insurance as it affects the proposed legislation. I refer, of course, to the losses incurred by the State Insurance Office, which are enormous, and are a major blunder by the Labor Government. The Opposition estimates that by June 1986 the accumulated losses that will be accepted by the Auditor-General will be approximately $2500 million on compulsory third-party insurance alone. The Labor Party cannot be proud of that and it is an illustration of the monumental incompetence of the Government.

I shall not go over the areas covered by the honourable member for Brighton, but research conducted by the Opposition and those people who are prepared to help has indicated that a substantial amount of that $2500 million of accumulated losses has occurred during the period the Labor Government has been in office.

The annual reports of the Auditor-General have indicated that in 1981 the third-party insurance loss was $98 million; in 1982 the loss was $300 million; in 1983 the loss was $156 million; in 1984 it was $560 million; and in 1985, on the latest figures available, the loss was $671 million. That is not a proud record for any Government, especially a Government that is proposing supposed reform.

Considerable debate has ensued over the changing accounting practices adopted by the Government. There are no accepted accounting standards in this public sector area, which is unfortunate, because there should be a standard form of reporting. At present the Opposition is prepared to accept the Auditor-General's figures because it believes he has a better understanding of the debts and liabilities of the State Insurance Office. Studies have been undertaken that indicate the outstanding losses are underestimated. The potential exists for that total loss of $2500 million to be more than the public suspects.

The incidence of fraud has been a feature of the third-party insurance scheme during the past few years. The amendments proposed by the Opposition will have the effect of cutting out most of the areas of fraud, if not all those areas, because the soft tissue claims and other minor claims will be stopped and those amendments will greatly reduce fraud and mismanagement.

The latest report from the Motor Accidents Board for the year ended 30 June 1985 refers to over-servicing and fraud. On page 6 of the report the board makes the point that the Fraud Squad has been used to combat fraud that has occurred in the existing third-party insurance scheme. It is an indication of the problems that are recurring in the system with fraud and over-servicing and is a reflection on the Labor Government. I recommend that honourable members read the Motor Accidents Board report for 30 June 1985.

An article in the *Herald* of 3 June 1986 reported the case of Mohmaed Ali Chaouk, an accident-prone ex-wrestler who had made four motor accident claims. He was a bouncer at one of the local clubs. The *Herald* article reports that in his latest claim he was supposedly injured in an accident and it was clearly proved to the court's satisfaction that the accident was a fraud. This sort of thing is happening throughout the system. Many people believe it is open slather on the Motor Accidents Board. One puts in a claim and it is paid. It is unfortunate that the Fraud Squad have had to be involved in this area, but that appears to be the only method of controlling fraud and over-servicing in this system.

The third area that I would like to cover, without going over the areas covered by the honourable member for Brighton, concerns the fact that the Government has been very misleading with the figures it has put out.

In accordance with Sessional Orders, the debate was interrupted.

ADJOURNMENT

Gardenvale bus services—Smoky quartz mining claim—Trade exhibition in Jiangsu Province—Portland and District Hospital Board of Management—Mineral reserve basins scheme—Smog-alert days—Vocational training on Mornington Peninsula

The SPEAKER—Order! The time appointed by Sessional Orders for me to interrupt the business of the House has now arrived. The question is that the House do now adjourn.

Mr TANNER (Caulfield)—I raise with the Minister for Transport a matter which is of grave concern to many people in the Gardenvale area of the Caulfield electorate.

The Minister for Transport would be aware that in that area, bus routes 601, 605 and 630 converge. The particular problem in relation to these three bus routes concerns the turning curcuits of bus routes 601 and 605. These latter bus routes are no longer terminating their services at North Road but are terminating their services at Gardenvale Road in Gardenvale. They are not, as previously suggested by the Metropolitan Transit Authority, using a turning circuit of Gardenvale Road, Nepean Highway and North Road but are travelling through the side streets of Gardenvale, using Lantana Road and Elster Avenue, Magnolia Road in relation to bus route 605, and Gardenia Road in relation to bus route 601.

The residents in the area and particularly in those streets are concerned at the heavy increase in traffic in their side streets and are concerned about the noise and the danger to pedestrians, particularly children in the area, and also about the rubbish that is turned out of the buses onto the residents' nature strips, particularly from the buses on route 601.

The Minister previously notified me, in response to my representations to him on this matter, that the situation was to be rectified. He may recall that I have been making personal representations for a year and for quite some longer time to his predecessor.

On 20 January this year, the Minister for Transport advised me that:

> The Metropolitan Transit Authority has informed me that following a review of Gardenvale Bus Services, a new turning circuit using Gardenvale Road, Nepean Highway and North Road will be introduced. This will eliminate the need for buses to stand in Gardenvale Road.

He further advised me on 19 May this year that:

> The Metropolitan Transit Authority has informed me that following a review of Gardenvale Bus Services, it is expected that a new turning circuit using Gardenvale Road, Nepean Highway and North Road will be introduced later this year. This will eliminate the need for buses on routes 601 and 605 to use the stop in Gardenvale Road at Kooyong Road.

Yet, it is now September and no such change has eventuated. Advice from the Metropolitan Transit Authority is that no such change is envisaged this year, if at all, the reason being advanced that there would need to be an increase in staff on bus route 601.

The situation is intolerable for the residents of Gardenvale. There is a need for the turning circuit to be introduced as promised by the Minister onto the route along Gardenvale Road, Nepean Highway and North Road, not only to remove the nuisance to residents of the side streets in Gardenvale but also to reintroduce city bus services from the corner of North and Kooyong roads. It is a pity that honourable members from the Government benches are prepared to laugh and interject, and apparently to deprive Gardenvale residents of an improvement in public transport in their area.

The Minister has previously had representations from me on the need to preserve bus route 601 and not remove it through truncating of its service into the city and also for the need to improve the punctuality and service on bus route 601.

Tonight I appeal to the Minister to live up to his promises to the residents of the Gardenvale area and to me to introduce the new turning circuit for these bus routes.

Mr W. D. McGRATH (Lowan)—I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources relating to a smoky quartz mining claim in the Mooralla area south of Balmoral.

I understand that miners' rights claims Nos 1399 and 1400 have been lodged by individuals with the department and it appears from that lodging that they have some commercial development ideas for this smoky quartz, which is a crystal. If it has any commercial advantage, it is probably as a crystal for radio receivers, but there is some question whether the quartz is good enough for that industry.

Approximately 50 recreational fossickers visit this area regularly to mine for the stone. The work is arduous as the miners dig with hand tools, but they enjoy the recreation and fossicking for the smoky quartz, which is an extremely attractive gemstone when it is cleaned and polished.

The lapidary clubs from various areas of Victoria have taken up this matter with the Minister and have also registered their concerns with the honourable member for Western Province in another place, Mr Roger Hallam, and me.

We have given our support to those recreational fossickers. Between 50 and 100 members of various lapidary clubs have a direct interest in this small but important smoky quartz area. Smoky quartz is mined in a resource area of four or five acres tucked away amongst Crown land near Balmoral.

I ask the Minister to do all in his power to ensure that recreational fossickers retain the right to go into that area, mine the quartz and enjoy their recreation rather than having the area lost to a commercial enterprise. Unless the Minister makes it difficult for commercial interest under those miners' rights claims, lapidary club members will lose the advantage of mining the area.

Mr GAVIN (Coburg)—I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources and refer to the recent successful trade exhibition held in Jiangsu Province, China, and I congratulate the Minister on the successful role he played.

Together with ten of my colleagues who were ably led by the honourable member for Templestowe Province in another place, Mr Michael Arnold—and we paid our own way—I visited Jiangsu Province to promote trade with the Chinese and to extend friendship and fellowship. If we are to be successful in trading with the Chinese people, we must be successful in this friendship and fellowship area.

I believe we have been outstandingly successful. The Chinese relate extremely well to Australians and to Labor Party representatives because they remember Mr Gough Whitlam, who visited China in 1971 before he became Prime Minister, and recall the role he played in recognising that country when he became Prime Minister.

The Chinese made us proud to be members of the Labor Party and continually congratulated us on Gough Whitlam's role and on the roles of the Deputy Premier, the Premier and the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, who visited China this year.

Therefore, they really praised and toasted all four of the people I have mentioned. Consequently, our task was made that much easier because of the role played by other people such as the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the like.

The Chinese provided every hospitality that they could to our delegation and we were received by very senior Chinese people from all levels of government. Therefore, I believe our delegation has facilitated entry into the Chinese market for all enterprise. The 23 Victorian companies that participated in the display should be congratulated because their efforts will bear fruit in the form of contracts and further business opportunities.

Everyone in Australia was aware of our most serious economic problem, that is, the balance of payments. The only way in which that problem can be resolved is by exporting more, and this can be done only by private enterprise.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr GAVIN—The role played by the Deputy Premier in hosting this great display—

The SPEAKER—Order! It is impossible for the record to be accurately covered with the continuous barrage of interjections. I ask the honourable member for Coburg to perhaps reduce the rate of his speaking because that also makes it difficult for the record.

Mr GAVIN—I congratulate the Deputy Premier on the role he played in holding this great display in Jiangsu Province and applaud the efforts of the 23 Victorian companies that participated very successfully in this great display.

I believe those 23 companies will do very well in the future, and all other companies that move in on the work that has been done by those 23 companies will also do very well.

However, it is up to private enterprise to go out and do the work. Because the Australian dollar is so low, it is easy to export if one wishes to do so.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member has 1 minute.

Order! I remind the honourable member for Caulfield that he was heard in silence.

Mr GAVIN—I believe Victoria's trade with China will improve tremendously within the next few years. I put it to the Deputy Premier that he should consider establishing other sister Province relationships. There are other countries in which we could do very much what we have done in this instance. For example, such a sister Province relationship could be established with Istanbul, Turkey; the Ukraine, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and one of the three Java Provinces, all of which have a population of more than 20 million.

I also call on the Deputy Premier to consider other measures that could be taken to encourage other companies to export throughout the world.

Mr CROZIER (Portland)—I intended to direct my remarks to the Premier, but I note he is no longer in the Chamber; therefore, unless somebody can dig him out of his secret cubbyhole, I shall have to direct my remarks to the Deputy Premier who, I hope, will convey my observations to the Premier.

The matter to which I refer is of very real concern to me. My colleague, the Honourable Bruce Chamberlain and I and many of our constituents have been quite outraged by an article that appeared in the *Portland Observer* of Friday last that revealed that a highly respected and long-serving member of the Portland and District Hospital Board of Management, Mr Ern Saunders, would not be reappointed after his present term expires, for reasons which one can only conclude are blatantly political.

Mr Saunders has served in this capacity for some 25 years, including three years as president of the board of management. His leadership, his dedication and his achievement during this long period of exemplary service have been outstanding.

On 28 August, a fellow board member and leading Portland surgeon, Mr Bill Maling, was informed by an official source that Mr Saunders was to be dropped from the board, in spite of his willingness to continue, apparently because the local ALP junta wanted him out of the road.

If the Premier were in the Chamber he would recall, or he might recall, that on the same day, Mr Maling wrote to him informing him of this disgraceful situation and asking him to intercede.

As it is a matter of considerable local interest, this sordid episode rated front page coverage in the local paper under the headline, "Saunders fate sealed by ALP—Maling". The article quotes part of Mr Maling's letter. I inform the House and I would remind the Premier, if he were here, of this passage in the article:

"He (Mr Saunders) is the man, in my lifetime in Portland, some 26 years, who has done more for Portland Hospital than any other."

With these impeccable credentials, it is incomprehensible that Mr Ern Saunders would not rate automatic reappointment in any selection process which was based on merit especially when, as in this case, a secret poll of ward members has recently reaffirmed the support that he obviously continues to enjoy among his peers.

Hospital boards are supposed to be free from political manipulation. Unfortunately, this is not the first example of politically motivated interference in the selection of hospital boards since this Government took office—and I do not suppose it will be the last.

However, it would have to rank among the most notorious and reflects no credit on the Premier, the Government and, in particular, the cadaverous Minister for Health who, not for nothing, is known as the undertaker. As this shoddy manoeuvre is now exposed, I suggest to the Premier that the interests of his Government and the community of Portland are in rear conjunction and I call on the Premier to reinstate Mr Saunders as a member of the board of management of the Portland and District Hospital where, by reputation, achievement and popular demand, he properly belongs.

Mr STEGGALL (Swan Hill)—I raise a matter with the Minister for Water Resources and, for the first time in quite a while, I introduce the subject of the mineral reserve basins scheme of which the Minister and many other honourable members in this Chamber are well aware because of the battle that has been waged for the past few years.

The Minister will be aware, since the Ministerial Council report on the decline in importance of the mineral reserve basins scheme and the salinity operations of the Murray–Darling system, of the total opposition to the scheme in the area and the long court case that has been fought and is still on appeal.

Almost twelve months ago, the Minister announced that because of a build-up of aluminium hydroxide in the bores of the mineral reserve basins that all works would stop until a solution to that problem was found.

Could the Minister inform the Parliament if any advances have been made and whether the problem of the chemical build-up in the recycled bores has been solved? Without the resolution of that problem, the scheme has no future.

I also ask the Minister to comment on the position he and his Government will take if this difficult problem of the chemical build-up is unable to be resolved. Will he abandon the scheme and so free the Victorian side of the River Murray from the curse of the mineral reserve basins scheme so that the people living in that area can get on with the long fight against salinity? It is my belief that the only impediment to a totally cooperative effort in the battle against salinity on the Victorian side of the Murray–Darling basin is the mineral reserve basins scheme.

The Minister is well aware that it is of little, if any, benefit to the Murray area and virtually of no benefit at all to South Australia. There are many other projects in this State and other States, particularly South Australia and New South Wales, which operate on a cooperative basis through the River Murray Waters Agreement, the River Murray Commission, this State and the Government. I hope future Governments will be prepared to cooperate with one another with technical skills and manpower.

The salinity task force has been approached by me and many other people in the Swan Hill electorate, including the local Australian Labor Party branch. We have had no response from the Premier, the Minister or the task force on the future of the mineral reserve basins scheme.

I stress to the Minister that this single operation is holding up the whole thrust of the Government's policy and its promise of providing $8 million every year in extra money over the next four years. As the Government is so far behind in that commitment that it is becoming a joke, I ask the Minister how the research for the recycling bores is proceeding

on the mineral reserves. Will he abandon the scheme if that is not able to be achieved so that we can get on with the battle in front of us?

Mr POPE (Monbulk)—I direct a matter to the attention of the Minister who is the representative of the Minister for Health in this place. I specifically raise the issue of smog-alert days. For a number of years in Victoria there has been community input and interest in the declaration of fire-ban days, and it is beyond my belief that the same interest is not shown in the declaration by the Environment Protection Authority of smog-alert days.

In my electorate and many electorates within the metropolitan area there are many sufferers of respiratory complaints, such as asthma and emphysema. The strong photochemical particles and smog in Melbourne are of significant danger to people with respiratory problems on days of high smog alert.

The EPA has declared approximately 35 to 40 days a year as days of high smog alert. It notifies all media outlets on the afternoon before a day of smog alert and this is followed up with a confirmation the next morning. Unfortunately, response by media outlets has been poor, to say the least. My understanding is that radio stations that have given the declarations a fair amount of play are 3MP and Fox FM and the only television station that gives any coverage of smog alerts is ATV Channel 10. With the daily newspapers the *Age* is extremely diligent in producing a notification every day that a smog alert is declared, and the *Sun* tries to do the same with a little less diligence.

There are model guidelines designed to try to alleviate some of the problems within various local authority areas, but unfortunately not many councils have actually taken up the model guidelines and placed them in by-laws. The councils that already have such by-laws include Brighton and Malvern, with the Malvern City Council offering the best of the present model that has been adopted, and Richmond and Ringwood. Three councils have adopted by-laws which have yet to be proclaimed. They are Box Hill, Mordialloc and Footscray city councils.

Other councils are considering the matter or have some by-law prohibiting burning off. However, given that there are 52 councils, there is little response from that local authority area.

Neither do the statutory authorities go blameless. Indeed, a number of burn-offs have been undertaken in my electorate on days of smog alert, causing problems especially to young children with asthma on days when there is haze.

The answer is not only the introduction of unleaded petrol, although I hope that initiative of this Government will bear fruit in about ten years' time when all cars will operate on unleaded petrol, but also it is incumbent on all Victorians to consider car pooling and the use of public transport so that problems are not caused on days of smog alert.

In addition, there is the situation of burning off. As most Victorians use the weekends when there is little enforcement of burning off restrictions, the worst problems occur at weekends, especially in the springtime. That adds to the problem on smog alert days when danger is created not only for children but also for elderly persons with respiratory problems.

I ask the Minister to seek the dissemination of more information and the cooperation especially of the media so that we will have the Australian Broadcasting Corporation publicising the declaration not only of fire ban days but also of smog-alert days so that all Victorians will begin to understand the dangers attributable to smog.

Dr WELLS (Dromana)—I direct my remarks to the Minister for Education. Is the Minister aware that almost 100 000 people live south of Frankston on the Mornington Peninsula and that they have no effective vocational training, save perhaps a dozen apprenticeship positions at the Dromana Technical School? Is the Minister aware that youth unemployment in this area is running at approximately twice the national average? Is the Minister further aware that this Government's Youth Guarantee Scheme and the

Federal Government's Priority One Scheme have not resulted in one position for an unemployed youth in the Dromana electorate?

The TAFE college at Frankston is filled to overflowing and there is no effective public transport to take young people on the long journey from the southern peninsula to Frankston, even if there were places for them to train.

Will the Minister urgently investigate the matter and effectively establish a TAFE college in Rosebud that offers full vocational training to young people? Will he centre this college on the tourism and hospitality industries as a centre for the State of Victoria? They are areas of high priority. Will the Minister ensure that this college offers, in the near future, courses in office training, computer operation, retail sales and advertising?

We need specific action on this matter, not just a wringing of hands. I remind honourable members opposite that their Budget of about $11 billion has been only marginally reduced by their claims of reduced income. They are looking at only a few reductions and they have been crying poor for far too long. My request cannot be identified as irresponsible; it is one for which there is abundant support. It is time that the Government recognised that the Mornington Peninsula now has higher claims to assistance than the western suburbs; by comparison, the western suburbs are well off. The peninsula has been ignored for far too long. Let us hear no more about generalities. Let us be specific and do something for these young people now.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—Two matters were brought to my attention. The honourable member for Lowan referred to the Mooralla smoky quartz fields and the desire of amateur fossickers in the Horsham district to ensure that the area is not made available for commercial mining.

The honourable member has brought to my attention a recent article in the *Spectator* newspaper of Hamilton which refers to a submission presently before my department on this matter. I shall be pleased to make immediate inquiries with officers of the department and advise the honourable member further. I have certainly noted the concerns of the honourable member on behalf of his constituents.

The honourable member for Coburg, to his great credit, raised the significance of the current trade display to future opportunities for private enterprise in Victoria in meeting business opportunities that exist and will continue to arise in the People's Republic of China. It was a matter of some concern to honourable members on both sides of the House but the honourable member for Caulfield appeared to be opposed to initiatives of this sort.

I endorse the sentiments expressed by the honourable member for Coburg. I know of many private enterprises in the State that have publicly and privately given credit to Government initiatives in creating an environment and an opportunity for them to be able to endeavour to sell their goods and their services within the expanding Chinese market. I believe the trade display will be only the forerunner of many similar ventures in targeted industry areas developed in conjunction with the private sector in this State.

The honourable member suggested that there may well be other parts of the developing world in which my department could operate. Obviously we have limited resources and we are endeavouring to utilize those resources to their best effect for the benefit of the entire community. However, I am prepared to consider the specific suggestions that the honourable member has made.

There are a number of initiatives presently being undertaken in other parts of the world. For example, I refer to the fashion display that was developed in Singapore in conjunction with a number of fashion houses operating in Victoria. I refer also to the London wine exhibition, again developed in conjunction with many of the Victorian wine producers.

Those are just two examples of initiatives developed in association with the private sector, which again indicate the willingness and determination of the Government to work

with the private sector. Those two examples are again evidence of why the Victorian economy has been referred to by the Chamber of Manufactures and the *Australian Financial Review* as being the leading economy in Australia.

I again congratulate the honourable member for his initiatives and assure him that my department will continue its initiatives.

The other matter raised by the honourable member for Portland would be more appropriately dealt with by the Minister for Transport, who represents the Minister for Health in this House.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The honourable member for Caulfield revived his interest in public transport by raising the bus route number 601. I shall take his comments into account and respond to him.

The honourable member for Portland referred to appointments to the Portland and District Hospital board. As honourable members would be aware, appointments to hospital boards in Victoria are made by the Governor in Council and, in making those decisions on the advice of the Minister, a variety of matters are taken into account.

Over the past few years there has been a significant improvement in the range of people in the community who have been appointed to hospital boards. In many instances, members of Parliament or former members of Parliament have been appointed to hospital boards.

I am sure the bipartisan approach that has occurred over the past five years will continue, and my colleague, the Minister for Health, will continue to appoint excellent people as members of hospital boards to ensure that hospitals continue to run most effectively.

The honourable member for Monbulk raised the serious matter of the health effects of smog. Honourable members may not be aware that many Victorians, especially in the metropolitan area, suffer severely when smog is prevalent. I refer especially to people with asthma and emphysema whose lives are often significantly affected. I very much appreciate the honourable member's suggestion that there should be further efforts by the Environment Protection Authority and Health Department Victoria to make smog-alert days of greater importance in the community. I hope the media, which is able to get these simple and important messages across, takes more interest in the future.

Many measures are being taken to reduce smog levels. However, while they are at their present levels we need to assist those people with medical conditions that are severely affected by smog. I shall draw the honourable member's concerns to the attention of both the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands and the Minister for Health.

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Water Resources)—The honourable member for Swan Hill referred to the mineral reserve basins scheme and asked a series of questions. He certainly acknowledged—and I am pleased that he did—the work that the Government has undertaken in attacking salinity problems in Victoria and the initiatives it took in bringing together the Commonwealth and three State Governments at the Murray–Darling Basin Ministerial conference to discuss the salinity issue.

In particular he referred to the problem with aluminium hydroxide on pumps associated with the mineral reserve basins. At this stage I have received reports from the Rural Water Commission that useful work has been done in identifying the nature of the problem and ways of overcoming it. However, I have not received a final report.

As the honourable member well knows—as he mentioned in his remarks—the matter is the subject of Supreme Court action and, at present, is the subject of appeal before that court. I do not believe it is prudent to make comments on the other issues as it may prejudice that hearing.

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The honourable member for Dromana raised problems confronting 100 000 people on the Mornington Peninsula and especially the

vocational needs of young people in that area. The provision of TAFE on the Mornington Peninsula, especially the southern part, is being addressed by the office of the TAFE Board. The board has approved the acquisition of land at Rosebud for a campus which will be an extension of the Frankston College of TAFE.

As well, the regional TAFE Board has been asked to consider this issue and to develop a strategy for the provision of TAFE on the southern part of the peninsula. The board has been asked to do so with particular reference to the programs that should be provided, the links with the Frankston TAFE college and existing resources there, the facilities implications for the Rosebud site, the availability of relocatables to provide accommodation over the next five years and the potential for development of a tourism or hospitality training centre there.

The regional board will be undertaking that work. It will be making recommendations to the Technical and Further Education Board and I believe it will continue to provide facilities and opportunities for young people on the Mornington Peninsula to obtain vocational programs as well as enrichment programs.

The House adjourned at 11.10 *p.m.*

Thursday, 11 September 1986

The SPEAKER (the Hon. C. T. Edmunds) took the chair at 10.34 a.m. and read the prayer.

ABSENCE OF MINISTERS

The SPEAKER—Order! I have to advise the House that the Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China arrives in Melbourne this morning and, on behalf of the State of Victoria, the Premier is welcoming the distinguished visitor. Therefore, he will be absent from the House during questions without notice.

I have also been advised that the Minister for Water Resources will be absent during questions without notice today.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

VISIT BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West)—I refer the Minister for Transport to the forthcoming visit to Victoria by Pope John Paul in November and the understandable desire of tens of thousands of Victorians to travel to Melbourne by train to see the pontiff. Will the Minister reverse the outrageous decision to cancel the normal super-saver fares on V/Line interurban and intercity services during the Pope's visit in what is a greedy and ungracious attempt by the Government to profiteer from the visit?

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Gippsland West made an imputation that is ill founded. I ask him to withdraw the latter part of his question and then I shall call the Minister for Transport.

Mr BROWN—Mr Speaker, I withdraw that part of the question and replace it with the words, "an outrageous attempt by the Government to profiteer from the visit."

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—It will cost the rail system a considerable amount of money to provide the significant additional services that will be required for that particular period because they will have to be provided to both the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Flemington.

Special efforts are being made in the public transport system in conjunction with those organising the visit to ensure that it goes well. No decision has been made about the terms of any fare arrangements that are proposed for that time. We will be ensuring that as many people as posible can get there comfortably.

Mr Brown—The decision has already been announced!

Mr ROPER—The honourable member for Gippsland West might have announced the decision but I certainly have not announced it. The Government makes it clear that we are doing everything in our capacity to ensure that people can get to and from the venues. We are pleased the Pope is visiting, and our officers will make sure the system works.

GRAIN FREIGHT RATES

Mr W. D. McGRATH (Lowan)—Following the assurance given by the Minister for Transport in an answer to my question yesterday that full consultation had taken place with the grain industry before the announcement of the grain freight rates for 1986–87, can the Minister deny that the decision was made by Cabinet on or before 16 June 1986,

when ongoing discussions with the Victorian Farmers Federation did not start until 23 June 1986?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—Ongoing discussions about the Budget are still occurring, as the honourable member for Lowan would know. The Ministry was asked to prepare figures on grain freight rates to ascertain full efficiency and then to discuss them with the Victorian Farmers Federation once the figures were finalized. I was then able to advise the Treasurer of the outcome and we were able to strike the rate. After I discussed that matter and had it cleared—following discussions with the federation—the figure was publicly announced.

SPOLETO FESTIVAL

Mrs SETCHES (Ringwood)—Will the Minister for the Arts inform the House of the benefits of holding the Spoleto Festival in Melbourne and give details of the ticket sales?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—I am delighted to inform the honourable member for Ringwood that there has been immense interest in the Spoleto Festival, both within Victoria and from other States. That interest has been reflected in extensive ticket sales.

The original budget estimate figures for the festival called for a total of $800 000 in ticket sales. That estimate has been consistently exceeded since tickets first went on sale, with the result that the estimate was revised upwards initially from $800 000 to $1 million and again from $1 million to $1·2 million.

At the beginning of this week, $791 000 worth of tickets had already been sold. By the end of the week, that is prior to the commencement of the festival, I believe $900 000 worth of advanced sales will have taken place. It is clear that the budget estimate for the festival will be comfortably met, if not exceeded.

I suggest to any honourable members who may not as yet have secured tickets for major festival events that they would be wise to do something about it without further delay. Ken Russell's production of *Madama Butterfly* is sold out at this stage; the Spanish ballet is close to being sold out and the tickets for The Colla Marionettes of Milan are likewise selling extremely rapidly.

I hope by now all honourable members will have received the comprehensive schedule setting out all the events that will occur during the Spoleto Festival and that they will be impressed by the immense energy that has been put behind the festival by the organisers of its three streams: by the organisers of the Spoleto Festival proper, 1986 Spoleto Melbourne, Festival of Three Worlds; by Piccolo Spoleto, which has been designed to enable the ethnic communities within Victoria to make their contribution to the festival; and Spoleto Fringe, which is designed to bring to Melbourne the great benefits that have been associated with the Edinburgh Festival through the establishment of Edinburgh Fringe.

The fact that Victoria has now become the first State in Australia to acquire a festival from the international arts circuit is of immense significance to the tourist industry in this State and country. Every year large numbers of people flock to Spoleto in Italy for the festival which Menotti initiated 27 years ago. Similarly, every year those people and others follow up the Spoleto Festival in Italy by going to Spoleto Charleston in the United States of America. Melbourne has now acquired a tourist magnet comparable on the international circuit to Spoleto Italy and Spoleto Charleston. The Government intends to build on that success.

As a further scheme to what is already being provided within the ambit of the festival, my colleague, the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources, had agreed that there should be retail trading in the central business district of Melbourne on the afternoon of Saturday, 20 September until 5 p.m.

HAWKESDALE HIGH SCHOOL CONTRACT

Mr COOPER (Mornington)—Would the Minister for Public Works explain how a contract for painting and repairs worth more than $130 000 at the Hawkesdale High School was let by his department to a person with no fixed address, no tools of trade, no driving licence, no vehicle and no building industry expertise?

Mr WALSH (Minister for Public Works)—The honourable member for Mornington should have been here on Tuesday night when the honourable member for Warrnambool raised the same question and he put it a lot better than the honourable member for Mornington has done today. I compliment the honourable member for Warrnambool on the way in which he handled the situation that existed at Hawkesdale.

The contractor was checked out by the department and it found that he was up to standard when the contract was let. He had a job in the State of Victoria in the Otways which was satisfactory, I understand, from information I received.

My department found after investigating on site that the work of the contractor was not up to standard and the contractor was taken off the job.

When a department is letting more than 50 000 work contracts a year, sometimes there will be problems with some contracts but if the department moves quickly it can rectify the situation. I assure the House that the job at Hawkesdale High School will be completed in a short period by a new contractor.

GRAIN FREIGHT RATES

Mr HANN (Rodney)—Is the Minister for Transport aware that the former managing director of V/Line, Mr K. M. Fitzmaurice wrote to the Director-General of Transport, Mr R. J. Ingersoll, on 16 June 1986 advising him that Cabinet had approved V/Line's proposed grain rates for 1986–87, which resulted in an over-all rate decrease of 5 per cent, and also that Cabinet had approved V/Line's submission to introduce radial rating concurrent with the rate reduction?

If the Minister is aware of this letter, can be confirm the fact that Cabinet had made a decision on this matter prior to 16 June and how can he then reconcile this with his statement made to Parliament yesterday that Cabinet did not make a decision on this matter until after discussions had been held with the Victorian Farmers Federation?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I thank the honourable member for a further opportunity of mentioning that the Government has done more for grain growers than any previous Government. I believe the Lloyd report shows that.

I discussed this matter with my colleagues, particularly with the Treasurer, about the way in which we could bring in radial rating at no extra cost to the farming community and also how the Government could assist them during their difficult time.

V/Line has made a number of propositions about rates that ranged from a 4 per cent increase to a 5 per cent or more decrease. The Government examined those and I was told, as was appropriate, to discuss these matters, especially radial rating, with the Victorian Farmers Federation, which I subsequently did.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr ROPER—No. Having received approval to offer less than the consumer price index.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr ROPER—In the normal course of events, in relation to charges, I would have had to discuss with the federation an increase in the order of 7 per cent or 8 per cent. I received the approval of my colleagues to offer a reduction. We then sat down and extensively discussed with the federation the way in which we could adjust the figures. The Government

certainly made it clear to them during the discussions that I was authorised to make the offer of savings prior to those savings actually being realised by V/Line.

If the honourable member had been at the meetings he would have heard that matter discussed at significant length. The honourable member would also be aware that the Ministry made available a copy of the relevant parts of the Lloyd report to grain growers some three weeks prior to that report being made public. The Victorian Farmers Federation honoured the embargo on that report.

After those discussions with the association I was able to go back to the Treasurer and confirm with him that a rate could be struck, as the honourable member has suggested. The Treasurer then approved the arrangement and we proceeded to inform the Victorian Farmers Federation of our final decision. Discussions on these matters were not finalised with V/Line or with the Ministry of Transport until the Government announced the report.

I have not seen the letter to which the honourable member refers. However, I know the situation is that I had to satisfy the Treasurer as to the appropriate arrangements. Once discussions were completed the announcement was made.

FLINDERS STREET STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Mr HARROWFIELD (Mitcham)—Can the Minister for Transport inform the House what steps are being taken following receipt of the report into the Flinders Street station redevelopment project?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I thank the honourable member for the question. Some people do not seem to have understood what was made clear yesterday. Following receipt of the report, a number of actions were taken by the Director-General of Transport to put into effect the recommendations of that report.

More significantly—the House will shortly learn of the significance of this—the Government and the Premier made it clear yesterday that legal advice was sought from the Solicitor-General about whether the report could be made public. The Premier made that clear in answer to a question without notice yesterday. I am making it even clearer to members of the Opposition today because they obviously—as the House will find out at 11.15 a.m.—have not heard. The Government will be advised whether the report can be made public in whole or in part depending on the advice received about the personal or commercial matters and I would expect that the decision on what part of the report, if not all of the report, can be made public will be made within a week and when that occurs those parts of the report will be made public.

If the Opposition had listened more carefully yesterday, as certainly the media did, it would have understood that. However, the Opposition is hard of hearing and I am sure it will look forward to having access to that information.

TRADES HALL COUNCIL NEGOTIATIONS WITH STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Mr RAMSAY (Balwyn)—I direct my question to the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources. I refer the House to the proposed agreement currently being negotiated between the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and the Trades Hall Council. Is the Minister aware that one clause of that agreement would require all contracts and tender documents issued by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria to specify that contractors should employ only staff who belong to a trade union or association? Is the Minister prepared to accept such a blatant discrimination by a statutory authority against individuals who exercise a deliberate freedom of choice regarding their membership or otherwise of a trade union?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I am not aware of the contract referred to by the honourable member for Balwyn. If he wishes to put that question on notice or otherwise leave with me the papers to which he referred, I will make further inquiries.

WORKCARE BENEFITS

Mr ROWE (Essendon)—I ask the Treasurer to inform the House of the benefits accruing to both businesses and employees in Victoria following the first full year's operation of WorkCare and, in particular, the benefits with respect to premiums and the rehabilitation services proposed for the western region of Melbourne.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I thank the honourable member for Essendon for his question. He has taken a keen interest in WorkCare right from the start of the program and he has been a strong supporter of reforming workers compensation in this State.

Mr McNAMARA (Benalla)—I raise a point of order, Mr Speaker. Item No. 6, Notices of Motion, General Business, which will be debated in due course, deals with this question in more detail and I suggest the more appropriate time for the Treasurer to become involved in the debate rather than in answer to this question is during consideration of that notice of motion.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—On the same point of order, Mr Speaker, as I understand it, the matter to which the honourable member for Benalla has referred is a notice of motion as distinct from a matter that is formally before the House in any sense and, as such, it would not be appropriate to rule the question, which I would suggest is a different canvass anyway, out of order.

The SPEAKER—Order! I advise the House that it is in order to ask a question on the matter that is listed as item No. 6, Notices of Motion, General Business, and, therefore, there is no point of order.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I thought the honourable member for Benalla would have been interested in the subject-matter of the question and interested to learn how, in fact, WorkCare has performed over the past twelve months.

Mr Kennett interjected.

Mr JOLLY—Significant economic and social benefits have resulted. On the economic front, if one looks at the drop in premiums, there has been a saving to employers in this State of approximately $500 million compared with premiums under the old system. That is obviously an enormous saving and is one of the reasons why Victoria continues to have the lowest unemployment rate of any State in Australia.

Mr Kennett interjected.

Mr JOLLY—That is also why Victoria has strong employment growth and, therefore, all honourable members should be pleased about the outcome.

Mr Kennett interjected.

Mr JOLLY—The "Leader of the Opposition" mouth is at it again. It is like a fish trying to take bait.

The SPEAKER—Order! I advise the Leader of the Opposition that supplementary questions in the form of interjections are totally out of order. If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to ask a question, I will call upon him to do so.

Mr JOLLY—The Leader of the Opposition has always had problems with numbers and he is still showing that today.

Secondly, in relation to premium benefits, the planned levy when WorkCare was introduced was to be an average of 2·4 per cent of wages and salaries. Over the past twelve

months, the average levy has been 2·2 per cent. Therefore, the actual cost to the employer has been below that budgeted at the time of the presentation of the WorkCare reforms.

I should also indicate, in terms of social benefits, that the average time for settling claims at present is of the order of sixteen days and, therefore, the claim settling process has certainly been improved and that should be welcomed by all honourable members in this House.

I also point out that in recent times the rehabilitation arm of the Victorian Accident Rehabilitation Council has been active in expanding the services of rehabilitation and already centres are operating in the Latrobe Valley, Dandenong and in the western suburbs, with one in Footscray and one at Essendon. Obviously, rehabilitation is an important part of the long-term social and economic reforms associated with WorkCare.

In summary, over the past twelve months WorkCare has brought enormous benefits to Victorian employers; it has been an important factor in generating employment, and rehabilitation services now operate in the Latrobe Valley, Dandenong and the western suburbs, including Essendon.

APPROPRIATION FOR BALLISTIC VESTS

Mr CROZIER (Portland)—Can the Minister for Police and Emergency Services give the House his personal assurance that specific provision for the purchase of ballistic vests has been made in the Budget in order to implement his promise to equip the Police Force with this lifesaving equipment?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—One of my initiatives was to ensure that members of the Victoria Police were provided with the protection of ballistic vests on a scale not available to any other Police Force in Australia.

It is now many months since the Victoria Police entered into an extensive research project to ensure that the ballistic vests provided for its members were of the best possible design and were tailored to meet local requirements. That research team also set out to ensure that it would be possible to place the order for these vests with local industry. Both those goals have now been achieved.

I have seen the design for the new ballistic vests and it is possible for them to be manufactured in Victoria. That is a significant gain for Victorian industry because Police Forces in other States might follow the Victorian example and ensure that two of these jackets are available in each police vehicle.

I have followed up this excellent research work carried out by the Victoria Police by seeking an appropriation from the Treasurer in the normal way for the issue of tenders for the supply and manufacture of these vests. I suggest that the honourable member for Portland should hold his breath a short time longer before a further announcement will be made.

GRAIN FREIGHT RATES

Mr STEGGALL (Swan Hill)—My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport and follows the previous questions asked of him today. The Minister would be aware that V/Line provided figures on grain freight rates to the Victorian Farmers Federation in July this year and as a result the federation employed Price Waterhouse to analyse the figures in the belief that it would have some input into the final decision on freight rates in Victoria.

As that decision had been made a month prior to those figures being made available to the Victorian Farmers Federation, will the Minister reimburse the federation for the investment it made?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I should make it clear again that no final decision was made until I was able to have discussions with the Victorian Farmers Federation, particularly in relation to radial rating. The Government intended to conclude negotiations and make an announcement earlier than it eventually did, but that was because the federation asked for additional time so that its consultants could work with representatives of V/Line.

Honourable members would be interested to know that the Government offered the Victorian Farmers Federation additional funds for the consideration of that material and for the time that Price Waterhouse required for discussions to occur. I do not know whether the Ministry has received a bill, but I gave an undertaking that the Government would contribute towards the cost of the time the federation spent with officials of the Ministry of Transport and V/Line.

The Victorian Farmers Federation might not have told the honourable member for Swan Hill about that. We offered to contribute towards that cost to assist the federation, and we shall pay those relevant accounts.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

Mrs RAY (Box Hill)—Will the Minister for Education provide the House with details of senior enrolments at secondary schools and the measures being taken by the Government to increase the numbers being retained at senior school level?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—In reply to the honourable member for Box Hill, and in view of the fact that Australia is facing some economic difficulties—and the need in particular to boost exports and to upgrade skills in our manufacturing industry—the Government has set itself a clear objective of increasing retention rates in post-compulsory schooling in Victoria.

We are doing that because we believe more and more young Victorian teenagers are not able, on leaving school, to enter into full-time employment. In fact, less than 30 per cent of young Victorians between the ages of fifteen and seventeen years are able to do that, and that figure is dropping at quite an alarming rate.

The Blackburn committee has therefore set an objective, which the Government has accepted, that by 1995 we should be able to retain 70 per cent of students in our secondary schools through to Year 12. The key aspect of this policy is the introduction of an entirely new certificate to mark the completion of secondary education, entitled the Victorian Certificate of Education, and that will take the place of all existing certificates, whether they be HSC, VISE, Group 1 or Group 2 subjects, whether it be TOP or T12 in a technical school.

Already the Government is making excellent progress towards these targets and objectives we have set ourselves, both within the schools division and within technical and further education throughout Victoria.

We have already had last year—and almost again this year—record levels of apprenticeship, which means that young Victorians are having better opportunities than they have ever had before in upgrading their skills and in upgrading the skills of the whole Australian work force.

There seems to be a great deal of interest by members of the Liberal Party opposite, but when they were in government, in 1980–81, the percentage of students who remained at school through to Year 12 was only 39·4 per cent; the figure for today is 54·7 per cent.

That is a very real measure of the Government's achievements, and I should have thought members of the Opposition would support the Government's achievements and programs in this area. This indicates that we are well on target in terms of the objectives that we have set for ourselves and, as well, we are meeting community concern about

students staying longer at school. That is what the parents and the schools want and what Australia needs, and we are achieving it.

PETITIONS

The Clerk—I have received the following petitions for presentation to Parliament:

Marijuana use

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of we the undersigned electors of Victoria respectfully sheweth that:

We object in the strongest possible terms to any changes to the laws of our State that would reduce the penalties for the use, possession or sale of marijuana.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr A. T. Evans** (139 signatures)

Fluoridation of water supply

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

In as much as the Victorian Cancer Registry shows that Victorians have the highest incidence of rectal cancer in the world and also rank among the top countries for colon cancer, lymphoma, bladder cancer and melanoma, we request that:

1. Since fluoride is a carcinogen the Government should immediately stop the fluoridation of the water supplies and repeal the 1973 Act now.

2. In so doing restoring to we the people the freedom of choice so essential to those who believe in democratic principles.

And we your humble petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

By **Mrs Ray** (29 signatures)

School crossing supervisors

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth that:

We are concerned that the invaluable service provided by school crossing supervisors will be discontinued or downgraded by the dismantling of the School Crossing Supervisor Subsidy Program.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Legislative Assembly will stop any move to discontinue or downgrade this service to our children.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Perrin** (691 signatures)

School Medical Service

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth:

We are concerned that the invaluable service of an annual medical examination provided by the School Medical Service to all children attending four year old kindergarten will be discontinued or downgraded.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Legislative Assembly will stop any move to discontinue or downgrade this service to our children.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Williams** (116 signatures)

Kindergartens

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth:

We are concerned that any child who is assessed as not yet ready for school and is required to complete a second year of kindergarten will not automatically be funded but only be funded on a case by case basis.

Your petitioners therefore pray that the Legislative Assembly will support automatic funding for any child requiring a second year at kindergarten.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Williams** (163 signatures)

Childhood services

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria sheweth that they are gravely concerned at the future of early childhood services for young children and their families.

Your petitioners therefore pray that:

Urgent action be taken to ensure that there are no cuts to the funding of children's services and that there be no reduction to the quality, accessibility and flexibility of such services in the State of Victoria.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Ms Sibree** (4391 signatures)

Martial Arts Control Bill

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the State of Victoria pray that the gentle Zen art of traditional Ueshiba Aikido (Takemusu) practised as a non-sport, non-competitive, non-full, contact and non-aggressive discipline be, as is the Chinese equivalent of traditional Tia Chi, excluded from the list of martial arts proposed in the martial arts legislation for the regulation of sport and professional fighting martial arts contests.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By **Mr Sidiropoulos** (408 signatures)

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

FLINDERS STREET STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—I wish to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to make public the recent report of the Director-General of Transport into the Flinders Street development project so as to ensure public confidence in the Government's management of the project.

Approval of the proposed discussion was indicated by the required number of members rising in their places, as specified in Standing Order No. 26 (*b*).

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

This motion is about ethics in Government. It is about the failure of Ministers to act with any level of genuine propriety. Specifically, the Opposition alleges that the Cain Government has knowingly, consciously and calculatingly indulged in an operation of cover-up of massive proportion.

Why has the Government indulged itself in this fashion? It has done so in an attempt to shield from public gaze another lot of improprieties and inefficiencies of the former Minister for Transport, the honourable member for Knox, and to shield the current

Minister for Transport, who is a walking minefield. He is a legend of impropriety in his own lifetime. As this revelation unfolds, the legend will grow. It will grow because of the way he has carried out, not carried out or failed to act responsibly with respect to the Flinders Street development project.

The Government has also shielded the incompetence and the waste of the former Minister for Planning and Environment in causing massive increases in the cost of this project.

The key issue can be summed up very simply. If nothing smelly is going on, if nothing devious is being done by Ministers, if all is free and above board and if there is nothing to hide, why has not the report been tabled? Why have I been denied access under freedom of information since 17 October 1985?

Mr Fordham interjected.

Mr GUDE—The Minister states that there are 30 files.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Hawthorn in now referring to some files in one department, authority or another. For whatever reason—and I find it extraordinary—the motion has been narrowly worded. It deals solely with the failure of the Government to make public a report.

Given the narrowness of that drafting, it is not correct—indeed, it is improper—for the honourable member to refer to other matters in other than of a passing nature, such as other files or what he would regard as background material.

The motion—foolishly, I might add—has been drafted purely about the failure to provide a report. Therefore, debate can be only on that matter.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On the same point of order, Mr Speaker, the point of order taken by the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources indicates the sensitivity of the Government on this whole issue.

As I understand it, the report of the director-general was compiled from information obtained by the department, after having had access to all the files, which have been denied to the Opposition, as well as from discussions.

The director-general's report is the conclusion of all that went before it, which was mismanagement by both the previous Minister and the existing Minister for Transport. It is quite within order, when asking for a report, for the information that went into the preparation of that report to be discussed during the debate.

If the Government is so sensitive as to raise this point of order, one can only suggest that it further deepens the concern that the Opposition has and the public will increasingly have for the way in which the Government is now desperately trying to save the skins of both the former Minister of Transport and the current Minister for Transport.

Mr MACLELLAN (Berwick)—On the point of order, the advice I should like to give you, Mr Speaker, is directly on the matter raised by the Deputy Premier. Naturally, in the course of Mr Ingersoll's inquiry leading to the preparation of his report, Mr Ingersoll called for certain papers. Included amongst those papers were the 36 monthly reports on the financing of the Flinders Street project. Those reports were not available to anyone until they were found in a cupboard of the Ministry of Transport offices.

The honourable member for Hawthorn is referring to the non-accessibility of files to him, files which, in some instances, later became available to Mr Ingersoll, although they were not made available to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal hearing under the freedom of information request made by the honourable member for Hawthorn and, on other occasions, certain material which was not made available to Mr Ingersoll, enabling him to make a fair and accurate report.

I discussed the matter with the honourable member for Hawthorn prior to him moving the motion and, therefore, I am in a position to know the thrust of the remarks he is making and to know that they are directly relevant to the report and the preparation of the report and to the motion, which concerns the fact that the Government has not made the report available. It is not a motion regarding files, but a motion on the subject of a report which was made after the receipt of files and after an inquiry was made, and concerns the failure of the Government to make that report available.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—On the point of order, I am pleased that the honourable member for Berwick is aware of the tenor of the speech that has been drafted by the honourable member for Hawthorn. I direct your attention, Mr Speaker, to the wording of the motion which refers to, "the failure of the Government to make public the recent report of the Director-General of Transport". If it had been about files, presumably the honourable member for Hawthorn would have referred to the files in the motion. Adjournment motions must be of a certain type and must meet certain preconditions to determine whether they are in order. Presumably, if the motion had been about other matters the wording would have been different.

It is obvious from listening to the honourable member's contribution that he wrote the speech without understanding that the Government sought legal advice about making the report public; and it is obvious from the words he is using that he has already made that mistake. On the point of order, it was within the capacity of the Opposition to draft the motion as it wished within the Standing Orders. It has been drafted in a way that clearly indicates that this adjournment debate is about the failure of the Government to make public this report, and nothing else in relation to the matter.

The SPEAKER—Order! I have also carefully read the adjournment motion as it was presented to me, and I cannot uphold the point of order because I consider that the honourable member for Hawthorn must have enough ambit to substantiate the substance of the allegations regarding the report of the director-general. The motion includes the words, "Flinders Street development project", which broaden the subject rather than narrowing it. The honourable member is in order in substantiating his argument on whether the report ought to be released to the public.

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—Why is the Premier still wanting to delay publication of the report of his appointee, Russell Ingersoll, and keep it secret, notwithstanding the fact that legal advice has been taken? Mr Ingersoll is one of the Premier's better decisions. He was not prepared to run the risk that the Minister would muff it, so he came out publicly and said that his document would be kept secret.

The Premier is most concerned about the detail in that document, and so he ought to be because it will show conclusively, as the whole revelation of the Flinders Street fiasco comes out, that the present Minister and the former Minister are to be publicly condemned. Something is rotten in the Cain Government's management of this expensive project and the stench has pervaded right up to Spring Street with the result that two days ago a phone call from this place brought about the demise of Mr Kris Kudlicki. This is where the phone call came from; from nowhere else.

The Opposition is satisfied that leases were improperly granted to persons who were friends of the Ministry or officers of the Minister or friends of the honourable member for Knox, the former Minister of Transport. The Opposition is satisfied that the Government is trying to throw up a smokescreen and use public servants as the scapegoats, the fall guys, for the shoddy, shonky performance of at least two and probably three Ministers. The stench pervades right across the Government.

I congratulate the media on their role in bringing this issue into the public gaze. They have been prepared to bring it out while the Government was running and trying to hide it, as it is now trying to hide the Ingersoll report. Two men have been sacked, Kudlicki and Riboni. Peter Lavis, the Group Manager, Property at the Metropolitan Transit Authority has been given a very harsh talking to as recently as yesterday. Last evening all

of the staff of that section of the Metropolitan Transit Authority met privately to consider their positions. They are considering whether they will bother to continue to work under this incompetent Minister and whether they want to continue in this sort of activity. They do not, and some of them will be leaving; further, some of them may well take strike action as a direct consequence of this matter.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—On a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker, the honourable member for Hawthorn is now discussing a private meeting of public servants and the action that they may or may not take in the future. The motion before the House is quite specific: it deals with the failure of the Government to release a report. It is not to do with meetings of public servants. I suggest, Mr Acting Speaker, that the honourable member should confine his remarks to the matter before the House.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On the point of order, Mr Acting Speaker, the Government is again trying through the Chair to have the Opposition not continue with this debate in order to protect the previous Minister, the current Minister and one other Minister. I put it to you, Sir, that what is happening in the Ministry at the moment is extremely important.

What happened during the terms of office of the former Minister and the current Minister for Transport has led to the preparation of this report. Public servants are being made the scapegoats and much of their work has been included in Mr Ingersoll's report, which the Government is covering up and which my colleague is seeking to have released publicly.

However much the Government may try to delay the debate or to deflect attention from the issue, it is important that Parliament and the people of Victoria be told the truth. The fact that the Government is scared about the truth certainly confirms the Opposition's opinion that it is not willing to have the matter discussed.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Stirling)—Order! I do not uphold the point of order. I suggest that some latitude should be allowed to the honourable member for Hawthorn to develop his address. However, I suggest that he should narrow his remarks and attempt to confine them to the motion that is currently before the House.

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—Mr Kudlicki has been sacked, as has Mr Riboni. Their good names have been roundly pushed down in the community. Both of those gentlemen are concerned at the way in which their family's names have been prostituted in the community and the way in which they have been persecuted by the Government.

What has Mr Kudlicki done that is so bad? I suspect that his greatest crime is one of naivety, not of dishonesty. He has paid his bills; there has been a Fraud Squad inquiry and he has been cleared by that squad.

However, the Minister, having found that Mr Kudlicki was cleared by the Fraud Squad, immediately reallocated him to the Port of Melbourne Authority—to the ports and harbours division. Two days later Mr Kudlicki had a heart attack and then he received another letter from the Minister stating that he was not wanted at the ports and harbours either—he was in hospital when the callous action was taken.

This man has been off work for 26 weeks or thereabouts and he has been ill. He is still at home ill and he is still being persecuted in the Parliament and in the public place by the Minister for Transport. The Fraud Squad cleared him but the Minister condemned him. The Ingersoll report presumably showed something else of which he is supposed to have been guilty. Until the report is publicly aired the stench will continue to hang over both this Minister and the Government.

If Mr Kudlicki did anything improper he ought to be sacked. I have spoken to him and he agrees that if he has done anything improper he ought to be sacked. He has made an

offer in writing to the Minister to make available to the Government all of his personal financial dealings and his family's financial dealings. That letter has not been acknowledged.

What more does this man have to do to clear his name? He was offered the opportunity of going the easy way—of taking early retirement—but he chose not to take the easy way out because of the integrity he has for his own good name. He decided to make the Government sack him and sack him it did, and nobody knows why. He does not know why. He has not been given the opportunity of answering his accusers. He is the Minister's No. 1 sacrificial lamb.

Let me tell the House about some of the things that Mr Kudlicki is supposed to have done. He is supposed to have given tenancies to the friends of the former Minister and his sympathisers; he is supposed to have failed to have collected rental for two years and he is supposed to have failed to have called tenders.

The issue of tenancies relates to a particular former staff member of the former Minister for Transport, Mr Norman Fay. Only recently in the Parliament the former Minister for Transport, the current Minister for Labour, indicated that he could not be held responsible—he could not recognise who Norman Fay was. After all, he was only one of 40 000 public servants. Given this Minister's penchant for a high public profile, can anybody honestly believe he did not recognise the name Norman Fay. Of course he did!

Did the honourable gentleman know that this particular application had been made? The implication of his answer the other day was that he did not know. However, that is not the reality, and it is on the public record; it is not just a question of my say so.

I refer to an article that appeared in the *Herald* on 28 May this year. The article states:

> Mr Norm Fay, who resigned as public relations manager of the Ministry in September 1984, said he had been "singled out as though he had done something wrong".
>
> Mr Fay's wife was granted a shop at the station complex in March 1984, after registering interest with the Transport Ministry in leasing a business.
>
> "Why tenders were never called I don't know, I haven't a clue," Mr Fay said from Devonport where he now runs a public relations firm.
>
> "I did certainly what I was advised to do. It was not done in an under-hand way."
>
> Mr Fay said he raised with the then Minister . . .

The other day the Minister claimed he did not know about it. The article continues:

> . . . Mr Crabb, his wife's application to run a shop and was told there was no objection as long as he went through the appropriate commercial channels.

The appropriate commercial channels in the Met are a bit different from the normal community channels. Over there we do not have tenders for concessions. We look around for our friends. Over there we do not have leases, or we did not have leases in those days. Over there we do not collect rents, and some still have not been collected even today.

The *Herald* article continues:

> Mr Fay said his wife, using her maiden name of Marie Rennick, registered with the Ministry's property division in early 1984 her interest in running a shop.
>
> She used her maiden name for one major reason—it did not attract any undue attention or favoritism.

They must be joking! The staff of the Minister of the day advised Mr Kudlicki that he could allocate tenancies as he saw fit. He arranged a tenant for the prime ice cream concession at the Flinders Street station. There was a withdrawal, for whatever reason, and an insider on the Minister's staff, having special knowledge of this——

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—On a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker, in your previous ruling on the Deputy Premier's point of order, you made it clear that although the lead speaker for the Opposition in this debate has some capacity to speak more broadly than the actual terms of the motion, the honourable member should constantly relate his

remarks to the motion which, because of the Opposition's incompetence, has been very narrowly drawn.

I ask you to remind the honourable member for Hawthorn that he cannot take too much liberty and go beyond your ruling when he is speaking in the way in which he is doing now.

Mr MACLELLAN (Berwick)—On the point of order, Mr Acting Speaker, I draw your attention to Mr Ingersoll's report, to which the motion refers, which has not been published or made available, but in which reference is made to the leasing of the shops and premises covered by the project.

The fact that one of the shops was in fact leased by the wife of the publicity officer of the then Minister of Transport is a relevant matter, and that is the matter which the honourable member for Hawthorn is raising. Therefore, this is a matter that directly flows from matters and materials contained in the report, and known to be contained in the report by the Minister who raised the point of order.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Stirling)—Order! I do not uphold the point of order. I remind the honourable member of my earlier ruling when I asked him to keep his remarks within the context of the motion before the House.

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn)—There has been a problem with respect to leases arranged through the State Transport Authority. It has been mucking around for years and finally an outside firm of solicitors had to be called in because of the incompetence of Government employees. The firm of Darvell McCutcheon has been brought in to finalise the leases. One would have thought the Government would have learnt its lesson with respect to leases!

I understand there exist a number of memos and letters which are mentioned in the current Ingersoll report. The Opposition wants to see the memo from Mr Strouse, formerly of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, of 28 February 1985, wherein he asked the former Minister of Transport the honourable member for Knox, who was responsible for the leases. He wanted to know, at that stage, who it was. The Minister failed to reply.

The Opposition wants to see the memo of 5 March 1985 which forms part of a report from Jim Patterson, the former Director-General—Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Transport, to the then Minister.

Incidentally, prior to his appointment Mr Patterson was the Federal Secretary of the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen. He is now personal assistant of the Minister for Labour.

Mr Crabb—What has that to do with it?

Mr GUDE—It is simply an aside. In the memo he begs to find out who is responsible for leases, to quote his words, "to protect you". The "you" in this case refers to the then Minister of Transport. Mr Patterson then offers to take an active part in the Flinders Street station project himself.

The Opposition wants to see the letter dated 15 April 1985 from Mr Strouse to Mr Kudlicki which instructs him to send leases through the board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority for approval. More importantly, the Opposition wants to see the memo Mr Kudlicki wrote to Mr Reiher on 19 April 1985—through Mr Reiher's personal assistant, Mr Ian Harris—which I am informed states "This is one of the letters from Strouse I have no intention of answering".

Mr Kudlicki has always believed—even today he believes it—that he was directly accountable to the Minister—to the former Minister and to the current Minister; the Minister who had claimed consistently he had no knowledge of these special things.

The MTA property group met privately last night, and they are considering their position. They do not want to work for this Minister. I consider it will most likely be certain that

action is taken against the Minister and others by Mr Riboni for wrongful dismissal. I am sure he has not done anything to justify his dismissal. I feel also for Mr Lavis who has been slandered by this Government by the way he has been put down. Every single one of their colleagues support them.

I shall now deal with the vaults at the Banana Alley development. Leonie Ryan, who is a friend of Mr Don Dunstan, Chairman, Victorian Tourism Commission has leased vaults 1 and 2. Is that another of the friends of the ALP family who got a concession? Some $200 000 worth of MTA funds were used to upgrade the facility. Leonie Ryan has a six-month lease and, therefore, has an opportunity of opting out of the lease after six months' notice. I am reliably informed that she currently owes thousands of dollars in back rent. I understand one of the arrangements so far as rental to be charged is concerned is that fourteen out of the sixteen tenancies have to be profitable at any one time before rent can be charged. In fact, I understand the Government has obtained legal advice to the effect that they have no opportunity of collecting that rent until such time as they achieve sufficient tenants. It sure as heck has not happened so far. What a stupid position to place the project in. The project has been put in a position where it cannot obtain funds. It is the Minister's fault.

The railways union, which operates three concessions in the area, has insisted over and over again—and it is part of the Ingersoll report—that there be no competition with its activities.

What about Sutherland Cellars Pty Ltd in Banana Alley? That firm was not offered any protection. The Minister for Transport said, "We will bring in the Victorian Wine Industry Centre". That was another of the Minister's moves in association with the Deputy Premier and Don Dunstan. The centre was able to obtain a concession which is in direct competition with that firm. Arguments have taken place to and fro about these problems and the development of the project itself has damaged the sales of Sutherland Cellars Pty Ltd, which I understand is to make a claim against the Government for loss of profit.

What did Sutherland Cellars Pty Ltd receive in the mail the other day? The firm received a letter from the Government indicating that it will renew the tenancy application only so long as the firm promises, in writing, that it will not take out a writ against the Government for loss of profit and damages. If that is not blackmail and coercion, what is? Who is responsible? The Minister for Transport is responsible and this will be demonstrated when the Opposition eventually gets its hands on the full report.

What about another of the concessions in Banana Alley? I refer to Restaurant Tashelle which is operated by Mr Bruno Fortuna. He was responsible for laying the tiles for the project which later had to be replaced because they did not work out. People were slipping on them and there was concern about them. I shall not pursue that matter any further other than simply to say it is another concern of the Minister for Transport not the former Minister of Transport this time.

The involvement of the then Minister for Planning and Environment was to delay the project by a year, with all the costs associated with that. In addition, he ordered the removal of palm trees for some 15 feet along the river bank at a cost of $60 000. These Ministerial excesses are only the tip of the iceberg.

The Opposition calls for the report of the Director-General of Transport to be made available. Until such time as it is, a stench will hang over this Government. If the full report is not made public immediately, the Opposition will have no option but to call for a full judicial inquiry into the performances of Ministers Crabb, Roper and Walker and into the involvement of the Premier who has sought to hide the activities that have taken place in this whole program. If not, the worst fears of the Opposition, the public and the media of Ministerial incompetence, Ministerial corruption and a Premier who has failed completely to act with propriety, responsibility, or integrity will be confirmed.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The Opposition had to word the motion it has moved very carefully in an effort to determine whether it could embarrass the Government

about the failure to make public a report. If members of the Opposition had listened carefully yesterday to what the Premier had to say in the House and to what I had to say outside the House——

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr ROPER—I was asked better questions by the media than I was asked in the House. The media asked more direct questions and asked me whether the Government would be making the report available. What I said yesterday to the media, as the Premier said in Parliament, was that the Government would be receiving advice. The Government had asked for legal advice to determine whether arrangements could be put in place to release all or part of the report. As honourable members are well aware, a report such as this contains information relating to individuals.

Mr Kennett—Ministers!

Mr ROPER—For instance, it has a lot of information relating to Mr Kudlicki and Mr Riboni. That is one of the reasons why the action was taken by the Director-General. It also involves commercial matters which are ongoing and which will require commercial settlement. Action was taken to refer the matter to the Crown Solicitor and the Solicitor-General for their comments on what parts of the report if not all the report could be released. It was made clear in question time that the Government would accept that advice and that appropriate action based on that legal advice would occur within the next week.

Mr Kennett—Enough time to cover up and confuse the public.

Mr ROPER—It would be prudent of the Leader of the Opposition to listen not to what he thinks is said but to what is said.

Mr Kennett—What is done is more important than what is said and what you have done.

Mr ROPER—What has been said and has been done and is being done is that legal advice is being sought as to what part of the report if not all of the report can be released. One saw the scurry amongst the Opposition front-bench members earlier today when they finally realised that it was the Government's intention to do just that, and that it made the Opposition's intended motion look a bit sick and left the Opposition with little else. The honourable member for Gippsland West rushed out of the House presumably to get advice as to what should occur.

I remind honourable members of the development of Flinders Street station. In 1982 the station was a public disgrace. It had been allowed to deteriorate by the previous Government. It was my predecessor who, as part of the uplifting of the rail system, said that there should be a very significant upgrading of that station.

The honourable member for Hawthorn in correspondence to me has made it clear that he regards this Government as being responsible for the upgrading of Hawthorn station. Many other stations have been upgraded. Flinders Street station has certainly been upgraded and it will be continued to be upgraded despite the difficulties of undertaking a major program in a very busy station. That has certainly caused continuing and significant difficulties to those who are developing the station.

In Parliament on Tuesday I said that a thorough review of the management of this project had been carried out by the Director-General of Transport at my request. As a result of that review improvements in cost control and leasing arrangement have been identified.

As I have emphasised in the House on many occasions, if individual members of Parliament or members of the public have information which they believe should come to the attention of the Ministry in relation to this project, they should certainly provide it. As I have also mentioned publicly, a private individual provided information to me about

this matter. That led to an audit of a particular account held by Costair Australia Ltd which resulted in the Police Force being asked to investigate whether any criminal matters were involved.

I received information. It was investigated and the police were also asked to investigate the matter. The police found——

Mr Gude—There were no charges, no trial—you pushed him out of the door.

Mr ROPER—It is interesting that the honourable member for Hawthorn has decided that his role in this matter is to defend Mr Kudlicki. In connection with Mr Kudlicki, that investigation occurred and it was found that there were no matters that would require criminal charges. However, it was found that work had been done at Mr Kudlicki's holiday house by Costain and the bill had not been raised, although Costain said that it had always been that firm's intention to raise such a bill.

I do not believe that is the most appropriate action to have been taken by a project manager. Mr Kudlicki was reported in one newspaper this morning as having made a statement about some tiles being laid in his private home without his knowledge, and in another newspaper as having stated that this occurred after a person visited him. I am not sure which newspaper was properly reporting what he said.

Mr Maclellan—Both.

Mr ROPER—It might have been both. I have some concerns about a director of a major project who has work done on his house without bills being raised by contractors with whom he is dealing. The project manager was counselled and told to fix up the matters with Costain. Unfortunately, the matters were not fixed up and settled with Costain—they have been subsequently, but they had not been settled.

That was causing potential conflict of interest between Costain and Mr Kudlicki on the job and it was for that reason that Mr Kudlicki was transferred—not sacked—from the Flinders Street project to a project under the control of the Port of Melbourne where he would be working under supervision, and another project director was appointed to continue the work at Flinders Street.

I believed that was the appropriate action to be taken when the information came to me and the appropriate action was taken. The investigating police made it clear that they did not believe further inquiries were required concerning criminal matters. There were other concerns about the project and they have all been investigated and dealt with by the Director-General of Transport.

In the speech, if one can call it that, of the investigator—in this instance, the honourable member for Hawthorn—he alleged that some special arrangements were made with relation to a vault at Banana Alley. The name he mentioned in that case was Leonie Ryan. He suggested that somehow the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources and Mr Dunstan were doing something improper in that regard.

The initiative to seek assistance for Ms Ryan came from Sue Calwell of the Melbourne Tourism Authority who believed she would be of significant assistance to the project. She asked others to consider the matter. It was done not at the initiative of Mr Dunstan but of Ms Calwell, who has significantly contributed to the development of tourism in Victoria.

The honourable member for Hawthorn also mentioned some Australian Railways Union shops on the concourse. Everyone knows there are no Australian Railways Union shops on the concourse, but there are shops run by the V/Line trading and caterers' division. The State Transport Authority, as the honourable member for Berwick would know, has generally not wished to compete in any railway activity in which it is involved, which, as the honourable member for Berwick knows, is a long held view of not only the union but also management.

In this situation commercial decisions should be taken. The suggestion that the Australian Railways Union or V/Line management should have a non-commercial capacity has ended. The honourable member for Hawthorn also raised the question about the tiles. Who does he suggest selected the tiles? Was it the honourable member for Knox, the then Minister of Transport, or does he suggest I selected the tiles? Who picked them? Was it Mr Kudlicki?

It has been alleged that the tiles are inadequate, but there is a contradiction in the honourable member's criticisms. Presumably he will pick them out. He also mentioned Mr Fortuna, who he said was a friend of mine. I meet many people. Only last Monday night I met some friends of the Liberal Party! I certainly do not count Mr Fortuna amongst my friends.

Mr Gude interjected.

Mr ROPER—Then I shall certainly find out who he is and may look forward to meeting him!

We then ensured that the responsibility of the Metropolitan Transit Authority for the project was made clear. The report showed, firstly, that that was one of the major problems because adequate arrangements were not made with respect to building and leasing; and secondly, there was a need for a new project manager to be appointed.

Thirdly, in the director-general's and my view, the available shops on the concourse needed to be put out for tender to gauge public interest. Fourthly, Mr Kudlicki and Mr Riboni needed to be dismissed. That was done by the director-general because he believed they had not performed their tasks adequately, and he set out his views in the report.

Mr Kennett—What were the reasons?

Mr ROPER—I mentioned a number of the reasons today and also on Tuesday night. The director-general raised the matter of the cost overruns.

We are seeking legal advice about whether the report should be made available. A report on the legal advice will be made available, as I said, within a week. I am sure that that will more than satisfy honourable members.

Mr Brown—Then why won't you release the report?

Mr ROPER—We are seeking legal advice about whether the report should be released in full or in part. We will act on that legal advice.

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West)—This issue is very serious. Many allegations have been made that go to the heart of the propriety of the Government and the contract concerned. The central issue is the right of the public to know what has happened on this project, which has been funded solely by Victorian taxpayers.

The questions are: has money been squandered; has there been corruption; has any cover-up been indulged in and used as a vehicle by the Government to keep its neck out of the noose; and has any Minister of the Crown been involved? The answers to all those questions is unquestionably, "Yes."

I shall introduce some new items into the debate that have not yet been covered. No doubt the public has a right to be informed. The question of the release of the report took up all the time of the House yesterday, yet no commitment was made by the Government to release the report. It is like trying to obtain information under the Freedom of Information Act, as the Government does its best to keep information away from the public and members of this House.

The director-general's report was compiled at the expense of taxpayers and no doubt they have a right to know what is in it. If it is necessary that some sections be deleted for legal reasons, the Opposition accepts that, but does not want the report laundered to protect Ministers of the Crown or to remove implications of any illegal activities.

Why the cover-up? There has been a cover-up and there still is a cover-up. The Minister has still not made a commitment to release that report. I do not believe the report will be released even after all legal constraints have been considered.

This matter has a stench about it that goes right to the top of Government. What about the activities of the former Minister of Transport, the present Minister for Labour? It was his brainchild. He oversaw the creation of the scheme and was in charge when a number of staff were appointed. A $10 million overrun on a $30 million project is gross incompetence.

At the very least, gross incompetence is evident and demonstrable as a result of what has already been made public. No doubt many people have a case to answer. That is absolutely beyond doubt because $10 million of taxpayers' funds have been squandered by incompetent people who have been appointed by the Government. There was never a suggestion that the Liberal Party has anything to answer for in this project because it is the creation of this Government which has appointed incompetent staff and been incompetent itself.

The *Who's Who* of the former Minister's appointees shows that most were all high-fliers who were incompetent to fulfil the positions to which they were appointed. Many of them, fortunately, are no longer with the Crown or employed at a cost to Victorian taxpayers.

The next question one must ask is what is the connection between Hertz Rent-a-Car and the present Minister for Labour. There must be a connection. The Opposition is wondering what that connection might be and it will investigate same.

Staff who were appointed by that Minister and who are no longer in the employ of the Crown include Mr Strouse, who formerly worked for the Hertz company; Mr Scholer, who has resigned; Mr Maude, who also resigned; Hercilen Bach, another former Hertz employee; Mr Read, who also resigned and was a friend of Mr Strouse from Hertz days; Mr Wagstaff, Mr Kearney, Mr Reid, and Mr Dudley Snell. The Government forced him out of the State; it shot him off to Hong Kong because of embarrassments to the Government. When the Minister for Transport took his well publicised harbour view visit to Hong Kong, he was met by Dudley Snell. The Minister knows more about that than he is prepared to let on. Mr Snell is in Hong Kong, but that is another story and has nothing to do with this debate.

Mr Grigg was also appointed by the former Minister of Transport and is also no longer employed by the Crown, and in the past 48 hours, Mr Riboni and Mr Kudlicki have been dismissed. All those men were Crabb appointees and many had close links with that Minister. There is a lot more to come out about the activities of some of those people.

The former Minister of Transport, Mr Crabb, stated that the only possible ground for criticism of the project could be that the wife of a Ministry of Transport employee had entered into a lease for a shop at Flinders Street railway station, and he indicated that he did not believe that 40 000 Ministry of Transport employees and their families should be banned from entering into normal arrangements with the Government. The Opposition supports that viewpoint.

As decent honest citizens, people in Victoria should not be excluded or precluded from entering into such arrangements. However, what are deemed to be normal financial arrangements? Apparently, a normal financial arrangement is that friends of Ministers and friends of the extended family of unions are given special considerations. The Australian Railways Union is involved in protecting two tenants in the Flinders Street complex, and the Opposition wants to know more about the direct involvement of Ministers with people holding leases. It is quite likely that the two people who have been sacked are just the tip of the iceberg.

A stench is developing around the Banana Alley development. The honourable member for Hawthorn has mentioned the name of Ms Leonie Ryan. The Opposition has information that that indicates that extensive inquiries need to be carried out regarding that lease.

The Minister for Transport stated that the matter was not instigated by Mr Dunstan. I challenge that. It is true that another person made the approach, but how the hell can the Minister say it was not instigated by Mr Dunstan? It is not possible to prove that.

The lease involves a very low rental. If the Government considers it is getting a justifiable return from taxpayers' money, it should have a close look at that lease and the arrangements surrounding it.

This week it has been disclosed that the Federal Government is paying $100 million more than it should for the properties that it leases nationwide. It is being ripped off on the basis of exorbitant rentals for properties for which the private enterprise market would not pay the same amounts. Under the administration of the former Minister and, more recently, under the administration of the present Minister, costly leases have been entered into for major properties.

I shall highlight the lease in which the Metropolitan Transit Authority property group was involved at 50–60 Market Street, Melbourne.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Gippsland West is raising an interesting point. However, the lease of a building in Market Street hardly relates to the Flinders Street station redevelopment project as it is a significant distance away.

As has been pointed out, the motion does not allow a wide-ranging debate about all transport matters. The motion relates to the Flinders Street station redevelopment project and has nothing to do with any other Metropolitan Transit Authority sites.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—On the point of order, Mr Speaker, it is extraordinary if the honourable member for Gippsland West believes during a debate of this type he can suddenly allude to leases within that general area.

I draw your attention, Mr Speaker, to the wording of the motion before the House. It deals specifically with a report and the alleged failure of the Government to make the report available. To go into the details of leases of railway properties is clearly outside the scope of the motion. It would make a mockery of the care that honourable members are supposed to give to drafting motions for adjournment debates if the honourable member for Gippsland West were allowed to continue in that manner. There are strict guidelines under which motions such as this must operate, and honourable members should not try to rewrite the rules.

Mr MACLELLAN (Berwick)—On the point of order, Mr Speaker, as a result of the Flinders Street station redevelopment project, which is specifically referred to in the motion, it was necessary for several arms of the transport administration to move from sections of the building at Flinders Street and be relocated in other premises.

If the honourable member for Gippsland West is referring to another premises that had to be leased because of the delay on the project or because some part of railway administration had to be moved from the building at Flinders Street, which is owned by the Metropolitan Transit Authority and if the authority is leasing other premises in Market Street, which is just around the corner from the station, as an alternative to occupying space within the station building, I argue that it is relevant to the motion.

The SPEAKER—Order! The motion before the House does not provide a vehicle for a complete debate of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Transport. The motion is definite; it has two aspects to it in respect of the report and the Flinders Street station redevelopment project. The honourable member for Gippsland West should confine himself to the motion before the Chair without taxing the general principle associated with motions of this type. I uphold the point of order.

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West)—I was making the point in relation to the Metropolitan Transit Authority property group and the activities in which it has been involved during the past twelve months.

The SPEAKER—Order! I advise the honourable member that he has made that point.

Mr BROWN—Some people involved in that group and its work on the Flinders Street station redevelopment project have already been named in Parliament, but I foreshadow that more people will be acted against by the Government because of their activities not only in relation to the Flinders Street station project but also in relation to other projects, such as the one I mentioned in Market Street and a project in the electorate of Footscray, which is represented by the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources, where a $1·6 million parcel of land was sold for an amount of $1·6 million, much less than it should have been.

Mr Fordham—What has that got to do with the report?

Mr BROWN—The Opposition is examining all aspects of what has transpired at Flinders Street station. The people who head up the Metropolitan Transit Authority property group have been involved in the problems of that project with regard to people not paying anywhere near the rental they should be paying or some not even paying rental at all.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Gippsland West is blatantly ignoring the direction from the Chair. He has a speech for another occasion. I wish him well in finding the occasion; perhaps it will arise next week. However, the reality is that, rightly or wrongly, the Opposition has framed a motion about the alleged failure of the Government to release a report. The honourable member for Gippsland West has a lot of material that he wants to read, but it is for the wrong motion. You, Mr Speaker, made that clear and it is improper for the honourable member to continue along the line of debate he is pursuing.

The SPEAKER—Order! I uphold the point of order and I again ask the honourable member for Gippsland West to restrict himself to the motion before the House and not to continue to canvass other matters that he may or may not have contained in the material before him.

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West)—As I said at the outset, the central issue on this debate is: what is involved in the cover-up and what are the reasons for it? There has been no commitment by the Minister today to release that report. The Opposition does not want to see the report laundered; it does not want the report doctored by the Government behind closed doors during the next few days and then released as a shell of what it was yesterday.

The report is a damnation; there is no question about that. It appears that the present occupant of the most senior public position in transport, Mr Russel Ingersoll, is a man who is prepared to do the right thing. The Opposition's information is that there are other officers directly involved in this scandal—that is what it is—and the Opposition has called for a full judicial inquiry. I have no doubt that the report will not be released by the Government and it will attempt to use the smokescreen of legality as the reason for its non-release. There is a stench about it! The report should be released today unless the Government wants to establish beyond doubt that it has something to hide. We say the Government has something to hide and that other officers will be dismissed.

Mr POPE (Monbulk)—To put this matter of urgent public importance that has been put forward as a motion in its right context, what we have is a motion about the failure of the Government to make public the recent report of the Director-General of Transport. Yet, as has been explained time and again in points of order and, indeed by the Minister, and as has been said explicitly by the Premier, the report will be made public, in whole or in part, depending upon legal advice received from the Solicitor-General.

Indeed, it was only yesterday that the Premier in response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition stated in part, that contained in that examination is consideration about a number of matters.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On a point of order, I draw your attention, Mr Speaker, to the fact that the honourable member for Monbulk is quoting from a copy of *Hansard* from the current sessional period, and that does not come within Standing Orders.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—On the same point of order, the honourable member for Gippsland West also referred to a current *Hansard* because it related to this particular debate. The honourable member for Monbulk is simply putting before the House some evidence that the Opposition does not want put before it.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER—Order! The general practice is not to refer in the House to the *Hansard* of the current sessional period. The honourable member for Monbulk, as I understood it, for the purpose of accuracy was quoting what the Premier said in the House yesterday. I ask the honourable member for Monbulk to restrict himself to just that item and he will be in order, but if he is using the *Hansard* to further his contention in respect to the matter before the House, he is out of order.

Mr POPE (Monbulk)—Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reality is that it was pointed out by the Premier in a response he made during question time yesterday, which all honourable members at their leisure may read reported in *Hansard*, that the matter would be examined by the Minister and that those documents, after having been considered with legal advice would be made public, in whole or in part.

Again, at 10.50 a.m. today during question time the Minister for Transport stated that the documents which are the subject of this matter of great urgency to be made public, after being looked at by the Solicitor-General will be made public in whole or in part depending upon the personal nature of matters in that report.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER—Order! I warn the honourable member for Hawthorn to cease interjecting. He has raised the matter before the House and now he is continuing to barrage other speakers. I have warned him and I shall not warn him again.

Mr POPE—It is indicative of the pathetic efforts of the honourable member for Hawthorn, and his colleague, the honourable member for Gippsland West, in their respective challenges for the leadership stakes, while the honourable members for Benambra, Balwyn and Forest Hill are going in to the Library to get copies of the *Australian Financial Review* to try to shoot down their Leader time and again. I was in there yesterday when three of them——

The SPEAKER—Order! I advise the honourable member for Monbulk that he must also restrain himself to the motion before the House. Other matters that he may intend to air during the course of the debate will be out of order and I shall rule him so. I ask the honourable member for Monbulk to come back to the motion before the Chair.

Mr POPE—The reality is that the report was given to the Minister for Transport, as I understand it, on 3 September, which was Wednesday of last week. Between Wednesday of last week and 9 September, earlier this week, the Minister, after reviewing the document, found that there was action to be taken, and the director-general took the appropriate action.

I do not believe anyone in this House would dispute the fact that there were problems with respect to the two people who have been dismissed. In fact, I have not heard any argument that they had performed their responsibilities satisfactorily. That matter has not been put forward by either side; that is not in dispute in this instance. In fact, the

honourable member for Hawthorn told the House that he had had discussions with Mr Kudlicki about the whole issue and I wonder whether, in his discussions with Mr Kudlicki, he asked Mr Kudlicki if he would like to make the whole report public. We did not hear of the situation regarding that. I am sure that he did not ask him that question. I am sure that if he did——

Mr Gude interjected.

The SPEAKER—Order! I advise the honourable member for Hawthorn that when I say I have issued a last warning I intend to make that positive. If he again interjects I shall call the Minister for Transport to move the necessary motion to remove him from the House.

Mr POPE—We have seen the pathetic efforts by the honourable member for Hawthorn in trying to raise the issue, obviously without going to Mr Kudlicki and telling him he was to come into Parliament and move a motion of great urgency about making public a report which has certain personal details in it.

I am sure he would not have gone to Mr Kudlicki and asked him that question but, no, he still blundered on with his pathetic motion today only about 20 minutes after having once again been told by a representative of the Government that the report would be made public after the Solicitor-General has looked at it and decided whether the report should be made public in part or in whole.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr POPE—Not only did he soldier on, and probably scored two out of ten for his efforts—he would probably have scored three and a half if he had not had question time—but also he got his colleague, the honourable member for Gippsland West, who is another leadership contender and aspirant, to try to reinforce his dwindling motion, which is meaningless after what honourable members heard the Premier say yesterday and what the Minister said today, that they are prepared to release the document subject to the personal matters that the Solicitor-General believed might not be able to be put in the report. How quickly can action be taken?

On 3 September the Minister received the report and action was taken on 9 September to dismiss the two people concerned. I still have not heard any debate on whether they should or should not have been dismissed; all I have heard is that the report should have been made public, and it has been made blatantly clear that that is the intention of the Government subject to legal advice.

What has the House been doing for the last hour and 20 minutes? It has been debating an issue purely because the honourable members for Hawthorn and Gippsland West have eyes on the leadership of their party and have tried to push their own barrow. At the same time, the honourable members for Balwyn and Benambra are skulking in the Library obtaining details of their Leader's popularity in the latest polls from the *Australian Financial Review.*

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER—Order! I again suggest and strongly urge the honourable member for Monbulk to come back to the motion before the House. If the honourable member continues to defy that direction then I shall cease to hear him and will call the next speaker.

Mr POPE—Mr Speaker, I respect your direction. Another matter raised by the honourable member for Gippsland West that requires a response concerns the answer given by the Minister for Labour regarding officers of the Ministry of Transport when he was in charge of that Ministry. It was not a matter of the Minister saying, "I do not know that person because there are 40 000 officers in the Ministry". Opposition members should read *Hansard.* The Minister said that he cannot be responsible for the spouses of all officers in that Ministry. It had nothing to do with the imputation implied by the honourable

member for Gippsland West. The reality is there are 40 000 officers within that area and the spouse of one of those officers supposedly should be harassed for taking out a lease. It was a disgraceful effort from the honourable member for Gippsland West.

The House is wasting its time in debating this motion. Yesterday the Premier informed the House of the situation and today the Minister for Transport has given a further explanation. Obviously members of the National Party have seen the light and acknowledge the futility of taking up 2 hours of Parliament's time in debating a motion of this type, because it is plain to everyone that the report will be made public, subject to legal advice.

I congratulate the National Party for not entering the debate and acknowledging the logic of the matter. It is obvious the debate would not have taken so long if there had not been problems with the leadership contenders in the Opposition.

A number of important Notices of Motion on the Notice Paper have been carried over from the last sessional period. It is a pity the House has been subjected to this futile motion because Parliament has gone through the exercise of whether or not the report will be made public. Honourable members on both sides of the House have been denied their right to move a motion because of this futile exercise by the honourable member for Hawthorn.

Mr W. D. McGRATH (Lowan)—Members of the National Party become suspicious when they are congratulated by the honourable member for Monbulk for not entering the debate. When a member of the Labor Party pats members of the National Party on the back one becomes concerned that something may be wrong.

The motion concerns the Government's failure to make public a report prepared by the Director-General of Transport, Mr Russel Ingersoll. The central issue is whether the people who are funding the project through their taxes have a right to know if there are problems with that project. Mention has been made of over-runs in expenditure between $30 million and $40 million and the public is entitled to say to the Minister for Transport and to the Government, "What is going on? Be more honest and open about this matter." This morning the House went through an exercise in dishonesty involving another matter concerning the Ministry of Transport and its administration.

An article in the *Age* of 26 October 1985 concerning this matter stated:

> Train drivers and guards receive 30 cents an hour across-the-board to compensate for inconvenience caused by the works. Permanent staff including station assistants and booking clerks at Flinders Street, receive either 30 cents or 46 cents extra an hour, depending on how close they are to construction work.

What about the commuters who use the station? Do they receive a deduction in their fares because of the inconvenience caused to them? The situation is loaded towards the unions who are affiliated with the Australian Labor Party.

I have confidence in the newly appointed Director-General of Transport, Mr Ingersoll. The Minister and the Government are not prepared to release the report in full but the honourable member for Monbulk indicates that the Premier gave a commitment to release the full report. Honourable members know that the Government is capable of releasing irrelevant parts of the report and not the full report. The report should be tabled in the Library forthwith where there is some security. All members of Parliament could inspect and examine that report. If the Government is not prepared to do that, it should suffer the consequences of a judicial inquiry. They are the proposals put by the Liberal Party.

By not releasing the full report the Minister is moving a vote of no confidence in the director-general. The Minister should have confidence that the report contains substantiated facts.

It is a reasonable request for the report to be tabled in the Library forthwith or for the Government to appoint a judicial inquiry. The honourable member for Westernport stated that there some aspects of the report that cannot be made public because of legal implications. That is satisfactory. The Minister for Transport can explain those reasons to

the House. If the report were tabled all honourable members could examine that report and would have confidence in the newly appointed director-general. The public would then be able to make its own judgment about whether there has been incompetence by the administration, by unions or by the Government itself.

Mr MACLELLAN (Berwick)—The motion relates to the earlier work of the previous Director-General of Transport, Mr Alan Reiher, who was also appointed to investigate matters prior to Mr Russel Ingersoll's appointment and to ensure public confidence in the Government's management of the Flinders Street Station redevelopment.

The public view of all this is that there have been cost overruns and the Minister for Transport has said that there was police investigation of matters raised with the Minister by some person and that the police decided that no charges should be laid.

I believe firstly, that Mr Kudlicki deserved to be told that by the Minister or by the police. He was not told by the police because the police said that they could not tell him the outcome of their inquiries into whether he was or was not to be charged because the Minister had instigated the inquiries and that the result of the investigation would have to come to him from the Minister.

Today, Mr Kudlicki still has not heard from the Minister for Transport that the police investigation has led to the conclusion that there are no charges to be laid. Citizens of this State should not be under that sort of cloud. If evidence is found against them—charge them. If they are guilty—convict them and then have a court impose a penalty; but do not have a situation where people are hung, drawn and quartered by a public announcement of inquiries when the victim or the subject of that inquiry is not being told of the outcome.

If one examines what has been going on at the Flinders Street project, one finds that Mr Kudlicki was an architect with the Railway Construction and Property Board when I was Minister of Transport and he brought forward the plans for the redevelopment of the Flinders Street railway station.

The current Minister for Transport apparently does not know any of this because he said it was the Minister for Labour who instituted it all. The plans drawn by Mr Kudlicki came to me with a costing and and I rejected them because they were estimated to cost far too much. They were completely out of touch as far as I was concerned and I said "Go away and try again". I presume that under the Honourable Steve Crabb, he did just that and that one day the Minister signed something and said "Yes" when he should have said "No" and that was the beginning of the Flinders Street station redevelopment scandal.

Let us examine the range and magnitude of the cost over-runs; let us take the $500 000 that was squandered on this project—not because of Mr Kudlicki's incompetence, but because the former Minister of Transport demanded that the beams that were to be laid across the tracks had to be manufactured in the railway workshops at Ballarat. The beams were hoisted into position at night so as not to disrupt the trains any more than they were being disrupted under the Minister anyway and that move represented a peak of bad management.

Then because Mr Kudlicki was a qualified architect, a shrewd man and a project manager on the site, he decided that he should ensure that the welding on these beams was right and he called in some experts because of his concern and discovered that 90 per cent of the welds were wrong, that the beams were unsafe, that they had to be removed at night without disrupting the project and then they had to be sent back. He asked the Minister whether he would conduct an inquiry into the Ballarat railway workshops to ensure that they were not making other unsafe beams that were being used on road bridges around the State.

The then Minister of Transport said that he would not conduct the inquiry because he did not want trouble with the Australian Railways Union and so no inquiry was conducted and $500 000 was squandered because of the Government's insistence on the railway workshops being used to do the work. The railway workshops were not able to do the work

adequately, and we still do not know how many beams produced from the railway workshops at Ballarat have 90 per cent faults in their welds.

The SPEAKER—Order! As the honourable member for Berwick is well aware, while I have been in the Chair, the debate has been contained to the motion before the House and where honourable members have wandered away from it, I have brought them back to the motion before the House. The honourable member for Berwick made reference to a matter that is not connected with the motion before the House and I ask him to debate the motion that is before the House.

Mr MACLELLAN—The Flinders Street redevelopment project referred to in the motion required the removal of some palm trees on the bank of the Yarra River.

Mr Kudlicki, in his plannings and in his costings for the project, had simply arranged for the palm trees to be cut down and replaced later with new greenery; but apparently the Honourable Evan Walker, the Minister for Planning and Environment at the time, at the behest of a university professor, decided that the palm trees had to be moved 15 feet south, away from the project and towards the river, at a cost of $60 000. Therefore, because of that episode, $60 000 worth of public money was used to move palm trees 15 feet southwards of this project towards the edge of the river. It was wasted money.

Is Mr Kudlicki responsible for that costly overrun? The answer is "no", yet he is being set up as the guilty party. Does the report refer to that? We do not know because the report has not been made available because it has embarrassing matters in it.

It may refer to the two-day strike on the project which, of course, delayed it further and cost approximately $50 000. The two-day strike, which was caused because Mr Lynn Strouse who was then the Maharaja of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, did not like the notice on one of the shops referring to the State Transport Authority because he said it was the Metropolitan Transit Authority's operation.

Therefore, after $25 000 had been spent to provide a sort of neon sign for the shop, Mr Strouse sent two of his own goons to take it down because he said, "Either that notice comes down or Kudlicki is sacked. I will not have it."

The then Minister of Transport apparently washed his hands of the whole affair and so Strouse, a man of action, sent two men down and ripped down the the neon sign. Apparently it is still out at Claude Neon Ltd rusting in the yard. A sign worth $25 000 was wasted because Strouse decided that the shop had to have a Metropolitan Transit Authority sign on it. He could not have a State Transport Authority sign on it and so that is evidence of the sort of craziness that was at work; not Kudlicki's overcost.

Apparently there is still a temporary sign down there while the original one is out at the neon makers but there was a two day strike on the project by the unions because they said they would not have non-union labor engaged on the work.

Mr Strouse sent two office workers down to work on the project, to demolish and take down the sign and, therefore, there was a nice round $50 000 worth of work not done on the site because the whole site was closed for two days. The sign is sitting, rusting in the supplier's yard, and this is another example of Government inaction.

It was at the direction of the Honourable Evan Walker that the palm trees be removed, it was the then Minister of Transport who was unable to decide whether Strouse was right or whether the State Transport Authority was right and whose sign ought to be displayed; and then we come to the Honourable Evan Walker's other effort, which was that, as Minister for Planning and Environment, it took him twelve months to decide whether a Chinese restaurant would be built looking onto the river as part of the project.

In these twelve months during which decisions were not made, the whole works program had to be changed and handled in a completely different way so that instead of starting at the south—which was the area with the fewest number of people going through it, thus causing the least disruption and where the work could go ahead easily and quickly—no

decision could be made about the restaurant and so no work could be done on that part of the project.

For that reason work was done on the area where 100 million people have walked through during the period of construction. I might add that only the train drivers, guards and railway workers receive dust allowances and inconvenience allowances. These people have been compensated but not the poor 100 million citizens who have walked through the construction zone.

Why were they walking through it? Why was the redevelopment done at the wrong time and the most inconvenient time of the year? It was because the Honourable Evan Walker had not decided whether Melbourne could or could not have a restaurant at the south end of the concourse looking onto the river; and it took him twelve months to decide.

The costs escalated. Why does the Opposition want the report?

Mr Kudlicki says that he is not guilty. He was offered the opportunity of resigning, taking the money and going quietly, but he said "No", so he was sacked. That does not sound like the action of a guilty man. If I had any doubts about whether I was right or wrong, I might be persuaded to sign a resignation and to take the money.

Honourable members should recognise that it would be a large sum of money from this Government. The Government offers generous dismissal allowances to people who resign. They receive their full entitlements. There is no lack of generosity in those terms, but if any person defies or embarrasses the Government and happens to get in the way of a favoured friend, favoured direction, Ministerial favour or request, that is a different story.

All those directions, favours and requests are conveyed by Ministerial minders who called Ministerial advisers. They appear to be the conduit for Ministerial decisions. One does not see the Minister but sees the Ministerial adviser who tells one what the Minister wants. If one does not do what is requested, one is probably given the choice of taking retirement benefits or being sacked by Mr Ingersoll after an inquiry that is not made public is conducted.

In this case an inquiry has taken place of a person who says that he is innocent, that he is profesionally competent and has not been responsible for the cost overruns that have occurred on the project and could be as much as $10 million. My colleague, the honourable member for Gippsland West, who is a builder, is rightly concerned about a $10 million cost increase on a $30 million project.

I wonder whether honourable members ought to be concerned about the $30 million cost overrun at the remand centre project. Will there be an Ingersoll inquiry into project management of the remand centre because the overrun there is already $30 million? Honourable members should also watch developments at the National Tennis Centre because an overrun in costs has also occurred on that project.

I imagine that the project managers will be inquired into, be dismissed or have their reputations destroyed without trial because the various Ministers will not accept responsibility for what has occurred. Minister after Minister has been responsible for inflating the costs of those projects by making one idiotic decision after another or by failing to make decisions because they wish to run away from their responsibilities.

The Minister for Labour, who is a former Minister of Transport, says that there is nothing wrong with a public servant's wife taking a lease of premises under her maiden name because those premises were not advertised for lease. The reason they were not advertised was that they were to be leased to selected or preferred tenants for selected or preferred purposes.

The same situation applies at Banana Alley. Mr Don Dunstan, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the Melbourne City Council and the Melbourne Tourism Authority have all had a finger in the Banana Alley pie and the tenancies on that site have

been subjected to the inaction of project management and the failure to collect rents over a period.

The State Transport Authority's solicitor had the leases for three months but did not complete them. The Metropolitan Transit Authority discovered the situation and decided that it was its job, not that of the State Transport Authority, to look after the leases. That authority appointed an in-house solicitor, who had the leases for nine months but did not complete them. The Ministry of Transport appointed a private firm of solicitors and it was those solicitors who finally completed the leases.

However, Mr Kudlicki and the House have been told that it was Mr Kudlicki's responsibility as to who were the tenants. Honourable members know that it was the Ministry's solicitors who did the leases and the Ministry approved the tenants. Officers of the Ministry knew that the wife of the Minister's public relations officer was one of the applicants, in her maiden name, for one of the franchises on the Flinders Street station site. It is not sufficient to talk about 40 000 Ministry employees because honourable members know what has been going on with this project and other projects.

The report should be made available and the Government should wear the responsibility where it has failed to act and where it has made idiotic decisions. The public has a right to know and people who say they are not guilty should be given the opportunity of being tried in a court.

Mr HARROWFIELD (Mitcham)—I have always believed the moving of an adjournment motion in this place was one of the major tactical devices an Opposition could adopt to launch a withering and devastating attack on the Government of the day.

One could be forgiven for believing the Opposition does not have its heart in what it has done today. Members of the Opposition have suggested that the House should adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, and they have proceeded to deal with everything other than the details of that specific motion.

I can understand the dilemma in which the Opposition finds itself. Members of the Opposition have obviously sat down, put their collective heads together, and relied on the wisdom of their think-tank in drawing up a motion that was irrelevant before it was even moved.

At question time yesterday and today the Premier and the Minister for Transport stated clearly and unequivocally that the report of the director-general was being examined by the Solicitor-General with a view to being released publicly either in whole or in part. The Opposition knew that but decided to lumber itself with this absurd, meaningless motion that it now has to justify in the House. The motion is yesterday's news coming from yesterday's men because it is obvious that their hearts are not in it.

I do not understand the position that my friends from the National Party have taken because their lead spokesman on transport spoke for 5 minutes only, and I am not sure what he said about the motion.

The Opposition has had difficulty in putting a motion together. Opposition members have given prepared speeches designed to be made on an entirely different motion. Time and again they have been called into line by the Speaker because their contributions were not relevant to this so-called matter of urgent public importance. One can only conclude that this discredited and dispirited Opposition still cannot get its act together.

One would imagine with such a devastating motion that the Leader of the Opposition would speak to it, but he has been silent; a deathly silence has surrounded the Leader of the Opposition. It is obvious that he does not share the concern of his colleagues about this matter being of such urgent public importance.

I shall detail the processes involved in matters of this kind for the benefit of the Opposition. When a matter comes to the attention of a Minister and he requires further investigation to be made, a simple and clear process is open to the Minister, and that is

what occurred with the Minister for Transport in this case. The Minister asked the director-general to investigate certain matters about the Flinders Street redevelopment project. The Director-General of Transport, Mr Ingersoll, prepared a detailed report on the matter. That report is now being considered by the Ministry and actions are being prepared for a final report.

Mr Brown—Have you seen the report?

Mr HARROWFIELD—If the honourable member for Gippsland West listened to my contribution, he might learn something for the first time in his Parliamentary career. Before such documents can be released publicly, it is a matter of prudence to obtain legal advice on whether the whole or part of that report should be released.

That process is now being carried out through the Minister. He requested the preparation of the report. The report was prepared by the director-general and was acted upon by the director-general and the Ministry. Legal advice was sought on whether the whole or part of the report should be released, as stated repeatedly by the Premier and the Minister for Transport.

To refresh the memories of members of the Opposition, I remind them that the Minister for Transport said in question time this morning that he would expect the decision on the extent of the disclosure of the report to come within the next week, following legal advice from the Solicitor-General. That is a perfectly proper, prudent and responsible process to follow.

However, members of the Opposition—who obviously do not grasp that simple process of Government—have proceeded with a wide canvassing of issues. Honourable members were even taken on a Cook's tour of Market Street in Melbourne, by the departing honourable member for Gippsland West which has nothing to do with the Flinders Street project. Obviously he was short of material and had to think of something to talk about in this debate on the adjournment motion.

The honourable member for Berwick interjects. We respect the wisdom of his knowledge of transport. It is unfortunate that he was not able to apply that knowledge when he was Minister of Transport but we know he has the knowledge. That honourable member provided a commentary on the whole Flinders Street station redevelopment project. One wonders why, when he was Minister of Transport, he did not take any initiatives to upgrade Victoria's transport system, let alone Flinders Street station.

Honourable members heard from him an interesting commentary about the progress of the project but, quite frankly, he was floundering, too, in his attempt to speak to this motion. That is extremely unusual for that honourable member, but he was obviously stuck with speaking to a motion that was poorly drafted and inadequately thought through.

One needs to ask also whether the Opposition is defending people like Mr Kudlicki in respect of their performance in this redevelopment project. If the Opposition is defending him, it should stand up and say so. We had the bizarre situation of the honourable member for Hawthorn, who usually comes into this House and denigrates and attacks public servants, virtually coming to the defence of Mr Kudlicki. The honourable member ought to stand up and make clear what is his position. Is he condoning the actions of these people?

Mr Maclellan—Are you?

Mr HARROWFIELD—We have made clear our position; the Government has taken action. However, the honourable member for Hawthorn seems to be defending other public servants who have not done their jobs properly. It really is bizarre to see the honourable member for Hawthorn, who is a well-known denigrator of public servants, speaking in this House in support of a public servant, in this case, Mr Kudlicki.

Honourable members would well remember the contribution of the honourable member for Hawthorn in respect of the Public Works Department. Time and again in this House

he has denigrated the reputations of public servants; and yet, when he has been proved to be wrong, he has not even had the guts to come forward and apologise to those people. His track record in relation to these sorts of matters is appalling.

Let us again remind ourselves of what was said in this House about this matter. The Premier made it quite clear yesterday that the report is being examined by the Solicitor-General, as it should be.

Mr Maclellan—You mean, "washed" by the Solicitor-General!

Mr HARROWFIELD—That is a reflection on the Solicitor-General. The honourable member for Berwick said that the report was being whitewashed by the Solicitor-General. That is a disgrace! I hope every honourable member in this House will take note of the slur being cast on the Solicitor-General by the honourable member for Berwick. He is a top officer in the Public Service and the honourable member's remark is yet another example of a member of the Opposition denigrating public servants. He ought to stand up in this place and apologise for his reflection on the Solicitor-General of Victoria.

Mr Maclellan—I said "washed"!

Mr HARROWFIELD—We are seeking his advice as to which parts of the report, or the whole of the report, can be released. That is a prudent step.

Mr Kennett interjected.

Mr HARROWFIELD—The Leader of the Opposition would not understand what prudence means since he sold jade bracelets behind the Speaker's chair. Any prudence or responsibility he ever had went out the window, but the fact remains that it is sensible to obtain legal advice on these matters to see the extent to which reports of this kind can be released publicly.

Let me remind the Leader of the Opposition—because he obviously needs to understand it—what should be the process in these matters. The Minister for Transport requested information on the matter. The Director-General of Transport has received that information and is acting on it. Despite the earlier interjection from the honourable member for Berwick, we have acted on that report in respect of two public servants and we are now seeking advice on that report from Mr Berkeley.

The Opposition ought to take a little more seriously its responsibilities to the House than it has demonstrated today. The Opposition should not take up the time of the House and of other honourable members, who might wish to raise matters of importance, by coming forward with trivial matters of this sort that it has not thought through.

The Opposition has moved this motion, and perhaps I have not read the motion properly because it seems to me that members of the Opposition proceeded to parrot the speeches they had been rehearsing in front of the mirror over the past two weeks. The honourable member for Hawthorn obviously rehearsed his speech very well, but it was still not relevant to the motion, and the Speaker had to pull him into line.

All I can conclude from the exhibition we have seen today is that the honourable members for Gippsland West, Hawthorn and Berwick still harbour very strong leadership aspirations and that they are using this motion as a vehicle to try to score points away from the Leader of the Opposition—who has not taken part in this debate—and also from each other.

They do not care what they say or whether what they say is relevant and, obviously, from the earlier comment by the honourable member for Berwick, they do not care which public servants' reputations they damage so long as they can upstage each other in a mad and unseemly scramble for leadership of the Opposition.

That is what the debate has been about. I am only surprised that the honourable member for Benambra—who was in the Parliamentary Library recently trying to obtain a critical

Australian Financial Review report on the Leader of the Opposition—did not also take part in the debate, because he is obviously very much an aspirant to the leadership of the Opposition.

It is patently obvious that the Opposition grossly resents the advances that the Cain Government has made in the transport area over the past four and a half years. This Government came to office inheriting from the honourable member for Berwick, the former Liberal Minister of Transport, a legacy of a transport system that had been allowed to decay to an absolutely disgraceful extent. That was the case in the areas of rolling-stock, rail infrastructure and particularly, of course, the Flinders Street station redevelopment.

The Opposition clearly resents the fact that this Government is the first Government in three decades of this State's history to have upgraded the level of public transport to a first-class level. Instead of moving frivolous motions such as that now before the House, the Opposition ought to be congratulating the former Minister for Transport, who is now the Minister for Labour, and the present Minister for Transport for the very diligent job they have done in advancing public transport in this State.

It ill behoves the Opposition to come into this House and cast slurs on public servants as the honourable member for Berwick has done by his remarks about the Solicitor-General; it ill behoves the Opposition not to do its homework in putting forward a serious motion of this kind.

All I can say to the honourable members for Berwick, Gippsland West and Hawthorn is that if they really do harbour serious leadership aspirations, they ought to do their homework a little better than they have done in this case. I am not surprised that the Leader of the Opposition has avoided speaking in the debate. He shirked the issue. He obviously does not believe this matter to be of such urgent public importance because he has kept out of the debate, as has the National Party. A member of the National Party made a token 5-minute contribution and really said nothing.

The motion ought to be seen for what it is; it is a sham and it is irrelevant. As I said at the outset, the motion is very much yesterday's news coming from yesterday's men who have a long future ahead of them in opposition, regardless of who has the leadership.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—Mr Speaker, the crux of this issue is the very simple fact——

In accordance with Sessional Orders, the debate was interrupted.

The SPEAKER—Order! The Leader of the Opposition will have an opportunity of debating the matter when the motion is again before the Chair.

The sitting was suspended at 1 *p.m. until* 2.4 *p.m.*

FORESTS (BOWATER-SCOTT AGREEMENT) BILL

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to ratify a commercial agreement between the Treasurer, the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, the Forests Commission and Bowater-Scott to supply softwood sawlogs from north-east softwood plantations.

The Bill is consistent with Government practices of entering into long-term agreements with companies wishing to process log intakes of 100 000 cubic metres or more per annum. It is consistent with the timber industry strategy and is a fine example of industry and Government cooperation as envisaged in the Government's economic strategy for Victoria.

Long-term commercial contracts between Government and industry lay the foundations for continued economic growth and prosperity. It is important that they should be brought to the Parliament for ratification, both to indicate the degree of commitment which the

Government is prepared to give to such arrangements and also to allow the public of Victoria the opportunity of knowing the terms and conditions of the contract which the Government is entering into on its behalf.

Bowater-Scott Ltd formulated policies for strategies development in 1983 and documented plans for the implementation of these policies. These were made available to Government and trade unions under the auspices of the Australian Council of Trade Unions early in 1984. One of the key thrusts was the need to progressively increase log supply to the Australian forest industries mill at Myrtleford to achieve competitive operations and viable positions in the softwood and tissue markets..

The Bowater-Scott company has major production plants at Myrtleford and Box Hill. The Myrtleford site has a pulp mill, a veneer plant, a sawmill and a timber and roundwood preservation plant.

The pulpmill uses forest thinnings and off-cuts from the sawmill to produce mechanical—wood pulp by the disc refiner process. This wood pulp is then transported to Box Hill, and to at least one other suburban location, where it is further processed into tissues, paper table napkins, toilet paper, sanitary napkins, and medical and surgical sterile apparel and dressings.

The sawmill is currently one of the largest in Australia and, with the planned expansion, will keep pace with the largest proposed for Australia and New Zealand. The green mill employs very efficient bandsaw production, with optimum log sawing patterns being achieved by use of the latest computer technology. The logs are measured electronically, and decisions about sawing patterns and sizes are then calculated by computer, taking into account both the characteristics of the log itself, and the orders currently held by the company for sawn timber production. This level of technological sophistication is carried on through the kiln drying or seasoning works to the dry mill where the dried timber is machined into a variety of sizes and profiles ready for the market.

The veneer plant is also of modern design and, using modern technology, produces on the site, high grade plywood for use for flooring, structural purposes and a multitude of uses where the advantages of low weight and high strength are of particular value. The veneer plant uses the very best of the logs which are available from the forest and converts them into a wood product of high value added degree.

The preservation plant utilises roundwood material of suitable size and specification to produce a durable product by pressure treatment with chemical salts.

The agreement will allow the company to take full advantage of economies of scale in the softwood sawmilling industry, while at the same time provide for confidence in the stability and security of supply of raw material.

The expansion of raw material supply will create more jobs. These jobs will not only be an increase in numbers, but they will be more secure jobs, with the potential to be more interesting jobs, with a lower degree of manual effort, and a higher degree of responsibility and technical input.

I now move on to specific points covered in the agreement. The timber rights so granted are for a period of 40 years. They cover the supply of softwood sawlogs and veneer logs, preservation material and pulpwood. A plan of utilisation is required to be drawn up each year, which will clearly lay down the locations from where timber of the various grades will be made available.

The main bulk of the supply is to come from the Ovens Valley plantations around Beechworth, Myrtleford and Bright. Most of the remainder will come from plantations in the Koetong area, to the east of Tallangatta. However, in order to allow for expansion of supply to the company in the short term it has been necessary to arrange for supply from plantations in the Warrenbayne area to the south of Benalla. This supply will also allow for expansion of sawmilling activity in addition to wood supplied to Bowater-Scott Ltd.

The agreement provides for an immediate increase from 160 000 cubic metres of sawlogs and veneer logs to a volume of 190 000 cubic metres of sawlog and veneer logs from 1986–87 to 1989–90. After each five-year period following 1990, there is a further increase in volume available to the company. Until the sustainable yield capacity of the forest is reached in the year 2005. A steady volume of 400 000 cubic metres per annum is planned for the years 2005–06 to 2025–26. These volumes have been carefully calculated, and represent the volume of timber available from the expansion in softwood plantation areas which commenced in the north-east of Victoria in the early 1960's. The volumes in the agreement allow not only for Bowater-Scott Ltd, but also for the other major softwood sawmill at Wodonga.

Pulpwood volumes required will reduce, because of the increased amounts of pulpwood which will become available from sawmill off-cuts and edgings.

In order to supply these volumes, the department will need to continue with the planned planting program. There are several options available including use of land currently under lease to private landholders by the Rural Water Commission and the purchase of freehold land. It is also planned to increase inputs of fertiliser to ensure a higher growth rate on existing stands.

A further refinement has been the introduction of an optional category of log which is less than 20 centimetres centre diameter under bark. This category of sawlog is not currently taken, but trials carried out by the company have shown that this timber can be used for non-structural purposes. The company will not be required to take this category of log, but it will be available to boost throughput. This is an example of the value adding concept being successfully introduced into Victorian forests.

In this agreement, there is a requirement for the company to guarantee a minimum cash flow level to the Government of 90 per cent of the royalty for the volume planned to be made available each year, whether the wood is actually taken or not. Any payment made with respect to logs not actually taken is available as a credit if an excess above the normal planned volume is taken during any of the next five years.

Royalties are payable on the timber at standard royalty rates, but, in addition to royalty, a licence fee is payable with respect to the acquisition by the company of the guaranteed access to the public resource of softwood plantations. It is an annual fee, payable in advance, and is set at $1 per cubic metre, indexed annually.

At this level, in the first year, the licence fee payment will be $160 000, in addition to royalties of about $5 million. In the latter years of the agreement the licence fee will rise in 1986 dollars to about $360 000 annually and royalty payments to about $10 million.

The final area of substance in the agreement is in the "force majeure" area. Any commercial arrangement of such a length requires previously agreed mechanisms to handle unforseen circumstances.

There are provisions which allow the department to be released from its obligations in the event of major disaster such as fire, and there are provisions which allow the company to be released from all or part of its obligations in the event of overpowering circumstances. Such circumstances may include events beyond the control of the company which render the carrying on of the industry commercially impracticable. There are several situations in the agreement where agreement between the department and the company is required, and failing agreement, arbitration is to be entered into according to the Commercial Arbitration Act 1984.

There has been some concern expressed by the Australian Conservation Foundation about the effect of this agreement on native forest. I reiterate the Government's commitment that no further public native forest would be cleared to meet the agreed supply to Bowater-Scott. Moreover, the timber industry strategy commits the Government to the cessation of clearing of native forests for any pine plantations by July 1987.

The foundation has called for an independent public examination of the allocation before the Government proceeds. The agreement was drawn up with a high degree of consultation with Bowater-Scott Ltd, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Timber Workers Union and was formulated after consideration of the Government's economic and environmental objectives. I repeat the Government's commitment that no further public native forest will be cleared to meet the requirements of this agreement.

The major benefits of this negotiated agreement include a guaranteed market for sawlogs, provision of a secure resource base for the development and operation of the industry and thus stable employment opportunities. The agreement will assist in the creation of additional jobs as Bowater-Scott Ltd will be able to make further investment increments secure in the knowledge of its available long-term softwood resource.

I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr PLOWMAN (Evelyn), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 30.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL (REPEAL) BILL

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the Post-Secondary Education Remuneration Tribunal Act 1980, to amend the Council of Adult Education Act 1981 and the Industrial Relations Act 1979 thereby giving effect to longstanding Government policy regarding the rationalisation of all State-regulated industrial jurisdictions within the Industrial Relations Commission. There are explanatory notes attached to the Bill and I do not propose to examine each of the clauses in detail. There has been detailed consultation with all parties concerned with the proposed legislation. The Bill abolishes the Post-Secondary Education Remuneration Tribunal and provides for its tasks be be handled by the Industrial Relations Commission. The transfer to the commission will overcome a number of deficiencies in the Post-Secondary Education Remuneration Tribunal Act such as the lack of jurisdiction over unfair dismissals and reinstatements and lack of appeal against decisions of the tribunal except to the Supreme Court, and then only on matters of law, not merit.

The abolition of the tribunal will result in the Industrial Relations Commission having jurisdiction over the terms and conditions of employment of academic staff in Colleges of Advanced Education, non-teaching professional, administrative, clerical and technical staff employed by Colleges of Advances Education and Technical and Further Education Colleges, and officers and employees of the Council of Adult Education.

Clause 3 provides transitional provisions to protect current rights by deeming all Post-Secondary Education Remuneration Tribunal determinations to be awards of the Industrial Relations Commission.

Clause 4 provides for a new section to be inserted into the Industrial Relations Act 1979 entitling the Council of Academic Staff Associations to be a recognised association pursuant to that Act. The council of academic staff associations is the body representing academic staff employed by Colleges of Advanced Education.

Clause 5 provides for the amendment of the Council of Adult Education Act 1981 to allow the Industrial Relations Commission to exercise jurisdiction.

In conclusion I advise the House that the proposals seek to provide consistent industrial rights for employers and employees across the State. Such rights are already enjoyed by the majority of employers and employees and there is no reason for withholding them from others.

I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr AUSTIN (Ripon), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 30.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (REGISTRATION FEES) BILL

Mr WALSH (Minister for Public Works)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is designed to increase the registration fees for factories, shops and market sites which are imposed by section 52 of the Labour and Industry Act and set out in the Fourth Schedule to that Act. The proposed fees are to come into effect on 1 January 1987.

The increases proposed in the Bill are modest: they represent a 7 per cent increase over the present fees.

Honourable members are well aware that it has been the practice of Government since the 1970s to increase fees and charges on an annual basis. The reason for this is quite obvious—that in order to keep pace with inflation Government fees need to be increased in accordance with movement in the consumer price index. The revenue from the fees for the registration of factories, shops and market sites serves to offset the cost of administering the laws designed to protect the conditions of employment laid down under State awards and to protect law abiding traders.

I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr GUDE (Hawthorn), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 30.

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Honourable members will recall that the Country Fire Authority Act was amended earlier this year to require spark arresters fitted to new tractors and farm vehicles to comply to the Australian standard for spark arresters. The purpose of the amendment was to ensure that the exhaust system of all new vehicles brought into service would present no danger of fire when used in rural areas. The Act also requires the operators of such vehicles to ensure that the spark arresters are properly maintained.

The Australian standard for spark arresters, AS 1019-1985, states that an engine fitted with a turbocharger is deemed to have an effective exhaust emission control device. However, the Country Fire Authority Act requires all tractors and farm vehicles to be fitted with a spark arrester, irrespective of whether or not the vehicle's engine is turbocharged.

As exhaust emissions from turbocharged engines are adequately controlled, the Bill exempts such vehicles from the requirement to have a spark arrester fitted. Similarly, vehicles fitted with exhaust-aspirated aircleaners are to be exempted from the requirement as it is impractical to fit a spark arrester to such vehicles without adversely affecting the performance of the engine.

I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr CROZIER (Portland), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 30.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Honourable members will recall that the Emergency Management Act was enacted in the autumn sitting earlier this year. The Act received Royal assent on 20 May and the greater part of the Act was proclaimed on 27 June, in the process repealing the State Disasters Act.

During the debate on the principal Act, a number of issues emerged which could not be satisfactorily resolved within the time-frame of the autumn sitting. Consequently, I undertook to generally review the substance of a number of amendments offered by the Opposition in both Houses, with a view to bringing forward amendments to the principal Act in the current sitting.

The proposed amendments have been reviewed, in consultation with affected agencies, and I am pleased to advise that the amendments to the principal Act in this Bill address the substance of the majority of the amendments suggested by the Opposition. Together with some additional amendments which serve to clarify provisions in the principal Act found to be desirable in the course of the review, I believe the amendments substantially improve the Emergency Management Act.

With particular reference to the issues raised in the earlier debate on the principal Act, the significant amendments are:

Firstly, the provision in section 4 of the Act which prevents that Act from being used to bring an industrial dispute to an end is repealed. In lieu of that provision, a new section has been added which prohibits the Premier declaring a state of disaster for the purposes of taking action against any person or body of persons in circumstances to which the Essential Services Act applies.

Secondly, the Co-ordinator in Chief is required to consult with the State Disasters Council before reviewing the State Disaster Response Plan or DISPLAN. Naturally, as Co-ordinator in Chief, I would rely on the advice of the heads of the emergency services in any review of DISPLAN. This amendment thus enshrines the commonsense approach into the statute.

Thirdly, the application of the compensation scheme in the Act has been clarified, by specifying that the scheme is not to be applied to persons covered by other statutory compensation schemes and by making provision for the scheme to be applied to casual emergency workers. The latter are people who may be called on to assist in an emergency but who are not regular emergency workers registered with any particular agency.

Finally, persons performing roles under DISPLAN are excluded from the offence of obstructing or hindering any person performing such a role.

The Bill also corrects an anomaly by empowering the chief officers of the fire-fighting agencies to appoint one of their officers to have control of response activities, whether or not requested to do so by a police co-ordinator.

I am grateful for the positive contribution that has been made by members of the Opposition parties, and can assure honourable members that the amendments will result in an enhancement of the arrangements established under the principal Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr CROZIER (Portland), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 30.

ROAD SAFETY BILL

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

On 11 June 1986 I released for public comment draft proposals for a Road Safety Bill which form the basis of the present Bill. More than 100 submissions were received in response to the draft proposals, mainly from representative bodies covering a wide range of public opinion. The submissions have been carefully considered and where necessary follow-up meetings have been held to explore proposals in greater detail. As a result, the Bill contains a number of changes from the original proposals and I will refer to the more important of these shortly.

PURPOSES OF THE BILL

The main purposes of the Bill are: to provide for safe, efficient and equitable road use; to improve and simplify procedures for the registration of motor vehicles and the licensing of drivers, and to ensure the equitable distribution within the community of the costs of road use.

Modern traffic legislation is unique in that probably no other single activity in society has generated such a wide array of rules. What originated as a set of practical rules to control the activities of motorists has developed into a formidable mass of statute law and regulations to the extent where it is virtually imposible to estimate the number of traffic offences which may be committed by a motorist.

The problem is compounded in that although motorists travel frequently between States and Territories, each jurisdiction has differing traffic legislation.

In Victoria, the principal source of traffic law at present is the Motor Car Act 1958. Since coming into operation on 1 April 1959, this Act has been amended by some 120 subsequent Acts. It has never been consolidated and, as a result, it is urgently in need of review.

Coupled with the Act, there are some 250 pages of regulations made under the Act. The primary purpose of all of this legislation is to ensure the safety of those who use our roads. If this purpose is to succeed traffic legislation must be in a form that the ordinary motorist can follow and understand. Judged by this test, our present legislation can only be described as a lamentable failure.

The Bill essentially re-enacts the provisions of the Motor Car Act but places the emphasis on establishing the purposes of the legislation and setting out the major legislative requirements.

The provisions of the Transport Act 1983 relating to road safety, particularly those dealing with road traffic regulation and the traffic infringement notice system, have also been incorporated in the Bill so that all regulatory provisions relating to road safety will be located in the one Act. The submissions received in response to the draft proposals commented very favourably on this aspect.

FORM OF THE BILL

The Bill is divided into nine parts and has four schedules.

Part 1 sets out the general purposes of the Bill and contains definitions of a number of terms used in the Bill.

Part 2 deals with registration. The purposes of the registration provisions are: to ensure that the design, construction and equipment of motor vehicles and trailers which are used on a highway meet safety and environmental standards; to enable the use of motor vehicles and trailers on highways to be regulated for reasons of safety, protection of the environment

and law enforcement, and to provide a method of establishing the identity of each motor vehicle or trailer which is used on a highway and of the person who is responsible for it.

Part 3 provides for the licensing of drivers to ensure that: people who drive motor vehicles on highways are competent drivers; drivers are aware of safe driving practices and road law; people who are, or who become, unsuited to drive are not permitted to drive on highways, and drivers can be identified for the purposes of law enforcement and accident investigation.

Part 4 deals specifically with recreation vehicles which are used in a public place which is not a highway. The intention of this part is to ensure that recreation vehicles are safe and meet environmental standards and that their use can be properly regulated. The part also ensures that people who drive recreation vehicles in a public place are old enough to do so and that there is a proper means for establishing the identity of recreation vehicles and of the persons responsible for them.

Part 5 deals with the important topic of driving offences involving alcohol or other drugs. It contains a number of provisions intended to: reduce the number of motor vehicle collisions of which alcohol or other drugs are a cause; reduce the number of drivers whose driving is impaired by alcohol or other drugs; and provide a simple and effective means of establishing that there is present in the blood of a driver more than the legal limit of alcohol.

Part 6 defines a number of specific offences connected with the driving of motor vehicles and sets out procedures for the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

Part 7 sets out the requirements relating to parking and traffic infringements.

Part 8 contains a number of general provisions relating to delegations, service of notices, regulations, fees and a number of other miscellaneous matters.

REGULATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER THE BILL

Much of the detail presently contained in the Motor Car Act will be dealt with in regulations to be made under the Bill. For example, matters such as the procedures for registration and transfer of registration of motor vehicles; the licensing of drivers and the conditions of driver licences and learner permits; the use of trade plates; the mass and dimension limits for vehicles and the classification and safety standards of motor vehicles will be set out in the regulations. This will provide much needed flexibility in the introduction and ongoing refinement of more efficient administrative procedures.

In the course of consultation on the draft proposals, undertakings were given that a full set of draft regulations would be made available at the time of introduction of the Bill. I propose to table these for the information of honourable members. At this stage the refining of the regulations to simple language is yet to be completed. This will be done progressively.

The regulations will need to satisfy the detailed requirements as to consultation and other matters introduced by the Subordinate Legislation (Review and Revocation) Act 1984. So far as possible this will be done during the passage of the Bill with a view to the commencement on 1 January 1987 of the drink driving and driver licensing changes which will produce the more immediate road safety benefits. The Government is trying to get those pieces of the proposed Act into place as quickly as possible because of the significant effects they will have.

UNLICENSED DRIVERS AND UNREGISTERED VEHICLES

If there is to be safe, efficient and equitable road use, it is necessary that drivers and vehicles comply with the standards set by the legislation. The Government is particularly concerned with the number of unlicensed drivers and unregistered vehicles on the road. This anti-social behaviour must be eliminated as far as possible and the Bill does this in a number of ways.

The penalties for offences in these areas have been substantially increased. For example, an unlicenced driver may now be liable to a penalty of up to $2500 or imprisonment for three months. Driving whilst disqualified carries an even higher penalty of up to $3000 or imprisonment for four months. Driving or owning an unregistered motor vehicle with two axles now carries a penalty of up to $600 for a first offence and $1100 for a subsequent offence.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE'S MAJOR REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY

In 1984, a major review of road safety in Victoria was completed by the Parliament's Social Development Committee. Twenty-four recommendations were made for action and eleven for research in the form of a "Five year plan" for the period to 1988–89.

The majority of the countermeasure program to meet the recommendations is already in place and virtually all of the recommended measures should be in effect by the end of the year. For example, random breath testing has already passed the level of intensity recommended as a minimum; new written tests for applicants for learner permits and probationary licences have been introduced; the training program for novice motorcyclists has been rapidly expanding through the State; photographic licences have been introduced; photographic detection devices have been installed to detect red light and speeding offences and the number of traffic offences which can be dealt with by issuing traffic infringement notices has been reviewed.

The program of research recommended by the committee was intended to ensure that at the end of the five-year period, information would be available on which the next set of road safety measures could be based. The eleven research areas recommended are all components of the current Road Traffic Authority research program and are receiving attention, varying from planning through to actual conduct.

The Government is determined to continue its all out attack on Victoria's road toll so that the momentum of recent years is not lost. Measures taken so far have been highly successful to the extent that Victoria has a reputation as a world leader in safety measures. The Victorian fatality rate per 10 000 vehicles for 1985 was 2·8 which is the equal lowest level and is below the corresponding average rate of 3·4 for the rest of Australia.

Nevertheless, the road toll for 1985 was still 682 deaths which was an increase over the preceding year. This disturbing trend is continuing in that the road toll so far this year has continued at about the same level as that for the corresponding period in 1985.

The community is appalled at the size of the road toll with its far reaching social and economic consequences and will only be satisfied when that road toll is substantially reduced and the reduction maintained. Victoria has led the rest of Australia in identifying drink driving and excessive speed as the principal causes of road trauma. Further legislative countermeasures must be introduced to ensure that irresponsible road users such as the drink driver and speeding driver are detected and prosecuted.

For the purpose of identifying appropriate countermeasures, discussions have been held with a number of interested groups whose contributions are acknowledged. In particular I have had extensive discussions with the Road Trauma Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons who have been most helpful in identifying problem areas and possible solutions.

BREATH TESTS

One of the important road safety initiatives provided for in the Bill is that the police be allowed to require any motorist to undergo a preliminary breath test. At present, the police may require a driver to undergo a preliminary breath test only at a preliminary breath testing station or if a member of the Police Force has reasonable grounds for believing that the ability of a driver is impaired by having consumed intoxicating liquor or that a person has within the last 2 hours driven a motor car which has been involved in an accident.

The time limit within which a preliminary breath test may be administered will also be extended from 2 hours to 3 hours.

Road Traffic Authority officers currently have no power to administer preliminary breath tests and the Bill provides for those tests to be administered by authorised Road Traffic Authority officers. This will be done only in conjunction with the enforcement activities of these officers in relation to traffic laws and loading requirements for drivers of commercial passenger and goods vehicles. Road Traffic Authority officers will receive special police training before exercising those powers.

Authorised Road Traffic Authority officers, whilst intercepting the drivers of commercial passenger or goods vehicles, from time to time suspect that drivers may be driving under the influence of alcohol. Under the law as it presently stands, the police then have to be contacted to carry out a preliminary breath test. However, there have been a number of occasions where a preliminary breath test has not been administered to the suspected driver because of difficulty in arranging the attendance of police for tests to be taken within the 2-hour period required by the law.

An analysis of compulsory blood tests on drivers involved in serious casualty accidents showed that 12·7 per cent of truck drivers and 9·1 per cent of taxi drivers were over the 0·05 per cent limit. Although this is lower than the comparable figure of 29 per cent for non-commercial drivers, nevertheless it demonstrates that there is a serious problem requiring attention.

In recent cases where police assistance was available to test commercial drivers, blood alcohol readings up to as high as 0·2 per cent have been obtained. The seriousness of commercial drivers being on the road with blood alcohol content readings as high as this warrants an extension of the power to administer preliminary breath tests to authorised Road Traffic Authority officers, to be exercised only in the limited circumstances referred to.

It is not the intention that Road Traffic Authority officers should exercise general police powers with respect to preliminary breath tests.

TECHNICAL DEFENCES AGAINST DRINK-DRIVING CHARGES

The Bill also contains provisions designed to prevent technical defences against drink-driving charges. In a recent decision, the Victorian Supreme Court decided that it was permissible for expert evidence to be given that breathalysers could give incorrect readings. In an interview given following that decision the Premier referred to "smart esoteric points of law that lead to a diminution in the capacity of the police to see that out roads are free of motorists who are affected by drink." He said that "If it were necessary to legislate to tidy this up, we would do it".

In other States, the relevant legislation provides for breathalysers in general to be taken to give accurate readings and for readings from a breathalyser not to be changed by subsequent evidence. It is essential that Victorian drink-driving legislation follows the approach taken in other States.

Following consultation with various organisations including the police, the Road Trauma Committee, the Australian Medical Association, the Victorian Hospitals Association and the Law Institute of Victoria, the blood alcohol content offence will be expanded to include exceeding a prescribed reading on an approved breath analysis instrument.

The only grounds on which a breath analysis reading may be challenged will be that the particular instrument was operated improperly or was defective. Motorists will need to be aware that the offence is being over the legal limit at the time of being tested. Consequently, a motorist who drinks after being involved in an accident but before being tested cannot use this to subvert the possibility of a conviction as at present and runs the risk that the penalty may be substantially increased by a higher reading when tested. The seriousness of the offence of drink-driving is such that measures such as these are warranted.

IMMEDIATE LICENCE SUSPENSION

The explanatory notes which accompanied the draft proposals stated that:

Drivers who are detected with a BAC content of 0·15 per cent may be referred for medical assessment to determine their fitness to continue to hold a drivers licence. Should they fail this assessment, their licence may be suspended. This procedure can be used as necessary to ensure that drivers who are involved in serious accidents and who have a very high BAC are prevented from driving pending their case coming to court.

In light of the comments received, the Bill has been amended to provide far more effective procedures to get the driver with the high blood alcohol reading off the road as quickly as possible. A driver detected with a blood alcohol concentration of 0·15 per cent or above will be required to surrender his licence to the police immediately and the suspension will be recorded on the driver licence records.

Licence surrender in accordance with these procedures may also be required by a Road Traffic Authority officer in conjunction with the enforcement activities of these officers in relation to traffic laws and loading requirements for drivers of commercial passenger and goods vehicles.

The driver will have a right of appeal to a court to have this interim licence suspension lifted but unless the appeal is successful the driver will not be able to drive before the drink driving charges are heard.

The driver who fails to stop or leaves the scene of an accident in the hope of avoiding detection of a drink-driving offence will face substantially increased penalties.

The owner of a vehicle will be required to provide information to identify the driver, notwithstanding that the owner was driving at the time. The removal of the privilege against self-incrimination is justified by the current difficulties being encountered by the police in identifying hit-run drivers. For example, following the recent hit-run incident involving a fatality, the registered owner of the vehicle attended at the police station but when interviewed refused to provide any information other than his name.

The need for measures such as these is evidenced by the cases of irresponsible drivers with very high blood alcohol concentrations detected by the police. By way of example, in 1984 a driver was detected with a blood alcohol concentration of ·245 per cent. Approximately 24 hours later, the same driver was involved in a fatal accident and when tested had a blood alcohol content of 0·25 per cent.

DRUGS

In February 1986, I established a working party to examine and report on the extent to which drugs other than alcohol are a factor in road accidents in Victoria. The working party reported in June and the report has since been made public. In accordance with the report the Bill has not altered the current position under the Motor Car Act with regard to drugs, other than to bring the penalties into line with the drink-driving penalties. Other measures are needed to deal with the question of drugs but these require further development.

INCREASED PENALTIES

In line with the approach adopted in the Transport Accident Bill, this Bill provides for stiffened penalties for a range of anti-social traffic offences. The broad result will be a 50 per cent increase in "on-the-spot" fines for safety-related traffic infringement notices, including red light and speed camera offences. For a range of traffic offences outside the ambit of traffic infringement notices—for example reckless driving and drunken driving—maximum fines have also been increased. Since the introduction of the Transport Accident Bill the opportunity has been taken to regrade the penalties for particular offences according to the degree of risk to safety involved. The results of this regrading are reflected in the Bill and the draft regulations.

EXCEEDING SPEED LIMITS BY MORE THAN 30 KM/H

The Government recently legislated to make licence suspension or cancellation mandatory following conviction for a speeding offence involving exceeding the relevant speed limit by 30 kilometres an hour or more.

This was done because of the seriousness with which the Government views excessive speeding on our roads.

Motorists should be aware that under clause 28 of the Bill, it will no longer be possible for courts to avoid suspending or cancelling a licence by the imposition of a bond. Licence suspension or cancellation will be mandatory for speeding offences where a speed limit is exceeded by 30 kilometres an hour or more. It will continue to be mandatory for other serious offences including certain drink-driving offences.

GRADUATED LICENSING SCHEME

One of the Social Development Committee's recommendations was the introduction of a graduated licensing scheme to enable new drivers to gain their critical early experience as safely as possible. The scheme would involve certain driving restrictions being imposed on probationary drivers to reduce accidents involving inexperienced drivers. Details of the additional driving restrictions during the probationary licence phase were to be developed from research by the Road Traffic Authority. The authority has now completed this research and has recommended an integrated package of measures which include the following features:

the duration of the probationary licence will be reduced from three years to two-years. However, probationary drivers will now be required to display "P" plates for the whole of the two-year probationary period;

the zero blood alcohol requirement for first year probationary drivers will be extended to cover the whole of the probationary period. This has been done on the basis of a preliminary evaluation covering the first six months' operation of the existing legislation. This indicates a reduction of about 18 per cent for first-year drivers in serious night-time casualty accidents. Moreover, research has shown that drivers in the second year of a probationary licence who are involved in casualty crashes are 30 per cent more likely to have been drinking than first year drivers;

the penalties on probationary drivers convicted of safety related offences will be altered, so that the three-month period of mandatory licence cancellation will be reduced to a one month suspension, but the probationary period and associated conditions will be extended for six months. In addition, the range of safety related offences which result in the suspension will be extended;

the present 80 kilometres an hour speed limit for learner drivers and first year probationary drivers will be abolished. Although Victoria has had this requirement for many years, there is no evidence that it has been an effective safety measure. On the other hand, the presence of a vehicle travelling at a significantly slower speed than the surrounding traffic flow can be a hazard and should be avoided unless there are overriding safety considerations.

These components of the graduated licensing scheme are provided for in the Bill.

The Road Traffic Authority also recommended a night time driving curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for learner and first year drivers who are under the age of 25 at the time of obtaining their probationary licence. Although the authority's recommendation provided for exemptions to be granted where drivers have to use their vehicles for employment or educational reasons, the Government remains concerned at the potential impact of such a curfew on the mobility of young persons. The Government is also concerned that there may be difficulties with the administration and enforcement of such a scheme.

The Government has, therefore, decided not to adopt this component of the graduated licence package at this stage, but may refer the issue to the Parliament's Social Development Committee for further consideration as a late road safety reference.

In raising the question of additional driving restrictions during the probationary licence phase, the committee indicated that the proposal would have lower priority if the scheme allowed any solo driving below the age of eighteen years. This qualification is reinforced by research which presents the estimated accident outcomes of reductions in the Victorian licensing age, based on data from all other Australian States. The research demonstrated that a reduction in the Victorian licensing age to seventeen years would produce:

an additional 30 to 50 fatal accidents annually;

an additional 650 to 700 injury accidents annually; and

a further reduction to sixteen years would approximately double the above outcomes.

It was further demonstrated that even with quite severe restrictions on the driving of those below the current licensing age, there would still be a net increase in casualty accidents. The only graduated licensing options that return a clear safety benefit, and thus meet the objective of reducing the young driver accident problem, are those which retain eighteen years as the licensing age and implement further measures.

ELDERLY DRIVERS

The Government has also given consideration to the need for additional retesting procedures for elderly drivers. At present the primary check on the medical condition of drivers occurs at the point of initial licensing when applicants for learner permits or licences are asked about specific impairments and treatments. Post-licensing action depends primarily upon the receipt of information from various sources that a person is not well enough to drive.

A major study of the accident involvement rates of elderly drivers was carried out by the Road Traffic Authority. This study showed that:

on the basis of the number of people in each age group in the population older drivers are under-involved in accidents.

Using the number of licences held by drivers in each age group as the form of comparison, older drivers are also under-involved in accidents.

When the distance travelled by older drivers is taken into account they are over-involved in accidents compared to drivers other than those holding probationary licences. This over-involvement starts at age 65 but does not become marked until age 75.

The absolute number of accidents to drivers aged 75 and over is quite low; 326 drivers aged 75 and over were involved in casualty accidents in 1984. This represents 1·39 per cent of the total.

On the basis of a comparison of accident rates by age in other States, it did not appear that the licence retesting programs currently operating in other States were any more successful in screening out unsafe drivers than the present Victorian system.

The substantial costs to the public of a formal retesting system are unlikely to be offset by significant benefits in terms of accident reduction.

The Government has therefore accepted the authority's recommendation that the introduction of additional retesting procedures for elderly drivers is not warranted. However, discussions will be held with the Australian Medical Association and other professional bodies to ensure that practitioners adopt a responsible attitude to notifying the authority of patients whose medical condition would affect their ability to drive a motor vehicle.

MOTOR CYCLE LICENCES

Under the Bill, there will no longer be separate licences for motor cyclists. This initiative will benefit motor cyclists who wish to hold a motor cycle licence as well as a licence to drive a motor car. Licence costs will be reduced by the amount of the fee for the additional licence required under the Motor Car Act, currently $54. Motor cyclists will require only one licence document and licence renewal need be effected only once every six years.

As I mentioned earlier, the Government intends to bring the driver licensing and drink-driving provisions into force on 1 January 1987.

REGULAR ROADWORTHINESS INSPECTIONS OF VEHICLES

Although driver behaviour must be controlled if Victoria's road toll is to be reduced, it is also necessary to ensure that vehicles on the road are safe and roadworthy. In releasing the draft proposals for a Bill for public comment in June 1986, I indicated that the Government had received a number of submissions, including a submission from the Road Trauma Committee, arguing for compulsory regular inspections of all vehicles for roadworthiness as from the third year of registration. I mentioned also that these submissions were being sympathetically considered by the Government.

The Road Traffic Authority has indicated that, based on the evidence available at present, annual roadworthiness inspections, other than for public transport vehicles and large commercial vehicles, are not cost beneficial. Only about 1 in 200 casualty accidents would be avoided by the introduction of such a scheme and the cost of the scheme to the community would be in the vicinity of $66 000 000 per annum. The most effective measure from a range of possible options would be to increase the number of road side inspections particularly if this were carried out as part of a series of combined licence check and breath testing operations.

The Government therefore proposes to adopt measures of the latter kind which, together with tyre defect campaigns, a tightening up of the procedures for inspection of commercial vehicles and the requirement for a roadworthiness certificate on transfer of ownership, should result in a marked improvement in the general roadworthiness of vehicles on the road. The Road Traffic Authority has been requested to keep the effectiveness of these procedures under review. If it is decided as a result of the review that regular roadworthiness inspections should be introduced, the Bill as it stands is wide enough to permit this.

In addition to roadside inspections of vehicles, the Bill enables members of the police and authorised RTA officers to require entry to non-residential premises for the purpose of inspecting vehicles believed to be below the standards required for registered vehicles. In addition, to provide for the circumstances which may necessitate this, members of the police will also have the power to require entry to residential premises for the purpose of inspecting vehicles.

REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

The Bill proposes a number of other changes to the present procedures relating to the registration of vehicles and transfers of registrations to ensure that vehicles on the road are safe and roadworthy. Consultation regarding these proposals has taken place with the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce and other industry groups.

Where a car is being registered in Victoria for the first time, the current procedures require the owner to accept responsibility for the identity and description of the vehicle and its compliance with the Australian design rules and other standards of construction, design and equipment. If a vehicle which is being sold does not meet these standards, it cannot be registered. The purchaser of the vehicle then has the burden of making such changes to the vehicle as are necessary to ensure conformity and to enable registration. This is so notwithstanding that in many cases, an intending purchaser has no practical means of ensuring before purchase that a vehicle is capable of being registered.

To overcome this problem and to ensure that an accurate, technical and physical description of the vehicle is provided for registration purposes, the vendor of a vehicle being registered in Victoria for the first time will be required to obtain a pre-registration certificate from a qualified person. Responsible manufacturers and importers of vehicles as well as approved automotive engineers will be authorised to issue these certificates.

New vehicle registrations will be facilitated by enabling approved new car dealers to perform functions under delegation from the Road Traffic Authority. These include accepting payments for registration and insurance and issuing number plates and interim labels. This will not only provide greater convenience for dealers and their customers but will also achieve administrative savings and speed up the processing of new registrations.

Changes will be made to the current procedures for transfer of registration to achieve the dual aims of safer vehicles on the roads and enabling transfers to be processed more rapidly by the Road Traffic Authority. The following changes will be provided for in the regulations to be made under the Bill:

vendors of motor vehicles must obtain and display a certificate of roadworthiness in all cases unless the vehicle is sold unregistered or to a licensed motor car trader.

Traders will be responsible for remitting transfer documents and fees instead of the present situation where the trader looks after the documentation in practice, but the customer takes the responsibility.

In a private transaction, not involving a trader, the responsibilities of the acquirer and the disposer will be kept separate.

The authority will be required to be notified of a change of ownership within seven days to ensure that the disposer is not inconvenienced by owner onus offences committed by the acquirer.

At present "blue labels" are issued by the authority to enable the owners to dispose of registered vehicles without obtaining roadworthy certificates. It is proposed to abolish "blue labels" and instead to introduce a requirement for the disposer of a registered vehicle to supply a roadworthy certificate at the time of sale unless the sale is to a licensed motor car trader. Alternatively, the disposer may cancel the registration of the vehicle and hand in its number plates to the authority before disposing of the vehicle. Consultation has taken place with the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce on this proposal, which will remove existing abuses of the "blue label" system and ensure that all registered second-hand vehicles that are transferred to a member of the public are roadworthy. The Bill does not prevent members of the public buying an unregistered motor vehicle for the purposes of restoration and repair.

UNIFORM LEGISLATION

It is important that as far as possible legislation relating to motor traffic is uniform throughout Australia. Late last year, the Commonwealth enacted the Interstate Road Transport Act 1985 to give effect to certain recommendations of the National Road Freight Industry Inquiry.

The Bill will ensure that State law is consistent with the Federal Act by repealing without replacement the existing provisions of the Motor Car Act which provide for registration of vehicles engaged solely in interstate trade. For enforcement and other reciprocal purposes, the Bill will recognise the Federal Act as a corresponding Act.

HEAVY VEHICLE SPEED LIMITS

The National Road Freight Industry Inquiry recommended moving towards a 100 kilometre per hour speed limit for heavy vehicles. The Government is opposed to an immediate 100 kilometre per hour maximum speed limit for trucks but proposes to introduce a 90 kilometre per hour limit, to allow for the difference in braking performance between trucks and cars. Under the most recent Australian design rules concerned with braking performance, cars are required to be able to stop in a much shorter distance than trucks. Any increase to a maximum speed of 100 kilometre per hour would not be

contemplated until after a monitoring period of, say, two years followed by consideration of the matter by the Australian Transport Advisory Council. The Bill accordingly has not preserved the present 80 kilometre per hour truck speed limit provided for in section 33 of the Motor Car Act. Truck speed limits will be provided for in regulations to be made under the Bill. This will permit the necessary flexibility for any future changes in truck speed limits to be incorporated.

CONCLUSION

In overall terms, the Bill is a highly significant measure, dealing as it does with matters which affect almost every member of the community. Reform in this area of the law is long overdue and is a vital part of the Government's campaign to ensure safety for all using our roads.

For the benefit of the opposition parties, I add that officers of the Ministry of Transport will be available to discuss not only the Bill but also the very detailed regulations that flow from it.

I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr BROWN (Gippsland West), the debate was adjourned.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—I move:

That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 30.

Mr W. D. McGRATH (Lowan)—On the question of time, Mr Speaker, an adjournment until 30 September seems to be not enough time in which to consider the proposed legislation. As the Bill will repeal the Motor Car Act 1958 as well as making other major changes, the National Party might need more time in which to discuss the measure with the motor car industry and others associated with it.

I seek an assurance from the Minister for Transport that, if the National Party requires more time in which to consider the proposed legislation—bearing in mind that the Government wishes to have the measure in place by the end of the year—he will agree to an extension time.

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West)—On the question of time, Sir, obviously this important and complex Bill needs proper consideration. I share the view expressed by the National Party spokesman that the community needs adequate time in which to be fully informed.

It is pleasing that the Government finally entered into a consultative process by circulating a draft copy of the Bill three months ago. People wish to compare the differences between the draft Bill and the Bill tabled today. Today will be the first time the public of Victoria will have been notified of what the Bill entails.

The Government proposes widesweeping reforms to the motor industry, and, therefore, I join with the National Party to ask that the Minister provide an extension of time in which to consider the matter, if it is required. This will ensure that all Victorians and motorists are protected.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport) *(By Leave)*—On the question of time, the Government will discuss with the National and Liberal parties both that matter and the time constraints that are placed on the Bill.

The State Government has committed itself to the Federal Government and the road transport industry to have the fast-track passages of the Bill, which they have been after for years, in effect after 1 January 1987. It also wants to have the drink-driving provisions and related matters in place by that time.

The timetable is tight, but I am more than happy to have discussions with the two other political parties about the extension of time. If it is absolutely essential, it will be provided. I shall also ensure a briefing for the two spokesmen on the timetable before it comes into

effect. Both private and public interests in the motor transport industry have been waiting too long for several provisions contained in the proposed legislation.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned until Tuesday, September 30.

RACING (SUNDAY RACING AND BETTING) BILL

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to remove the restrictions that appear in the Racing Act which prevent the holding of race meetings in Victoria on a Sunday. As an ancillary matter, the Bill also amends the Sunday Entertainment Act to provide that betting may be held on an authorised race meeting held on a Sunday and exempts an authorised race meeting held on a Sunday from the general provisions of the Sunday Entertainment Act.

The move to allow racing on a Sunday comes in response to coordinated representations from the industry. In the past, a number of individual clubs have requested Sunday racing; however, it was not until this year that such proposals enjoyed the full support of the controlling bodies in the racing industry.

The Bill sets out a process whereby the Minister, on receiving a recommendation from a controlling body—the Victoria Racing Club, Harness Racing Board or Greyhound Racing Control Board—may authorise the holding of a race meeting on a Sunday in place of that meeting being held on some other day. The initiative for specific Sunday race meetings will, therefore, come from the industry and the Bill provides maximum flexibility for dealing with the issue.

The Government intends that an application by the Moonee Valley Racing Club to race on Sunday, 28 September this year, should be approved. This meeting will be used as a test case and the result will be carefully considered when determining whether further Sunday racing will be permitted in Victoria.

There has already been extensive consultation between the Government, the racing industry and unions on this matter. If it is intended to continue with Sunday racing in future then further consultation will be undertaken with all relevant parties to ensure that their interests are fully understood.

It must be emphasised that the Bill does not provide for any increase in the total number of race meetings. Sunday race meetings will only be in place of existing meetings.

I would draw to honourable members' attention that the thoroughbred industry has formed a working party under the chairmanship of a Victoria Racing Club committeeman, Mr G. Levett, and comprising executives of all three metropolitan clubs and the TAB to examine the full effect of Sunday racing on the industry. The Government will await with interest the findings of the working party.

It must be stressed that the Government is not intending to open the floodgates for Sunday racing, but rather intends to proceed carefully in this area having regard to the views that are expressed by all relevant groups.

The Bill provides a significant step forward for the racing industry in Victoria, and for the people of Victoria. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr REYNOLDS (Gisborne), the debate was adjourned.

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—I move:

That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday next.

Mr HANN (Rodney)—On the question of time, Mr Speaker, the National Party is strongly opposed to the adjournment of the debate until next week. That amount of time is totally unsatisfactory because of the far-reaching measures contained in the Bill, which

would open up the whole question of Sunday racing in Victoria. The Government is being unreasonable.

If the Government were serious about its intention to hold one Sunday race meeting the day after the football grand final, it would have introduced a Bill to do only that and then would have provided sufficient time for the people of Victoria to consider this Bill and review it properly.

It is the first time the Bill has been seen and, therefore, the Government should provide people, not only those involved in racing, sufficient time in which to examine it. Some sections of the industry are strongly opposed to the Government's moves, as are people employed by the Totalizator Agency Board, churches and their leaders, and thousands of Christians. It is unreasonable of the Government to attempt to force the Bill through in one week. Therefore, I move:

That the expression "Tuesday next" be omitted with the view of inserting in place thereof the expression "Tuesday, September 30".

Mr REYNOLDS (Gisborne)—On the question of time, Mr Speaker, the National Party has moved an amendment to have the debate adjourned until 30 September. In an across-the-table discussion with the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Opposition suggested that one week was enough time in which to consider the Bill.

Some weeks ago I was briefed on this matter by the Department of Sport and Recreation, and I thank the Minister for Sport and Recreation for that. I do not know whether a spokesman from the National Party was briefed, but I certainly was. I received a copy of the Bill on a confidential basis, and members of the relevant Liberal Party committee and the Leader of the Opposition had an opportunity of discussing the proposed legislation. For those reasons, the Opposition believes an adjournment of one week is fair.

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—In response to the honourable member for Rodney, I indicate that the Government has received requests from the racing clubs, including the country racing clubs, for Sunday race meetings. It is alright for the honourable member for Rodney to suggest that some clubs are opposed to it, but I shall give an example of the support for the proposal. Six weeks ago I was at the Wodonga Racing Club and was approached by the council of that club regarding a Sunday race meeting.

The racing clubs do not have to have Sunday racing. If they want it, they must make a request for it, which must be approved by the governing bodies—not by the Government—I refer to the Victorian Country Racing Council and the Victoria Racing Club.

Honourable members have known publicly for weeks the situation regarding Sunday racing the day after the Victorian Football League grand final. Some weeks ago I spoke to the National Party spokesman about this matter. I spoke with him again last week and pointed out every measure of the proposed legislation.

The Victorian Football League grand final will be held a fortnight from Saturday. If there is to be racing on the Sunday after the grand final, the Bill must be passed by both Houses next week; that fact was pointed out to both parties. If the Bill is not proceeded with next week, a race meeting on the Sunday after the grand final—which has the support of all sections of the racing industry and the Totalizator Agency Board—will not take place. It is up to the National Party whether it wants the race meeting on the Sunday after the grand final to take place. If the National Party is not happy with that, we will have to wait until next year.

The amendment was negatived.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned until Tuesday, September 16.

TRANSPORT ACCIDENT BILL

The debate (interrupted on the previous day) on the motion of Mr Jolly (Treasurer) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen)—Last night when the debate was interrupted according to Sessional Orders, I was about to quote from a pamphlet issued by the Government. The pamphlet is headed, "Victorian Transport Accident Compensation Reform". I refer to page 2 of the pamphlet which states:

> The Government has already launched a five year road safety program, aimed at reducing the Victorian fatality rate per 1000 vehicles by a further 25 per cent by the year 1990.

I shall be more than happy to congratulate the Government if it achieves that objective; I only hope it can be achieved. However, I hope the costing of the Government's scheme has not been predicated on that assumption. Given the situation where the number of road accidents this year has increased from the number of accidents that occurred last year, the Government is starting behind the eight-ball.

The Opposition is concerned that, when it came to office in 1982, the Labor Party wound up the all-party Parliamentary Road Safety Committee. I understand the Social Development Committee has a sub-committee to deal with that issue, but it is the view of the Liberal Party that it would be far better to have a separate all-party Parliamentary committee to investigate the effect of road safety measures on the community and to make further suggestions to improve road safety.

On a number of occasions, I have asked the Government to provide economic impact statements when introducing major Bills to Parliament. This Bill is a major piece of proposed legislation to which there are no actuarial costings or impact statements attached. Some vague figures are included in the second-reading speech, but nothing is put together in a comprehensive package.

Honourable members are left with no alternative but to try to discover themselves whether the scheme is viable. For the assistance of this House, it is about time the Government produced economic impact statements and actuarial costings when introducing major Bills so honourable members know that statements made are accurate and can be tested.

I am particularly concerned about the situation referred to by the honourable member for Brighton where the benefits for motor accidents under the scheme proposed by the Government are somewhat different from the benefits that are available under WorkCare. I shall refer to a letter sent to me by the Law Institute of Victoria, which gives an example of a 45-year-old person losing his foot. Under WorkCare, such a person could expect to receive $43 186 and would still have his common law right to sue. Under provisions of the Bill, a person in that situation due to a motor accident would receive $7500 plus a weekly payment of $13.85, which is indexed.

Honourable members must ask why the Bill discriminates against people involved in motor accidents. The answer can be found in examining who pays the premiums. In the case of WorkCare, premiums are paid by employers, and the Government believes anything goes in charging employers. The benefits under WorkCare can be generous because the money is coming from employers. However, motor accidents are a different matter as there is a myriad of drivers and car owners in the community who will not tolerate a large increase in their premiums to pay for the types of measures contained in the WorkCare legislation. That is why the Opposition shall move amendments to provide for a modified form of common law rights. The Liberal Party wants to retain the basic principle of common law for those who are badly disabled by motor accidents, but the current system must be modified.

I shall now refer to a matter that has not had much attention in the community: the cross-subsidization of transport accidents.

The Bill provides for public transport accidents to be compensated for under the new system. Motorists will be paying their third-party comprehensive insurances to compensate people who have been involved in accidents on public transport.

I have some doubts about the subsidisation of public transport accidents by motorists. We have seen it with the petrol levies with which motorists are being ripped off and the money is then being ploughed into public transport. That has not been brought out so far as I am concerned; I believe that matter needs to be canvassed.

I am concerned that the people in the community who are supposed to represent motorists have not seen fit to look at this and publicise it. I should have thought, as this was supposed to be a reform Bill, that surely it is about time that the public transport people paid for the cost of their system and not have the motorists subsidising public transport accidents.

Next I shall talk about common law, and there has been a fair degree of discussion about that. So far as I and my party are concerned, our policy is that common law is an essential part of any motor transport accident scheme. However, as I mentioned yesterday, there must be modifications made to the system to cut out the smaller claims, the administrative burdens of the scheme and particularly the fraud.

I shall not refer to the concept of the modified common law, as the Opposition will be introducing amendments to the Bill at the proper stage, but I shall talk about those who support the concept of common law being retained in the Bill.

The first group of people who support the common law provision are victims of motor car accidents. In an article in the *Law Institute Journal*, January/February 1986, on page 18, there are a number of interviews with people who have been badly disfigured in motor car accidents, and they are talking about the retention of the common law rights.

The first one is a Mr Guy Byrne, who was severley disabled and who received the amount of $928 000 under the existing scheme. These are the worst affected in the community and those for whom Parliament should have the most sympathy. These are the people who most support the common law right. In part the article states:

Guy Byrne's views on the abolition of the common law right to sue for damages are clear and straightforward:

"Where there was the other situation, where I would only get $300 or $400 a week from the Government, I couldn't work for anyone. The pain I get is sometimes so bad I have to go and get a needle. I can't drive and I'm restricted to bed."

"There is no way known I could hold down a job."

"If the Government is going to give you $300 or $400 a week, or whatever it will be, you can't set yourself up with a house; and if you can't hold down a job, like I can't, then you're just going to sit at home like a cabbage."

"There would be nothing to look forward to and nothing to do."

This gentleman's words should be heeded by Parliament. The article then refers to Mr Peter Thompson, who received a large payout and he says this about the retention of common law rights:

"I think it's important to keep the flexibility of the right to sue. I guess the compensation would come at a set rate, which might be indexed to inflation, but that wouldn't be fair to some people who in their previous lives had been earning very high salaries."

"Without the lump sum I wouldn't have been able to build my home, which is very comfortable and all set up for me. I can be totally independent in it. The lump sum has also given me the freedom to go back to study."

The article refers to other victims of motor car accidents who also have views, and I shall quote one more, Mr Alexander Poozanoof, who received $815 000 for a serious injury in a motor car accident. The article states:

"We're not extravagant but we live comfortably. If we hadn't received that money we wouldn't have been able to extend the house and do all the things that make life more normal for Alex."

"I think the lump sum, particularly for sensible people, allows the opportunity to make it more comfortable for the person who's been injured and for the spouse."

"It would be awful to have to live on a pension. I mean life's hard enough without penny-pinching every week. There are enough difficulties as it is."

The article continues and it refers to other victims of serious motor car accidents, and I shall not go over the details, but it is obvious that these people have experienced the common law situation and are prepared to support it.

Another group of people in the community that are prepared to support the retention of common law rights is in the Department of Management and Budget. It is not well-known that the department supports the retention of common law rights, but I have a document which has been made available to me, and which is a report to the Treasurer dated June 1985 from the Department of Management and Budget. The report is headed, "Compensation For Motor Vehicle Injuries in Victoria"; it is a confidential report from the department. On page 18 it refers to the cash position in 1985–86 but it says other things as well:

As noted above the State Insurance Office is likely to show a cash deficit of between $70 million and $115 million in 1985–86 if present policies remain unchanged. Given the level of unfunded liabilities and the extent to which those liabilities are increasing, this situation needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Even though the fundamentals of the motor vehicle injury compensation system are not in need of reform, immediate measures should be taken to stop a cash drain on the State Insurance Office.

It then continues on page 21, point (5):

The Government should require the State Insurance Office to agree to settlements of common law claims only at a real level no higher on average than that which prevailed in 1984–85.

The Department of Management and Budget, the key department that advises the Treasurer, has, in confidential reports to the Treasurer, made it clear that it does not believe the common law right should be abolished, which is the situation proposed in the Bill.

I received a letter from the President of the Victorian Council of Professions dated 1 September addressed to me—it may have been sent to all members of Parliament—which states:

If there is need for reform in the present system, let us reform it but not introduce new injustices as this legislation does. I urge you to try to amend this Bill so as to preserve the access of Victorians to Common Law; if the Government is not amenable to this, I urge you to vote against the Bill.

That is the view of the Victorian Council of Professions.

The next organisation that supports the retention of the common law right is the Law Institute of Victoria. Its views have been well canvassed in the media and I do not wish to go over them again except to say that it wishes common law rights to be retained.

The final group in the community, which supports the retention of this right and certainly I have received many representations from them are the constituents. A number of constituents have visited my office who have received common law benefits and they have given me written documentary evidence that they strongly wish the common law right to be retained in this community. They have experienced the system; they know what it is like to lose the amenity of life and to lose income and they have begged and demanded that the Opposition produce amendments to the Bill to provide for common law right.

They are some of the people in the community who support the retention of common law right, and the Liberal and National parties' policy.

I refer the House to the findings of a public opinion survey prepared by H. J. Campbell Pretty and Associates which asked the public whether they were for or against the proposed system and asked the question:

The existing common law right of the innocent, injured party to sue the driver at fault for additional compensation and damages, will be completely abolished. All accident victims will be given equal compensation, for their level of injury, regardless of fault. This compensation will be paid very largely as a weekly pension,

which will be limited to a maximum of $400 per week, before tax—regardless of previous earnings or extent of injury—the amount paid will be dictated by a fixed scale and there will be no consideration of individual circumstance.

The survey asked people whether they were for or against that proposition. The survey set out people's voting intentions and the party those people voted for at the last State election. Obviously there are fewer people in the community now who would vote for the Labor Party than there were during the last State election. Only 18 per cent of Labor voters were prepared to accept the Government's contention for eliminating their common law right and adopt a pension system. Some 74 per cent of Labor voters were against the Bill and 8 per cent were not sure.

I put the Government on notice that the public opinion survey that has been conducted indicates that Labor voters want to retain the common law system. They are not prepared to accept the Bill in its present form.

The Government has conducted its own public opinion survey. I refer honourable members to page 46 of the Government's booklet which gives an indication of the benefit rights of the pension system. That section indicates that the majority of people want to retain their common law right. It is obvious that only the Liberal and National parties are capable of responding to those people. People do not want to be placed on a pension, but want compensation for rights, that have been lost.

Groups associated with car clubs have asked for changes in the Bill. I have received letters, as have other honourable members, from the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport, the Southern Cross Auto Restorers and the Association of Motoring Clubs Inc., all requesting changes to the Bill.

Last Tuesday I had a pleasant trip from Como Park to Parliament House with people who were protesting about some of the provisions in the Bill. I shall speak on that at another time. Motoring clubs should not be excluded from the benefits of the proposed legislation.

Independent actuarial studies should be undertaken of the new system. I am concerned that new motorists will be subsidising the huge losses run up on third-party insurance. The Opposition's amendments will seek independent actuarial calculations which can be reported to Parliament so that it can be fully informed. The State Insurance Office accounts should not be suppressed, as occurred just prior to the last State election. That was a disgusting episode. It was the mushroom principle—keep people in the dark.

The Government does not have a mandate for the introduction of the Bill because it was not part of its election platform. The Government should be ashamed of spending $600 000 on misleading advertising promoting this Bill.

It is clear the community wants a modified form of common law right which only the Opposition will provide. A need exists to reduce the level of fraudulent claims. Parliament should protect those people who will be disadvantaged by the proposed legislation. The Liberal Party's policy on third-party reform is far superior to the Labor Party policy as presented in the Bill, and I look forward to the Liberal Party winning the next election and implementing that policy.

Dr WELLS (Dromana)—I have listened to the debate on the Transport Accident Bill carefully and with great interest during the past two days. I intend to put aside what I wanted to say in the formal part of my speech and review the impressions I have formed as I listened to speakers on both sides of the House.

It seems tragic to me that Victorians find themselves in the present position because of the attitude of the Government. History clearly shows that until 1980 third-party motor accident insurance was capable of being maintained in financial balance. The Auditor-General's figures confirm that statement. When the Labor Party came to office that balance was destroyed. In the first year the third-party motor insurance scheme developed a loss of $100 million. Since then that loss has blown out, according to the Government's figures,

to $1·6 billion or, according to the figures of the Auditor-General to $2·5 billion. So far as I can ascertain, that is the single greatest loss recorded by any Victorian Government authority in any one field of Government administration.

The Government now says that the losses are so great that adjustment is needed. The Opposition doed not refute that claim of the Government's maladministration. The Government, however, goes a step further and says that the only way to change the system effectively is not just to upgrade the management, which I shall discuss in due course, but to introduce a radical major philosophical change to the administration of this area of our society.

It is a change which runs against the historic proof, in democratic terms, that the system that has existed is the best system that has been developed so far in Western democratic societies. The essential point about which the two sides of Parliament are locked in irreconcilable debate is the question of the common law rights of the average citizen, of you, Sir, and of me.

History shows that these common law rights are essential, but the Government maintains that they must be sacrificed and jettisoned to correct a situation that is essentially one of mismanagement.

Is the Government's judgment genuine? If it is, it is much to be regretted, because it points to gross inefficiency on its part. The Government has all the apparatus of modern government at its service to obtain any figures or any trends or to check any philosophical judgments around the world. It has the power to arrive at the best possible system for this society. However, the Government seriously maintains in this House that a major philosophical change which will weaken the situation of every citizen in this democratic society, is necessary and justified. I totally reject that philosophy. Is then the basis of the Government's judgment something else?

Is it their much flaunted social equity? Is it, in fact, another step in their process of social engineering of our society? Are they out to bring philosophical change at any price—change which is consistent with the whole pattern of socialist history of reducing, of destroying, if possible, the independence of the individual, of reducing the individual until he is a captive of big governments and until he is some sort of thing that is owned by the Government of the day, who does not really have democratic freedom, who must depend upon handouts, week by week, from his Government, who must be told what he can and cannot do, not by the courts, not even by the Parliament assembled but, in fact, by some committee set up by the socialist government of the day.

Yesterday in this place honourable members heard the shadow Treasurer expound a thesis that what the Government may well be about is philosophical change at any price; and that what could not be achieved by a Federal Labor Government because it runs counter to the Federal Constitution could be achieved by a State Government, by letting the financial position become so bad that it felt it had a smokescreen excuse and justification for bringing in its socialist engineering.

I do not know which is right; the latter certainly is plausible. If that is not the case, the former level of mismanagement is so great as to be an utter disgrace in a civilised society. No Government can let a situation become so out of hand, that in its own acknowledgement, it has reached a point where in one small area of its administration, it has a loss equal to nearly 20 per cent of the total annual budget of the State which it administers.

It is inconceivable that other pressures should be so great that they could let this thing run on for four years in the way it has done.

Mr Mathews interjected.

Dr WELLS—I take up the comment from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services; it is important——

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! The honourable member for Dromana will ignore the interjections.

Dr WELLS—The facts are that the Auditor-General's figures are the ones we must accept and when the Government came to office, this scheme was essentially in balance. No one denies that there may be changes that then require adjustment; that is the process of human life and it is obvious that the incidence of accidents, the extent of claims and the extent of injuries have changed to some or greater degree in the past four years.

The Opposition would not object to the Government taking remedial action; but why is it that a Government that espouses the principle of user pays would allow cars and vehicles run by industry to be subsidised by the taxes of families on minimal incomes?

During the past four years, no excuse has been put forward for not having increased premiums on third-party car insurance; not even the people would reject a Government for having a sensible program of this type so increases in premiums were obviously quite in order.

Mr Mathews interjected.

Dr WELLS—No, I am not being hypocritical in this situation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fogarty)—Order! Both honourable members know that the word "hypocrite" used in the sense that it was, is unparliamentary.

Dr WELLS—For my part, I withdraw the word.

The Opposition and the people of Victoria would not have opposed the increase, in a rational way, in premiums against proven performance financially in this area in our life.

The people and the Opposition would not have opposed modification to the guidelines for the settlement of claims. The Government now is forced to come to this situation. It could have come to it at an earlier time and to have avoided the loss of hundreds of millions or what looks like several billion dollars in this area.

It cannot say it did not have enough time to get on with it. It has come to this House with a wide panoply of Bills and matters, some of which are great matters of State, others are of medium importance and some are very small. They have all been given time, but this matter could have been dealt with ahead of many other things that the Parliament has considered during the past four years.

Therefore, there really can be no adequate rational excuse for the Government reaching the point it has reached in this matter and, on that basis, there can be no managerial justification for what it is proposing. Clearly, it has other reasons that it has not expressed in this place that, at least, must be part of its total proposition.

I do not find it unreasonable to assume that the Government wishes to engineer philosophical change in this regard. In several places throughout its document it presents in support of its proposal, it says that emphasis has been placed upon benefitting those most in need. One can spare some sympathy for that but not at the cost of sacrificing the rest of a society.

The job of a government is to represent all of the people all of the time. This proposal, as much as anything else I have heard in this place, demonstrates lucidly clearly the enormous gulf between the philosophical position of the Labor Government and that of its Liberal Party and National Party opposition.

The defences of the individual citizen are clear. They are, firstly, a democratic Parliament which is controlled and justified through a freely operating private ballot-box in which the citizen votes as only his or her conscience dictates; secondly, that personal freedom and protection is based upon equality and justice and efficiency before the law in our case, and I believe history would justify the claim, in the case of all men and women in the future, before that quality of law which we call British law.

The gap between elections is too great and the costs are too great for the individual citizen to be dependent upon the ballot-box alone. There must be daily availability and recourse to equality before the law and the testing of any proposition. That is why, at the personal level of the citizen, I come to the second great defence that the individual has; which is the protection of the common law. It is an inalienable right and an unavoidable necessity that the individual be able, in a court of law, to sue another person who damages him or her.

The Bill, like WorkCare, removes that monumental democratic right. If the Bill passes, like WorkCare, it will remove that right because the Bill provides that the individual is no longer master of his or her own destiny in a democracy operating under a proper system of law.

No longer can the individual work to progress, whilst not damaging anyone else, improve his station in life and provide for his family in the next generation with any certainty that that will continue. To be able to do that one needs the protection of equality before the law, efficiency of administration and determination of that law.

That will be lost if one is involved in a motor car accident should this Bill become law. The Bill states in effect that neither the court nor Parliament in session but some committee established by the brute political force of the majority vote of the Government of the day will determine what happens when citizen "A" damages citizen "B" unfairly. The individual will not be able to defend himself.

It will not matter whether the young man or woman on the threshold of adult life, who may have lived in impecunious conditions up to that point to qualify for future work, has distinct and bright prospects ahead. It will not matter whether it be a highly qualified individual with the commitments of a large family who has worked so that he can meet those commitments and fulfil his aspirations.

It will not matter whether it be a person running a private business whose total future depends upon him or her running that business because once that person is removed or damaged, the business will fail. It will not matter whether it be some unqualified person, some incapacitated person or anyone else in society. It will not matter whether it be a citizen who is run down by another person with criminal intent. It will not matter whether it be a person who is run down by a drunk while driving a vehicle.

In all cases that person's only defence will be the decision of a committee that in effect says, "After you receive a small sum of money in compensation, you will receive the meagre payment of $325 a week subject to inflation adjustments." That sum is inadequate for the purposes of rearranging the life of a drastically injured person, and the weekly allowance, which is the total compensation to which the individual is entitled and on which he must live for the remainder of his life, is nowhere near adequate.

Mr Acting Speaker, if this Bill were law and you or I were to go out the door of this Chamber tonight and be involved in a car accident, that situation would apply to both of us. However, if we were to go out the door tonight in the course of our work and be injured in a car accident, we would be covered by WorkCare and would be entitled to receive more money. We would be judged to be worth more if the latter position applied.

Is that a democratic, sensible, rationalised society? Do we judge individuals to be worth different amounts of money if they are at work or at home when accidents occur? Unfortunately, that is what this Bill would do. It would create inequality and would destroy freedom.

If this Government is truly of the people, for the people and by the people, why does it wish to reap radical philosophical change when surveys have demonstrated that 94 per cent of Victorians—and a high percentage of them Labor Party voters—do not wish to lose their protection under common law rights. Why should the Government of the day run roughshod over the rights of its citizens? Surely that must be the highest principle that

should be considered by the Government. The individual and the good of the people should be its highest responsibility.

To make such a change without knowing the wishes of the people is bad enough. However, to do it while knowing that the wishes of the people are in opposition is inexcusable. Is the Government proceeding along this path for practical purposes? The Government has suggested this approach because of a practical need arising from a shortage of money and the fact that so much money has been lost in this area over the years.

I acknowledge politics is often, regrettably, about who pays and how the bill will be met. I acknowledge that politics is said by many to be the art of the possible.

If, as the Government says, efficiency of financial expenditure is a prime criterion, it stands convicted and guilty on its own words and judgments. The Government has not denied that the figures put forward by the Law Institute of Victoria are correct. It has not denied that the figures put forward by the Opposition in its proposal, which would rescue the essential elements of the common law rights of the seriously injured citizen, are correct.

The Government cannot say for money purposes alone that it must pursue the path it is on because, having investigated opposing claims and having chosen to ignore them, it has perpetrated—I regret using the word—lies to Victorians about the claims and counterclaims with which it professes to deal.

Another reason that finally gives the lie in money terms to what the Government proposes is that it has never denied in the debate on WorkCare and in this debate that lump sum payments are cheaper than the payment of a monthly pension throughout the remainder of the life of an individual.

The Government has never denied the claim, backed by actuarial statements and figures, that a lump sum payment on average costs the State or insurer one-quarter of what the monthly payment would cost for the remainder of the life of an individual.

If the Government valued equality and the protection of the individual before the law of the land, it could achieve that end by eliminating the payment of a monthly pension and accepting the lump sum payment principles.

The Government could do that and could still hang on to its practical stance while protecting our common law rights. On that basis alone it stands utterly convicted on the grounds of common-sense judgments. There can be no rational explanation and no support for the Government's proposals for those reasons.

The monetary side of the equation can be managed. The Government has declined to make the necessary managerial adjustments to compensation schemes, and they relate essentially to the plethora of small claims as pointed out in the proposals by two reputable authorities—the Law Institute of Victoria and Her Majesty's Opposition. We have put forward common-sense proposals which the Government could accept or modify and they would prove to be practical in achieving that first level of adjustment.

The Government could proceed to increase the premiums and, indeed, the level it is proposing can be made to work within the proposals of the Opposition. That is the second adjustment the Government could make if it so wished. It could then proceed, if it still wished to do so financially—and I do not think it would be absolutely essential but, in terms of efficiency, it would be highly desirable—to continue the well-established tradition of lump sum payments, which are much better for the individual than the monthly pension, and it would still be well on course financially.

There are three things that the Government could do and it would, in the process, be maintaining fair treatment for all citizens in this State. In fact, if the Government could have its way, none of this would happen. It would ram through with brute political force, despite rational discussion, whatever it wished to do.

I am disappointed that brute political force is too often used in this place. It seems to me too obvious that the Government of the day with the majority will carry what it wishes. It rarely listens to rational debate, and that is much to be regretted.

What exists is, in fact, what Churchill said years ago. I wonder whether honourable members remember what he said about misery and about socialism. He said:

> Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance and the gospel of envy, whose inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.

Some may wish to suggest that I am overstating the case, but if one considers the cases quoted by other speakers in this debate—and as I have tried to personalise the case by referring to you, Mr Acting Speaker, or me walking out the door and being involved in a car accident—it is a very real situation.

This Government says that it wishes most to protect those most in need. In fact, that will not happen. I venture to predict that every person in this Chamber and other people of our station in life beyond this Chamber will take out whatever is the necessary additional insurance to ensure that they are covered in the case of a car accident.

In the end, although money will not replace major injury, they will at least have the material essentials that they need for their lives if they are injured in a major way in the future. However, most people out there will not take out such additional insurance. They will not have the foresight, the understanding or the material resources to do just that.

Often socialism maintains that it really is out to protect the rights of those most in need. In fact, what it achieves is quite the reverse. It damages those whom it claims to serve.

If this Government continues down this road, it will find that its Bill will not become an Act; it will not be passed through this Parliament at the cost of the loss of the average citizen's common law rights. If the Government continues along this line to the last minute, it will indeed be another nail in its political coffin.

As I move around Victoria, I am told that there is a massive swing and that people will vote against the Government that did not deliver, the Government that did deceive the people in its claims, and this proposal will be one of the major causes for that swing.

The Government talks about human rights, and yet it tries to legislate to have kidneys and other tissues removed from mentally incompetent people by decision of a committee. The Government talks about human rights, and yet it removes common law rights under WorkCare. Therefore, the effective protection is gone and this Government would do that same thing under the next most likely category under which an individual might suffer, that is, in a motor car accident. In these three areas the Government destroys its case.

Ms SIBREE (Kew)—To my mind the proposed legislation is a piece of cheap Cain propaganda. The Government believes that by spending $600 000 on advertising it can buy the common law rights, the very basic rights of every individual who lives in Victoria. The people of Victoria will not fall for that cheap trick.

I believe the people of Victoria expect us, as members of a sensible, logical Opposition, to defend those rights with every force that we can. Honourable members have heard during the debate from the Opposition spokesperson on this Bill, the honourable member for Brighton, the reasons the Government has got it wrong and why it really has not tried to accommodate the very real concerns of the Victorian population over this issue.

There is no doubt that the cost of third-party claims and the cost of funding the third-party system has got out of control. There is no doubt, however, that the people of Victoria believe that innocent people who have been substantially injured through no fault of their own should not suffer as a result of trying to reduce that cost. That is the simple message the Opposition is trying to get through to the Government, no more and no less.

There are ways and means of reducing the number of accident-prone drivers in Victoria. I had quite an horrific experience last Sunday of, unfortunately, travelling past the scene

of an accident at East Murchison where only a few minutes earlier a motor cyclist was alive but, by the time I reached that point, that young man was in two pieces on the road.

It was not a nice feeling, but I believe the Government and the Opposition and all amongst us must strive to ensure greater responsibility on the roads. I do not believe the introduction of a no-fault scheme for everybody necessarily brings about that responsibility. However, we are not out to be vindictive against the driver who may to a greater extent be negligent and responsible for the accident he has caused and, therefore, may suffer and find himself in a financially unviable position.

Therefore, not just to help that person but also his family, there needs to be a certain coverage for people who have great difficulty with an accident because of the medical and other accounts—which, as we all know, have been largely taken into account by the Motor Accidents Board. However, I am not entirely convinced that by proceeding with this new arrangement in third-party insurance we will achieve an outcome that the Government really wants to achieve.

Our No. 1 achievement should be to reduce the number of accidents on the roads and the extent of maiming and deaths. We also need to provide for the innocent people who have been substantially disadvantaged.

Like any other lawyer in this House, I would need to declare some previous interest in this area, and I do want to spend a moment or two defending the role of the legal profession in representing those injured parties in the courts.

The Government trots out the K. F. Sharp and Associates Pty Ltd survey, which was done on the Government's behalf. That survey provides a series of anecdotal examples of motor car accident victims who have received lump sum payments following accidents for which they were not responsible. Those examples are used by the Government in an attempt to prove that people are not really any better off after receiving lump sum payments.

I would be the first person in this Chamber to say that one cannot reconstruct a person's life after that person has lost a limb or lost the use of his or her back or legs or suffered the loss of a loved one. One cannot put a person back into the position he or she was in prior to an accident. What one can do is provide some form of compensation.

Most of the examples used by the Government investigation are about people who have not been able to handle lump sum payments or invest them in a proper manner. Those examples do not demonstrate why people should not receive compensation or why a pension payment would be any better. For all the examples used by the Government, there are just as many examples of how people have handled compensation well and have benefited themselves and their families.

The Government has also not taken into account, when considering the abolition of the right of a person to apply to the courts for compensation from someone who is negligent, that it is not just the person who has been injured who has suffered damage. When considering retaining common law rights, the Opposition is concerned only about substantial injuries. People who have been seriously injured will be surrounded by families who will need to change their lifestyles to accommodate them. Often a husband, wife, sister or brother who has worked in the past will have to give up a job to maintain an injured person needing care. Often extra help is needed in the home or the home must be adapted to accommodate a disabled person. It is not just compensation to innocent victims that is in issue, it is the whole fabric surrounding that injured person.

A substantial injury can severely affect one's quality of life. It can reduce one's ability to earn income that one might otherwise have achieved. It may substantially alter one's appearance and make it difficult for one to fit in with society, both psychologically and physically.

I have represented many people in third-party claims. Of course, not every claim is handled perfectly. Then again, not every victim of an accident is easy to represent. We all have vagaries of style and character and psychological hang-ups of one sort or another, and we all have our difficult moments. There are no more difficult moments than when a solicitor is trying to sort out a case for a badly injured person.

Barristers and solicitors would be the first to say that they are not perfect. However, they have the specific training required to sort out the problems of injured people and to give advice on the best available evidence. On odd occasions, an adviser will go behind people's backs but that is usually done because of special circumstances. A client who has been badly injured may have been put through an operation that proved useless but that client was prepared to undergo that operation in an attempt to reduce the pain of, say, a previously broken back. As a solicitor, I would not want to say to a client, "That operation was a waste of time. Six months of agony was not worth it." I would rather say, "That operation was something that had to be done to find out if your pain could be alleviated."

Although barristers and solicitors do not need to protect clients from difficult decisions about medical treatment, they often do so with the best of intentions and with their clients' best wishes at heart.

From time to time personality clashes occur—that happens in any professional situation—and sometimes it is difficult in a long drawn out case, which happens when injuries do not quickly stabilise.

Handling a case for a badly injured client is a complicated matter. It involves medical, legal and financial opinions as well as psychological help and encouragement. It brings together a whole range of professional skills. The Government wants to give that to bureaucrats who are not necessarily trained in those fields and do not necessarily have the best interests of individuals at heart.

Government members will no doubt say that lawyers are in it "for the money". Some may be but, on the whole, most people go into that profession believing they can do a reasonable job of representing people, working through their problems and getting the best deal for them within the ambit of the law.

Of course, lawyers may "make money out of it". Whoever is running the scheme for the Government will be "making money out of it" with salaries, wages and everything else. I do not regard a Government appointee as being any different from the lawyer representing a person in court who is "making money out of it". Someone must be paid for carrying out this service on behalf of the Government and the community.

As has been mentioned in debate, common law rights have been hard won by individuals and have been developed in concert with changes in the community and changes in the industry, economy and technology of that community. They reflect the dangers that society can inflict upon its people.

Common law rights should not be done away with easily. A Parliamentary committee is currently considering human rights in this State. At the same time, the Parliament is happily considering doing away with other rights without any real inquiry.

The Government should be aware of the real concerns that the Victorian community has expressed in the survey by the Law Institute of Victoria on the question of retaining common law rights. It is interesting that in a public attitudinal survey conducted by the institute where the question of whether the rights of an innocent victim to sue a negligent driver to recover damages is a basic legal right and should not be taken away, 94 per cent of those interviewed either agreed strongly or agreed with that proposition. Of that number, 57 per cent agreed strongly and 37 per cent agreed to that proposition.

Ninety-four per cent of the community believes common law rights for innocent victims should be protected and it is the Opposition's responsibility to do just that. The Government is putting up spurious arguments that to retain limited common law rights—and that is

all it will be—will cost an arm and a leg. That has not been proved. It is possible to retain common law rights for people suffering substantial injuries.

As has already been stated, the largest number of accident claims currently clogging up the court system are the smaller claims, the soft tissue claims, as they are described.

Occasionally a court may go overboard in awarding damages. I was representing an injured driver in a common law action in the County Court which was being heard before a jury of six women. After a good case that ran for two days, the jury retired to consider its verdict. It returned a couple of hours later and awarded my client $120 000 in damages.

That was approximately 1000 per cent more than I expected my client to receive from the jury and my comment at the time was that the members of the jury had all agreed on how much the client was worth and added the amounts together, but then forgot to divide the total by six. The point is that when large amounts like that are given by juries, there is a right of appeal. After appeal, that claim was subsequently settled for a much lesser amount, closer to $15 000, which was an appropriate amount of compensation in that case.

It is not correct for the Government to say that claims are running into larger amounts. Less than 2 per cent of claims are of the large magnitude about which the Government is complaining. On behalf of people who have been substantially disabled in accidents in Victoria and who have been awarded large claims, I wish to pass on to the Premier of this State, through the Deputy Premier at the table, the real disgust that paraplegics and quadriplegics have felt in the past few days when the Premier and his offsider, Mr Ian Baker, have had the audacity to describe the common law claims of these people, settled in a court of law by judges and juries, and properly and carefully considered, as Tattslotto claims.

Those people and others have been ringing me in droves to say how disgusted they have been with the Premier, who thinks that those who have been maimed and injured and are now sitting in their wheelchairs in homes and institutions, have received Tattslotto claims. How much does the Premier care for those whose lives have been ruined? He expects those people to spend the rest of their days in wheelchairs as social welfare recipients. Good luck to him if that is what he expects those people to accept and if that is what he expects the Opposition not to defend!

There has been disgust and contempt of what the Premier has said in the past few days, and he will rue the day that he thought he was so clever as to compare a claim by a paraplegic with a Tattslotto winning. I hope the Premier will not be involved in a car accident and does not have to suffer the indignity of being reliant on someone else for the rest of his life.

On behalf of those who are currently in that position, or may be in the future, I beg the Government to reconsider its position carefully; it is on the wrong track.

Finally, there are obviously concerns abut specific areas of the Bill and how it will affect certain sporting organisations and motoring organisations in Victoria. I am also concerned at how the Government has developed the proposed legislation. Parliament has a perfectly good system of all-party Parliamentary committees. The Government has had nearly four and a half years in which it could have referred the issue of third-party accident compensation to a committee, or even a sub-committee, to reconsider the matter on behalf of all Victorians.

The issue is big enough not to become a political football, but the Government has decided to take the high ground, rather than to use the collective wisdom of Parliament to develop an all-party position; to come clean with actuarial figures; to allow all parties to sit down, as the Leader of the National Party suggested, and determine what is the maximum amount that can be charged for third-party insurance, whether it be $300 or $250 a year; and to determine what are the combinations and permeations society can go through for that amount of money? Instead, there have been filibusters, half-truths,

advertising campaigns, people accusing each other of telling untruths and a public which is confused and concerned about the future of car accident victims who suffer major injuries.

Car accidents happen every day, and every day someone will be blaming the Government for his or her poor economic circumstances if the Government allows the proposed legislation to pass in its current form. If the Government had any real respect for what Parliament collectively can do, it would have set up such a committee. If that were the case, there would not have been the need for such a time-consuming debate today. If honourable members had put together a piece of proposed legislation which was much better created than the Bill, we would not be having a political brawl over the matter, although probably some members of the Government would behave in that way.

It is rather sad that this has not occurred when one considers the collective wisdom in this place. Honourable members could have come up with a much better package, instead of the mushroom-like approach to which some honourable members have referred.

As someone who has been trained in the law and who does not have contempt for the law—I have a healthy disrespect for some of my colleagues from time to time because none of us is perfect, just as the Treasurer has been found to be imperfect in the process of this debate today and during the past few days—I understand that no system developed to compensate road accident victims will be perfect. However, there is no way that we, as a group of responsible individuals, should wipe out the rights of those who have received substantial injuries and whose lives have been basically ruined. We should not be responsible for basically assigning them to the social welfare queue, if they can get on it, so that they see themselves in a much less dignified situation than they might otherwise be in if they had been given responsibility for their own future. That is what common law rights allow. They give people the right to a proper hearing, the right to have their case adjudicated by both experts and representatives of the community, rather than a group of bureaucrats hidden away on the 35th floor of some building.

If Parliament starts taking away that common law right, what will go next? What else will the Government wipe away in the interests of economic reform or some cutting of the cloth? If, as a society, we allow our rights for equitable treatment and fair justice to be wiped away because we have an economic problem, it is very easy to start wiping away many other rights for other people because we are not prepared to bite the bullet and work out economically viable ways of supporting those rights.

That is what the Government has not done; it has not approached the proposed legislation on the basis of working out an economically viable way of ensuring that those rights are maintained. It has approached the issue by saying, "We cannot do it", instead of "How can we do it?" That was a much more important question for the Government to have asked its actuaries, advisers and people in the community.

I warn the Government that $600 000 of cheap advertising will not change the opinions of 94 per cent of the population who believe that they are entitled to full compensation if they are not negligent in an accident. I hope while the Bill is between here and another place the Government has the good sense to work out this matter and to ensure that the rights of people to have their cases heard in a court, if they choose, are not removed just for a cheap quid.

On the motion of Mr LEA (Sandringham), the debate was adjourned.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hawkesdale High School—H. R. Nicholls Society—Tender for Road Construction Authority project—Neighbourhood Watch scheme—Youth Peace Conference—Campbellfield caravan park—Motor Car Traders Committee

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr COOPER (Mornington)—I bring to the attention of the Minister for Public Works a matter that was discussed at question time this morning and during the debate on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting two days ago. It concerns a contract worth $133 191 for painting and reroofing the Hawkesdale High School.

The contract was let to Mr Michael Lemmino, who has no driving licence, no vehicle, no tools of trade and no building industry expertise. In addition, he is a person of no fixed address. Neither is he licensed as a builder nor registered with WorkCare or the Building Industry Long Service Leave Board.

During the debate on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting on 9 September, the Minister told the House that his department had checked on Mr Lemmino who was able to satisfy the department that he was capable of doing the work. During question time today the Minister said that the contract had been investigated by his department and that Mr Lemmino was up to standard when the contract was let to him.

It is interesting that on 4 September the *Warrnambool Standard* reported a spokesperson for the Minister's department as saying that Mr Lemmino's bona fides were not investigated by the department because the department did not investigate contracts involving less than $200 000.

The question obviously must be posed: who is right? The Minister has said one thing but the department is telling the people of Victoria—in particular, the people of Warrnambool—something altogether different. If the Minister is right and he has not misled Parliament—and I take it that he has provided Parliament with correct information—can he now explain why it is that his department and he were not aware that Mr Lemmino has allegedly undertaken two contracts in previous times for the Public Works Department? Both of those contracts were a total shambles. Both of them ended up with local suppliers being caught with bad debts because the financial stability of the contractor had not been checked by those in charge of the Minister's department.

Other contractors who have contacted me in the last few hours, as a result of the publicity given to this matter, have said that they are normally tenderers for contracts involving less than $100 000 and that they have to provide overwhelming evidence to the department of their financial stability. In the case of Mr Lemmino, that apparently was not required.

I have been able to uncover an interesting history concerning Mr Lemmino. Under the name of Addison he did some work at the Jeparit Primary School and under the name of Haward he did some work at the Dunkeld Primary School, so we have instances of one person using three different names to obtain three different Public Works Department contracts without any apparent investigation by the department of whether the contractor was financially stable.

We have the Minister telling the House one thing on two occasions and his own department telling people something completely different through the *Warrnambool Standard.* Clearly the Public Works Department is in an administrative shambles and it would appear that the Minister either is not being told the complete truth by his department or has not been capable of telling this Parliament the truth, or he is denying this Parliament the truth. Not only the people of Victoria have a right to know the truth of this mess in the Public Works Department; Parliament certainly has the right to demand the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth of this mess that this Minister has created.

Dr COGHILL (Werribee)—I ask the Minister for Labour to alert employers to the fact that their peak employer organisations are under threat from a takeover campaign being orchestrated by members of the New Right and the H. R. Nicholls Society led by Andrew Hay. Mr Hay and other members of the H. R. Nicholls Society are using the National

Priorities Project to try to compromise the Confederation of Australian Industry and force it into supporting the objectives of the New Right.

Other responsible employer bodies such as the Australian Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Small Business Associations are targets of the same devious plan.

The plan has relied on Mr Hay enticing, or embarrassing and coercing the organisations into support for the project and structuring the project to give control to H. R. Nicholls Society members and using that control to dominate the responsible organisations.

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I am well aware of the fetish that the honourable member has for attacking anything that he does not agree with. However, I have great difficulty in understanding how an organisation, which is totally independent of this place, could have anything to do with Government administration, which is the function of debate on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting. The honourable member has in no way related the issues that he is talking about to a function of Government and I suggest that, unless he does so, he is out of order.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Werribee has been speaking for 1 minute. He addressed his remarks to the Minister for Labour or the Minister at the table, the Minister for Public Works. I am waiting to hear how this matter that is concerning him can be resolved by the Government.

Dr COGHILL (Werribee)—I am asking the Minister for Labour to use his good offices in his ongoing responsibility for liaising with employer organisations to alert them to the fact that Mr Hay and other members associated with the H. R. Nicholls Society are involved in this campaign. Other people involved in the campaign include Professor Michael Porter of the Monash University Centre for Independent Studies; Mr Paul Houlihan of the National Farmers Federation; Mr Geoff Allen of the Business Council of Australia and Mr Bill Kirby-Jones of the Housing Industry Association.

Employers need to be alerted to the fact that, once the plan has been implemented, Mr Hay would control a politically motivated employer conglomerate which he would use to achieve his stated aim of dictating Liberal Party Policy.

The Liberal Party would then be unable to resist the pressure from a body appearing to represent all employers under Mr Hay's dictatorial control and would be railroaded into supporting its policies.

Mr Houlihan's former National Civic Council associate, Mr Gerard Henderson was working in John Howard's office——

Mr KENNETT (Leader of the Opposition)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I have now listened for 3 minutes to the honourable member for Werribee and at no stage have I been able to draw any comparisons between the remarks he is making and a call upon the Government to take action in an area that affects its administration. One must call into question the function of debate on the motion for adjournment of the sitting if honourable members are allowed to make comments that have nothing to do with Government administration. As you, Mr Speaker, have directed many times before, an honourable member must direct his or her remarks towards an area of Government administration.

The honourable member has directed his remarks to the Minister for Labour, who unfortunately is not present due to ill-health. However, the honourable member is misusing the functions of the debate. If the honourable member has issued a press release, as he usually does on any matter, that is fine, but if he wants to raise this matter during debate, he should place it on the Notice Paper because I am sure that at some stage in the not too distant future all honourable members will be given the chance to debate the matter.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Werribee called on the Minister for Labour to use his good offices as a Minister of the Crown to alleviate his concerns about the activities of certain individuals. Therefore, I believe he was in order and, as his time has expired, I call the honourable member for Gippsland West.

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West)—I raise for the attention of the Minister for Transport a matter of either gross incompetence or dishonesty—or a combination of both—that last month cost the taxpayers of this State $800 000. I refer to the letting of a tender for the Hume Freeway project involving the Glenrowan West interchange to Warby Springs.

The tender that was accepted by the Government was $800 000—I shall repeat: $800 000—more than the lowest tender raised. Understandably, the lowest tenderer was displeased to the point of taking action by going to the media and the Opposition. He has also had discussions with the Road Construction Authority about the decision.

I must say that when the tenderer came to me I was reluctant to believe the story. However, I have checked it out and, undoubtedly, the lowest tender should have been accepted in this case. As a result of not accepting it the taxpayers of the State, for no valid reason, are footing the bill for an extra $800 000 on a contract price which represents a scandalous waste of taxpayers' money.

The unsuccessful contractor was Colls Mann Construction Pty Ltd. The total value of the contract was $4·3 million. The tender of Colls Mann Construction was $800 000 less. The company has been established for a long time and is well known to the Road Construction Authority, the Government and a number of Government instrumentalities, not just in Victoria but also in New South Wales. The company has carried out a large number of works for the Road Construction Authority including, in September 1984, a contract worth $700 000. Between February 1984 and March 1985 the company fulfilled a contract with the Road Construction Authority for $1 million. Various earth moving contracts were undertaken between 1980 and 1986 to the value of $2·1 million. Other works have been undertaken, including current works for the Road Construction Authority on the same project, to the value of $3·889 million.

The company is reputable, long established and well managed as well as well known to the authority. However, as I said, the authority had either a degree of incompetence that is intolerable in accepting a quote that was $800 000 more than the lowest tender, or dishonesty is involved. There can be only one of two explanations possible. I should like to at least hope—unlike the Flinders Street project—that in this case it is only gross incompetence.

The reason the Road Construction Authority claims it did not give the contract to the lowest tenderer was because it was a non-conforming tender. The Opposition has checked that out and ascertained that it is non-conforming in the view of the Road Contruction Authority because of one page of a letter that accompanied the tender.

The tender was accurate in every respect. It was comprehensive, every section was filled in and every item, including the prime cost items, was costed. The company was prepared to do the work for almost $1 million less that the company which got the job!

Included in the documents that the Road Construction Authority circulate is a statement that if the tender is non-conforming it does not necessarily have to be accepted. However, this tender was a conforming tender.

I challenge the Minister, either in this forum or outside Parliament, to show publicly where the tender did not conform, because undoubtedly it did. Furthermore, the letter accompanying the tender stated that the company would be pleased to discuss the matter further if there were any queries on any aspects of the tender. The company did not realise it was unsuccessful until it read it in the Melbourne media two weeks ago. The Road Construction Authority did not attempt to telephone the company to ascertain how it could save taxpayers $800 000.

A Road Construction Authority officer did not even pick up the telephone and say to the lowest tenderer, "Any problems with the $800 000 less?" No, the simple fact is that the authority saw fit, either through incompetence or dishonesty or a combination of both, to flout the long-accepted traditions of at least picking up a telephone and asking whether

they would negotiate and save the taxpayers of this State $800 000. The authority did not do that and, as such, the cost to the community is almost $1 million.

Dr VAUGHAN (Clayton)—I direct a matter to the attention of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. It concerns the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, which I strongly support and which has the strong support of residents of the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, a scheme whereby co-operation between the local residents and the Police Force has brought about a very substantial reduction in the crime rate in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

However, a shadow has been cast across the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in that part of Melbourne by the intemperate, irrational, ill-considered and often untrue remarks by someone known locally as the "Malvern mouth". Mr Speaker, you might ask who would be this irresponsible person to whom I refer. Who would try to undermine the Neighbourhood Watch scheme which is held in high esteem by the public? Who would try to undermine a program that has been so successful in reducing the crime rate locally? Who would be this anti-social and irresponsible person? It is with sorrow that I inform the House that it is the honourable member for Malvern.

Honourable members interjecting.

Dr VAUGHAN—The *Regional Progress* of Wednesday, 23 July 1986 has on its front page the banner headline, "Leigh predicts cuts in Neighbourhood Watch". The newspaper reports:

> Senior police have expressed alarm that the State Government is about to "put the axe into the police budget", according to the member for Malvern, Mr Geoff Leigh.
>
> "In this event, preventive measures such as Neighbourhood Watch would be likely to be hit before emergency services provided by police," Mr Leigh said.
>
> He said his office had received allegations that police would establish no further Neighbourhood Watch zones in District H, which takes in Malvern, Caulfield and part of Oakleigh, until they were able to provide adequate support for new areas.

What was the result of the irresponsible article in the newspaper? Caulfield crime cars received more than 300 telephone calls from local residents expressing alarm at what they had read in the newspaper. Honourable members should think about that—300 telephone calls to the Caulfield crime cars. If one takes as an average 5 or 6 minutes of police time a telephone call, that totals 24 hours—one day—of valuable police time occupied in reassuring local residents that what a local member of Parliament had said in the local press was in fact a distortion of the facts.

Mr Leigh—It is true. The meetings were cancelled.

Dr VAUGHAN—There was the spectacle of the honourable member for Malvern causing a public nuisance, undermining police effectiveness in the electorate that he represents in the cities of Malvern, Caulfield and Oakleigh, a totally irresponsible act to undermine police effectiveness and to undermine the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The honourable member for Malvern did not stop at that. His distortions continued. I shall quote from a more recent edition of the *Regional Progress*, 27 August 1986, where, at page 9, under the headline, "Scheme draws fire", the newspaper stated:

> "Yet Mr Mathews conveniently forgot that as Opposition spokesman in 1982, he promised 1000 extra police during his first term," Mr Leigh said.

His continued rantings and allegations of under-resourcing of the Police Force continued to undermine public confidence in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to the detriment of good policing in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

I ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to inform the House what action he is able to take to limit the damage done to the public confidence and active participation in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme caused by the intemperate unrestrained ramblings of the honourable member for Malvern.

What action can be taken to limit the public nuisance caused by the honourable member for Malvern in his utterances of the nature of those on the Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe)—The matter I direct to the attention of the Premier is about the Victorian International Year of Peace conference that is being organised by his department. Because of the urgency of the matter, the Premier should take steps immediately to withdraw funds provided for the conference in the light of the fact that 31 members recently walked out of a meeting of the consultation group. They are extremely concerned about expenditure of funds by that group on behalf of the Premier, who has no option but to take immediate action.

In recent investigations I have found out that the Premier recently appointed Lynette Thorstensen to organise the Youth Peace Conference. The appointment was made at an annual salary of $25 988.

I have examined the record of this woman and found out that in 1984 she worked as a personal assistant to the cultural attache to the embassy of France in Wellington, New Zealand. In 1984–85 she was the co-ordinator of "Another Planet Posters", Community Access Screenprinting Project Incorporated and a committee member of the St Kilda Youth Festival. On making further investigations I ascertained that the allocation in the Budget for printing is $15 305. The first pamphlet has been produced and was designed by "Another Planet Posters".

After making investigations through an application into the incorporation of associations I have found that Lynette Thorstensen is a shareholder in that company. The Premier has appointed her to the position of organiser and paid her the salary that I quoted earlier and, in turn, she is paying Government funds to a company in which she is involved. I call on the Premier to take immediate action in this matter in the light of the disastrous handling of the peace conference, the $90 000 involved and the allocation of funds by Lynette Thorstensen.

On the itinerary for the conference Ms Thorstensen has said that personal invitations will be sent to 300 people for whom all accommodation and meals will be paid. One would wonder what sort of benevolent society we are running! She has also stated that no-one in the conference will incur any cost. How can anyone who is supposed to be in a responsible position run such a conference at the taxpayers' expense without receiving a financial contribution from anyone involved in it?

I call on the Premier not only to withdraw the funds and disband the committee but also to terminate immediately the employment of Lynette Thorstensen.

Mr ROWE (Essendon)—I direct a matter to the attention of the Minister for Housing but, in his absence, I ask the Minister for Public Works to convey the matter to him. It deals with a person who was living in a caravan park in Campbellfield and who contacted my office during the recess.

Initially the complaint came from the Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia because the person involved is one of its members. This person owned her own caravan, which was located in Campbellfield, and has a thirteen-year-old daughter who attended a school with the daughter of the owner of the caravan park.

It appears that these two children had a falling out at school and as a consequence the owner of the caravan park said that the woman was to remove her van from the park within 24 hours.

The woman concerned chose not to do that. The woman was employed at Yakka Pty Ltd at Broadmeadows, and she received a telephone call during work hours from the owner of the caravan park who informed her that her caravan would be towed out to the front of the caravan park. When the woman returned home from work, she found that her caravan had been removed and put on the nature strip outside the caravan park.

The matter has now been resolved and the person concerned has found alternative accommodation, but it is an example of an enormous abuse of a person's rights and privileges. It is in that context that I recommend to the Minister work done by Shelter Victoria regarding residents of caravan parks and mobile homes. When one examines a working party report on tenancy rights for caravan park dwellers, one realises the need for urgent reform in this area. The report also includes examples of abuses of the rights of individuals living in caravan parks. I ask the Minister to address the problems experienced by people who live in caravan parks.

Ms SIBREE (Kew)—I direct the attention of the Minister for Consumer Affairs to the case of Mr T. P. O'Donoghue and a claim heard in 1980 by the Motor Car Traders Committee. The result of that hearing was unsatisfactory and Mr O'Donoghue referred it to the Ombudsman, Mr Geschke, who, after investigation, found that Mr O'Donoghue had been badly treated by the Motor Car Traders Committee, that the decision it had made was invalid and made on the wrong basis and that the committee had failed to properly hear the evidence and had failed to detect that defect notices had been tampered with by a motor car trader. The Ombudsman decided that Mr O'Donoghue was entitled to a rehearing and a substantial payment of money from the car trader.

That finding was made in 1983. Since that time, Mr O'Donoghue has been seeking some form of justice. He has attempted to seek redress on the basis of Mr Geschke's opinion. That has been knocked back through a series of legal niceties to the point where the only place Mr O'Donoghue seems to be able to go is the Supreme Court, and that will cost him many thousands of dollars.

In this case, the Minister for Consumer Affairs could exercise discretion in view of the report of the Ombudsman that Mr O'Donoghue was a victim of a grave injustice. On his behalf, I ask the Minister, as I have done by letter, to examine this matter in order to give justice to a man who, six years ago, was dealt with poorly by the Motor Car Traders Committee.

Mr WALSH (Minister for Public Works)—A number of matters have been raised. The honourable member for Kew raised a matter with regard to a Mr O'Donoghue and I shall take the matter up with the Minister for Consumer Affairs. The honourable member for Essendon raised a matter concerning people living in caravan parks and I shall pass that matter on to the Minister for Housing.

The honourable member for Ivanhoe raised matters concerning the International Year of Peace and a peace conference and I shall discuss that with the Premier, who will properly inform the honourable member on that matter. With regard to the matter raised by the honourable member for Werribee——

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr WALSH—It is a matter of concern that some people in this country have formed the New Right. Some honourable members on the other side of the House ought to consider the consequences for this country if this group gains control of the Liberal Party, as its members are threatening the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr Howard, that if the Liberal Party does not change its ways they will be forming another party that will be a threat to the Liberal Party.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr WALSH—Because of their mentality, honourable members opposite may think this is not serious, and that is why they are on that side. This is a serious matter and I believe the problems that exist in this country have to be considered.

I shall take the matters raised by the honourable member for Werribee up with the Minister for Labour when I am in contact with him tomorrow and no doubt the honourable member will receive a further answer on that.

The honourable member for Mornington again raised matters concerning my department and which I answered on Tuesday night and again this morning, but I shall go through it slowly with him as I know he finds it hard to comprehend something unless he reads it in a paper that he may have picked up in St Kilda.

Let us go through how the system operates within the department. The lowest tender for a contract is usually accepted because that is the system under which we operate. The lowest tender is checked out, and, as I have explained, this tender was checked out by a person in the department in Warrnambool and it was satisfactory to that officer; it was recommended that that tender be accepted.

Mr Cooper interjected.

Mr WALSH—On nearly all occasions we accept the lowest tender; we do not have to accept the lowest tender but I believe it is best to accept the lowest tender providing it is close to the estimates and the contractor can do the job. So far as the officer was concerned it was checked out and the contractor was recommended as suitable to have the contract. When he got the contract and was on the job it was the department which found out that he was not abiding by the contract and immediately we moved in and took over the contract.

Mr Cooper interjected.

Mr WALSH—I do not know whether the honourable member for Mornington can run a pie stall or a hot dog stand but he certainly does not understand how big departments are run. He certainly does not understand the design and construction industry; he would not have a clue about it because this is a high risk industry, and people ought to understand that.

Mr Cooper interjected.

Mr WALSH—The honourable member for Mornington is probably a high risk on his own, but he ought to look at the high risks as it is a high risk industry. The Government deals with high risks in construction. The Government handles more than 50 000 work orders a year; that is nearly 1000 a week. I do not know whether the honourable member understands that but if one happens to have a clean bill of health all the way every year one will be doing pretty well.

The Public Works Department was in a mess when the honourable member for Niddrie took it over and he did a lot of work to clean it up. The Leader of the Government in another place has done some work. I restructured the department to bring it to a reasonable standard, and we are still finding things that the previous Government did and decisions it made to make that work competitive.

However, I do thank the honourable member for Mornington for the two names that the contractor is supposed to have worked under. I do not know when that happened—whether it was in the past 3, 10 or 20 years—but I shall certainly find out, and I shall find out who was the Minister at the time these incidents occurred and inform the honourable member for Mornington of that. I appreciate receiving the information, and if honourable members ever have any information and think there are some crooks in the industry working for me, I would like to know and I shall make sure the matter is rectified forthwith.

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—I hope all honourable members will acknowledge the enormous success which the Victoria Police have achieved with the introduction of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Since the scheme was introduced in 1983, no fewer than 441 Neighbourhood Watch areas have been established throughout Victoria. Those 441 Neighbourhood Watch areas now take in 965 000 Victorians drawn from 320 000 homes.

The effect of the introduction of 441 Neighbourhood Watch areas has been to bring about a spectacular reduction in the incidence of residential burglaries in those parts of

Victoria which have the advantage of being covered by a Neighbourhood Watch system, and also in crime right across the board.

The average reduction in residential burglaries in areas covered by the Neighbourhood Watch system has been 30 per cent, a high figure indeed. At the same time, there has been a reduction of 18·5 per cent in crime of all types in those parts of Victoria covered by the Neighbourhood Watch system. It is clear those parts of Victoria that have been able to protect themselves through the establishment of this system are very much better off than the rest of the State where the system has not as yet been introduced.

Indeed, by the end of September, one million Victorians, a quarter of the State's population, will be protected by Neighbourhood Watch schemes. It is no wonder that other Australian States are modelling their Neighbourhood Watch schemes on what has been achieved in Victoria or that a great interest in what has been going on in Victoria has been shown by police forces and communities overseas.

Not only are the Victoria Police rapidly extending the cover in Victoria of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, but new variations of Neighbourhood Watch are being introduced and trialled. Perhaps the best example of that I can offer is the Rural Watch program, which has now been introduced by the Victoria Police and which is being trialled in the Seymour area, much to the satisfaction of the honourable member for Benalla, who sees in that Rural Watch program in his electorate a program being designed to reduce theft of stock, general theft relating to rural communities, prevention of property of fences, prevention of firearm offences and arson.

In addition, the Victoria Police are also examing the introduction of Shop Watch; a program whereby retail traders can come together and, in turn, protect their particular interest in the way that is best suited to the circumstances in which they find themselves.

I understand the police have extended invitations to organisations of retail traders to become involved in the development of this new Shop Watch scheme so that as much can be done for retail interests in the State as is already being done, on a small scale, for the rural people of the State and is being done to the tune of almost a quarter of the State's population through the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

It is, therefore, in the light of that success, the more extraordinary that any member of Parliament should seek to undermine the success of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme or to destroy public confidence in it.

On 18 July, the honourable member for Malvern, who has been quoted at some length by the honourable member for Clayton this evening, sent a telegram to the Chief Commissioner of Police expressing his concern about progress with the Neighbourhood Watch program in the Malvern and Caulfield areas and alleging that a number of Neighbourhood Watch meetings in that area had been cancelled for lack of resources.

On 21 July the chief commissioner sent the honourable member for Malvern a prompt and courteous reply assuring him that his anxiety about the situation of Neighbourhood Watch in the Caulfield and Malvern areas was wholly without foundation. I shall read the chief commissioner's letter because it is of some importance so that honourable members can appreciate the enormity of the action in which the honourable member for Malvern has chosen to involve himself.

The chief commissioner wrote to the honourable member for Malvern on 21 July, three days after the telegram was received:

Dear Mr Leigh,

I have received your telegram of 18th July, regarding Neighbourhood Watch Zones in "H" District.

At present there are 49 zones in place within "H" District and 13 more are to be established. There are also petitions relating to 13 other areas.

No decision has been taken to stop any zones from being established. The situation is that once the 13 identified zones are established, data will be collected so that the additional 13 petitions from zones can be prioritized for implementation.

There has been considerable interest exhibited by residents within "H" District concerning Neighbourhood Watch and this is commendable. However, I am sure you will appreciate that it is necessary to establish whether all proposed zones meet the necessary criteria and to ensure that they are established in priority order.

At present, my members are working to introduce the 13 zones already identified. This does not mean that the other 13 proposed zones will not proceed. Indeed, provided the necessary criteria are met, they will be established.

I trust that this response has allayed your concerns and I thank you for your interest in this matter.

I have already made the point that that reply was furnished by the Chief Commissioner of Police within three days of the telegram being received by the honourable member for Malvern. He did not show the Chief Commissioner of Police the courtesy of waiting until that reply was received; he went hot foot to his local newspapers—the *Southern Cross* and the *Regional Progress*—and made three allegations that were completely without foundation.

He told his local newspapers, firstly that meetings in the area had been cancelled for lack of resources. He told them, secondly, that cuts were to be made in the Neighbourhood Watch program.

The honourable member for Forest Hill, by interjection, says "Quite right" and I ask the honourable member where he gets that information because it is a complete falsehood.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Forest Hill is out of his place.

Mr MATHEWS—Furthermore, the honourable member for Malvern told the local newspapers that the Neighbourhood Watch program in the Malvern and Caulfield areas was being slowed down. Those allegations were put to the local newspapers in circumstances where advice and support had been sought from the Chief Commissioner of Police and he was not shown the courtesy of time in which to make that advice available to the honourable member for Malvern before these allegations were given currency. The effect of having those allegations given currency in this spectacular form has been to significantly undermine confidence in the scheme in the Malvern and Caulfield areas.

Mr MACLELLAN (Berwick)—On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services has referred to a newspaper article. Can he be asked to identify the newspaper, give its date and perhaps do the House some courtesy by reading the headline to the article which uses the word "predicts"?

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member for Berwick has raised with me as a point of order the procedure that the Minister is following in responding to a matter raised by the honourable member for Clayton.

If the Minister would identify the newspaper article, that would suffice so far as the point of order is concerned.

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—Mr Speaker, I am happy to comply with that request. The quotation which I have given under the heading "Leigh predicts cuts in Neighbourhood Watch" came from the *Regional Progress* of 23 July. I had intended to inform the House that the effect of the honourable member's comments was plain a month later when the same publication of 27 August reported:

The Caulfield Crime Car Squad has received a poor response in one of the areas it wants to set up a Neighbourhood Watch program.

In other words, confidence in the program had been significantly undermined.

I was unaware until this evening of the telephone calls received by the local police which have been the subject of comment by the honourable member for Clayton. The effect of the irresponsibility of the honourable member for Malvern is absolutely plain and the local police were not slow to back up their chief commissioner by making the truth plain

on this matter. The local Neighbourhood Watch coordinator was quoted in the *Southern Cross* of 30 July, a week after the honourable member's outburst, in the following terms:

> However, Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, Inspector Michael Friend, said police would not be slowing down the implementation of new Watch areas.
>
> "I guess it is fair to say the program has grown faster than we anticipated," said Inspector Friend.
>
> "But between now and August 11 there will be 13 new areas established in that district.
>
> "If that is slowing the program down, well I guess we're in trouble.

Inspector Friend might well make a comment of that character. One might have thought, after being told that the honourable member was wrong by the Chief Commissioner of Police and by the local police inspector in charge of Neighbourhood Watch, that the honourable member would have the grace to pull in his head and might even apologise for the misinformation he was spreading in the area. However, one does not receive that graceful response from the honourable member for Malvern.

Instead, he was quoted in the *Regional Progress* of 27 August as saying that he stood by his comments. The chief commmissioner said he was wrong, the local police said he was wrong, but the honourable member said he stood by his comments and continued to spread the gloom and doom about the Neighbourhood Watch program that he initiated a month earlier.

It should not be supposed that these are simply the fantasies and distortions that the community has come to expect from the honourable member. They are outright old-fashioned untruths. It is a shame that the honourable member for Malvern has chosen to mould his political career not on George Washington, as might have been hoped, but on Joseph Goebbels. It is clearly the belief of the honourable member that if a lie is big enough and is told often enough, people will come to accept it.

Four points were made in his outburst about Neighbourhood Watch as reported on 23 July, and all of them were wrong. That is a record, even for the honourable member for Malvern. Many people in the Malvern and Caulfield areas have taken to keeping statistics on what the honourable member has said and done.

Firstly, the honourable member for Malvern was utterly deceitful in repeating his claim of a month earlier about the Neighbourhood Watch program being slowed down in circumstances where the Chief Commissioner of Police had told him that was not so and in circumstances where he had been told it was not so by the local police. He could not claim ignorance; it was an outright untruth.

Secondly, it was a total misrepresentation for the honourable member for Malvern to say—and the honourable member for Clayton has confirmed that he said it—that I was the Labor spokesman for police and emergency services in opposition in 1982 when, in fact, I have never held that position at any time.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr MATHEWS—Although he knows that is not true, he continues to put that about in letters he sends to his constituents in the Malvern electorate who also, no doubt, will wake up to him in due course.

Thirdly, there was no truth in his claim that I launched a witch-hunt to find out who had supplied figures about police strength to the Parliamentary Library, where he claimed to have gone to obtain them. The honourable member exaggerates his importance. I knew nothing about the inquiries that had been made until he, through this claim in the columns of the *Regional Progress,* drew them to my attention.

Fourthly and finally——

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr MATHEWS—Fourthly and finally for tonight, it is likewise untrue for the honourable member for Malvern to claim that I promised 1000 extra police for the first term of the Cain Government when, in fact, my promise consistently has been to increase the force's effective strength by training additional recruits and appointing public servants to replace, on a one-for-one basis, police officers who currently are engaged full time on clerical duties, along lines that have been endorsed and recommended by the Neesham committee.

It is a matter of public record that the Cain Government has brought about an increase of 1003 in the effective strength of the Police Force, comprising 742 recruits above wastage, together with 261 experienced police who previously held jobs which could be done as well or better by public servants.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER—Order! I advise the honourable member for Malvern that I have warned him a number of times. Because he turns his back on the Chair does not mean to say that he is not being heard in respect to his interjections. I shall not warn him again. If he interjects I shall call up the motion that will remove him from the Chamber.

Order! If the honourable member wishes to attempt to be the clown in this place, I shall accommodate him.

Mr MATHEWS—I say finally that the allegations from the *Regional Progress* and *The Southern Cross*——

The SPEAKER—Order! I suggest to the honourable member that he behave himself.

Mr Kennett—What is he doing now?

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member wishes to defy the Chair.

Mr Kennett—He did not!

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER—Order! I shall ask the honourable member for Malvern to remove himself rather than face the odium of having the motion moved against him.

Mr MATHEWS—I say finally and simply that the allegations and the falsehoods from the *Southern Cross* and from the *Regional Progress*, which have been drawn to the attention of the House tonight by the honourable member for Clayton, exhibit a blatant, cynical and quite incorrigible disregard for the truth, for which the honourable member for Malvern is becoming notorious.

I shall ask the Chief Commissioner of Police to make a public statement on the importance which the Police Force attaches to Neighbourhood Watch, of the great progress that has been made in respect of Neighbourhood Watch and the importance of it to both sides of this House.

I take up the point made by the Leader of the Opposition that I want to make the point political. It was the honourable member for Malvern who set out to undermine the integrity and the progress of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the Malvern and Caulfield areas and he is very much to be condemned for having done so.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The honourable member for Gippsland West raised a particular contractual matter relating to the Hume Highway. I suppose the honourable member has some understanding of building matters because he has build more flats on an area than he had approval for.

With national roads, the first thing the honourable member needs to understand is that a condition of a tender opening is that a national transport Ministry person be present to ensure compliance with normal conditions. If the State department were not to follow the

normal conditions, the Commonwealth would not allow it to proceed with the awarding of tenders.

In this instance, a number of clauses in the tender were non-conforming. One that I recall was that a particular type of bulldozer was to be used for a particular job. That meant that if an area required drilling and blasting, considerable variation needed to be made to the contract. In many of these road areas, it is as much the variations as anything else where people attempt to make the money. With that and other non-conforming matters, it was not considered that the company could satisfy the rate of progress that was required for the job.

The matter was raised by the press. Mr Elias from the *Age* contacted the Government and claimed that he had been told by the contractor that the Ministry and myself had interfered and had given the contract to a particular company.

The Government made it clear to Mr Elias that nothing of that sort had occurred. Mr Elias was informed that it was a non-conforming contract, that the Road Construction Authority did not consider that this contractor would be able to carry out the requirements even if it had been a conforming contract and that it had been awarded to an appropriate tenderer. The honourable member for Gippsland West suggested some level of dishonesty in the RCA. That body has a good reputation for probity and for the honourable member to allege dishonesty is to denigrate each and every officer of that body. I hope the honourable member will publicly apologise to the officers of the RCA for his suggestion that they were dishonest in this matter.

The awarding of tenders by the RCA is based on State and Commonwealth agreed rules for national roads. Those rules state that tenders have to conform and a whole range of conditions have to be met. I am advised that this contract does all of those things and protects the public money.

Often there are vast differences in the amounts of tenders and often the lowest tender—as I am sure some honourable members opposite understand—is not a conforming tender or the best tender. Often the lowest tenderer gets into difficulty with roadworks, as has occurred from time to time.

The credibility of the honourable member for Gippsland West can be demonstrated immediately without bothering to seek information from myself or the RCA. He has leapt into this matter just as he did about the Port Phillip sea pilots.

If he had had the good sense to wait, he may have been simply supporting a 25 per cent increase in their rates. This happens all the time with the honourable member for Gippsland West. He writes letters supporting all kinds of proposals and makes all kinds of statements without ensuring that he is correct in the first place. In this instance, if he had bothered to check, as Mr Elias did, he would have understood the reasons why the contract was given in the way that it was.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.30 *p.m. until Tuesday, September* 16.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The following answers to questions on notice were circulated—

APPOINTMENT OF LABOR CANDIDATES TO PUBLIC SERVICE

(Question No. 5)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What positions paid by the Crown are now held by Labor candidates who unsuccessfully stood for the State election on 2 March 1985, indicating which electoral district each contested?

2. How many Labor candidates held a position in the State Public Service prior to contesting 1985 State election?

3. What new Public Service positions have been made available to former Australian Labor party candidates?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

1. The positions under the Public Service Act held by unsuccessful Labor candidates for the State elections of which I am aware are:

(*a*) Permanent positions held by any of the persons listed in part 2 of this answer who have either exercised their right to be reappointed to the Public Service or who were on leave from the Public Service to contest the election.

(*b*) Exempt positions held by the following Ministerial appointees:

Mr P. Staindl (Berwick)—Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs (position held prior to election).

Mr G. Ihlein (Evelyn)—Ministerial Adviser to the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Mr T. Sheehan (Ivanhoe)—Ministerial Adviser to the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands.

Mr D. Hobsbawn (Burwood)—Ministerial Adviser to the Minister for Local Government.

Mr M. Dumais (Malvern)—Ministerial Adviser to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (position held prior to election).

Ms R. Mathews (Narracan)—Private Secretary to the Minister for Local Government.

(*c*) Positions held by:

Mr B. Ives (Nunawading)—Temporarily employed by the Ministry for the Arts for a twelve month project as an ADM-6. Mr Ives is the first occupant of this position.

Mr D. Newton (Bennettswood)—Ministry of Planning and Environment—Permanent ADM-8. Mr Newton was transferred to this position from the Department of Labour. The position was one of a number established in early 1986 following the recommendations of the Parliamentary Natural Resources and Environment Committee on waste disposal. Mr Newton is the first occupant. Prior to the elections Mr Newton was a member of the teaching service and was seconded to the Department of Labour after the elections.

Mr R. Miller (Monash)—Director of the Regulation Review Unit, Department of Industry, Technology and Resources. This position was created in 1984 and widely advertised before the election. Mr Miller is the first appointee to that position.

2. According to Public Service Board records there were four Labor candidates who held positions in the Public Service prior to the election, one of whom was elected in the 1982 elections and defeated in the 1985 election. They were:

Mr D. Gray (Syndal)

Mr S. Bracks (Ballarat North)

Mr D. Wauchope (Shepparton)

Mr P. Eddy (North Western)

MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 13)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING PURCHASES IN GEELONG DISTRICT

(Question No. 22)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Housing:

1. How many homes the Ministry of Housing has purchased under the "spot" purchase plan in the electoral district of Geelong East in the past two years?

2. What was the average price of these homes?

3. What is the present waiting period for Ministry of Housing homes in that electoral district?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

1. The Ministry of Housing does not keep records on an electoral basis; local government area figures are used as the basis for this reply.

To 31 December 1985, purchases were:

Barrabool Shire—20 units.

Bellarine Shire—11 units; 3 detached houses.

Corio Shire—2 units; 55 detached houses.

Geelong City—1 detached house.

Geelong West City—3 detached houses.

Newtown City—3 detached houses.

2. The average price of these properties is $44 745.

3. The average waiting time as at 31 December 1985 was between 20 and 30 months.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 26)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 27)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Education Department?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 30)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Management and Budget?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 32)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Ministry of Transport?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 33)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Ministry of Housing?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 34)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Industry, Technology and Resources?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The Premier is providing an answer to this question on behalf of all departments, including the Department of Industry, Technology and Resources.

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

MINERALS AND ENERGY EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 35)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, involved in functions relating to minerals and energy?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The answer to this question is provided in my answer to question No. 34.

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 36)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Local Government Department?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 37)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Sport and Recreation?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 38)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Ethnic Affairs Commission?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 40)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Property and Services?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 41)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Labour and Industry?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The information required does not come within my portfolio, but rather is within the responsibility of the Minister for Labour.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 43)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for the Arts:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Ministry for the Arts?

2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?

3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

EARLY RETIREMENT SCHEME, INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES

(Question No. 50)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. How many former senior officers have taken advantage of any early retirement scheme implemented by major agencies and instrumentalities under the Minister's administration?

2. How many of these positions have since been filled?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

1. Both the State Electricity Commission and the Gas and Fuel Corporation have early retirement schemes.

   (i) Between 1 April 1982 and 21 October 1985 114 senior SEC officers retired at ages between 55 and 60.

   (ii) The Gas and Fuel Corporation has, through its superannuation policies, provided for early retirement for more than twenty years. In the twelve months to 16 July 1985 nineteen senior officers took advantage of the relevant provisions of the scheme.

2. (i) Seventy-eight of the positions vacated by early retirement of senior SEC officers had been filled as at 28 November 1985.

(ii) All positions vacated by early retirement of GFC officers in the twelve month period to 12 July 1985 were filled.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA BORROWINGS

(Question No. 104)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of all moneys borrowed by each department, agency and authority within his administration in the three-year period ended 2 March 1985:

1. How many loans were transacted over this period, indicating the date each loan was formalized and the amount of money borrowed as a result of each loan?

2. What are the details of the loan repayments, including the rate of interest payable and whether there is an escalation clause for the interest rate payable?

3. From whom each loan was borrowed and what are the details regarding each individual or organization approached to provide finance, indicating the terms offered?

4. What was the total amount of loans outstanding against each body as at 2 March 1982 and 2 March 1985, respectively?

5. What are the full details of each offer to provide finance which was made to each body during this period?

6. Whether he will provide any other information required in order to enable the public to establish the full extent and cost of such borrowings over the above period?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

The information requested by the honourable member is far too detailed, and the time and resources necessary to provide an answer could not be justified. Before the transfer of some services to the Department of Community Services, the department funded approximately 3400 agencies.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 131)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Public Works Department?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 132)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Ministry for Planning and Environment?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

This question will be answered by the Premier on behalf of all Ministers.

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, FORESTS AND LANDS EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 144)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 145)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

LAW DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 146)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Law Department?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 147)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

1. What is the number of permanent and part-time employees, respectively, in the Department of Water Resources?
2. What was the total wages bill for the financial year ended 30 June 1984?
3. What percentage of this bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

A. The answer to part 1 is available from the Public Service Board's annual report.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 can be obtained from the Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

YOUTH GUARANTEE SCHEME

(Question No. 153)

Mr LIEBERMAN (Benambra) asked the Minister for Education:

With regard to the statement by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs during question time on 3 April 1985 that extra TAFE positions have been created to implement the Government's Youth Guarantee Scheme whether he will provide details of how many positions have been created, where these positions have been created, when they were created, the type and nature of each position and the cost of each position, together with the name of each institution where these positions have been created?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

In response to Mr Lieberman's question regarding the creation of extra TAFE positions to implement the Government's Youth Guarantee Scheme, I am advised:

1. That 4247 apprenticeship places and, as at 28 February 1986, in excess of 700 work/study positions have been filled.
2. Attachment 1 shows the colleges of TAFE at which these positions are located.
3. These positions have been progressively created since April 1985.
4. The type of apprenticeship positions, together with the cost of those positions are shown on Attachment II.

Information concerning the types of work/study positions is available from the Department of Labour. The estimated off-the-job training cost to 30 June 1986 and the colleges of TAFE where this training takes place are listed on Attachment I.

ATTACHMENT I: LOCATION OF APPRENTICESHIP AND WORK/STUDY POSITIONS

	Apprenticeships			*Work/Study*	
	New in 1986	*Pipeline* 1985	*Total*	*Positions filled to* 28.2.86	*Estimated off-the-job training cost to* 30.6.86
					$
Footscray	30	30	60	32	42 624
Newport	16	16	32	9	11 988
Batman	50	360	410	21	27 972
Broadmeadows	48	—	48	2	2 664
Preston	100	217	317	65	86 580
Textiles	35	24	59	3	3 996
Box Hill	78	452	530	86	114 552
Holmesglen	114	139	253	31	41 292
Outer Eastern	—	—	—	—	—
Dandenong	294	186	480	6	7 992
Moorabbin	—	—	—	31	41 292
Frankston	196	222	418	31	41 292
RMIT	23	27	50	55	73 260
William Angliss	293	70	363	2	2 664
Printing and Graphic Arts	109	—	109	—	—
Flagstaff	—	144	144	3	3 996
Decoration	80	—	80	4	5 328
Swinburne	—	63	63	28	37 296
Richmond	50	46	96	3	3 996
Prahran	34	17	51	46	61 272
Collingwood	—	112	112	50	66 600
Council of Adult Education	—	—	—	7	9 324
Warrnambool	—	—	—	4	5 328
Gordon	16	42	58	29	38 628
Wimmera	16	24	40	2	2 664
Ballarat	—	122	122	30	39 960
Sunraysia	27	46	73	22	29 304
Bendigo	10	35	45	5	6 660
Shepparton	18	75	93	20	26 640
GVDTC	—	—	—	—	—
Wangaratta	—	24	24	16	21 312
Yallourn	19	30	49	43	57 276
East Gippsland	..	..	..	..	..
Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture	—	29	29	6	7 992
Wodonga Technical School	—	—	—	10	13 320
Education Department	—	39	39	—	—
Bairnsdale Technical School	—	—	—	14	18 648
	1656	2591	4247	716	953 712

APPRENTICES

			1986					
	Total		*New*		*Pipeline*		*Additional* 1985	
Trade	*Students*	$	*Students*	$	*Students*	$	*Students*	$
Plumbing	347	332 389	148	194 783	61	13 771	138	123 835
Carpentry and Joinery—								
Pre App.	176	236 621	176	236 621				
Other	703	520 320	5	3 528	214	130 169	484	386 623
Motor Mechanics—								
Heavy Stream	300	537 440	50	37 440	250	500 000		
Other	254	171 366	60	41 904	194	129 462		

	1986							
	Total		*New*		*Pipeline*		*Additional* 1985	
Trade	*Students*	$	*Students*	$	*Students*	$	*Students*	$
Cooking	715	499 806	531	373 653	184	126 153		
Bricklaying	68	44 924	11	6 899	57	38 025		
Fitting and Machining	49	35 384			49	35 384		
Floor Covering	20	4 800	20	4 800				
Sewing Machinists	15	9 864	15	9 864				
Radio	6	3 946	6	3 946				
Flat Glass	8	9 178	8	9 178				
Electrical Mechanics	18	10 109	7	4 368	11	5 741		
Nursery and Horticulture	104	50 193			104	50 193		
Hairdressing	366	279 002	94	53 320	44	22 347	228	203 335
Dental Technician	24	28 470					24	28 470
Instrument Making	16	10 522	16	10 522				
Pattern Making	6	4 301			6	4 301		
Refrigeration Mechanic	20	13 152			20	13 152		
Breadmaking	100	47 844	82	39 232	18	8 612		
Butchery	127	45 009	118	41 819	9	3 190		
Pastry Cook	90	47 844	74	39 338	16	8 506		
Graphic Reproduction	46	32 826	46	32 826				
Print Machining	23	16 413	23	16 413				
Farming	36	21 348	12	8 583	12	12 765		
Print Composition	40	28 544	40	28 544				
Painting and Decoration	102	21 393	80	5 976	22	15 417		
Cabinet Making	43	30 822	34	24 371	9	6 451		
Body Making	5	3 672			5	3 672		
Metal Fabrication	27	19 611			27	19 611		
Panel Beating	50	30 825			50	30 825		
Shop Fitting	8	5 734			8	5 734		
Vehicle Painting	(18)	(4 361)			(18)	(4 361)		
Auto Electrician	41	34 351			25	15 600	16	18 751
Radio Mechanic	12	7 891			12	7 891		
Optical Fitting	6	3 946			6	3 946		
Waiting	4	2 654					4	2 654
Upholstery	8	5 734			8	5 734		
Fibrous Plasterer	52	49 753			52	49 753		
Solid Plasterer	10	6 928			10	6 928		
Tile Laying	18	14 486			18	14 486		
Fruit Growing	9	6 437			9	6 437		
Electrical Fitting	13	8 673			13	8 673		
Vegetable Growing	15	10 728			15	10 728		
Farrier	14	10 012			14	10 012		
Boiler Maker	(15)	(6 328)			(15)	(6 328)		
Automotive Parts	46	57 128					46	57 128
Apparel Cutting	24	29 678					24	29 678
Roof Slating	96	63 702					96	63 702
	4247	3 455 084	1656	1 227 928	1531	1 312 980	1060	914 176

PORNOGRAPHIC IMPORTS

(Question No. 210)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for the Arts, for the Attorney-General:

What action the State Government has taken, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, to—(*a*) prevent the importation and sale of hard-core pornography and grossly obscene publications in the State of Victoria; and (*b*) register imported pornographic video tapes for non-commercial use with the Film Censorship Board and require the censor to more appropriately reflect responsible community attitudes?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is:

(*a*) The Films (Classification) Act 1984 bans the sale and hire of "X" rated video material and makes it an offence in Victoria for a person to sell or deliver an unclassified video film. There are four classification categories—"G", "PG", "M" and "R"—the latter being restricted to adults of eighteen years of age and older.

The relevant Commonwealth and State Ministers agreed—July 1983—in principle to introduce a uniform censorship classification scheme. At present, the scheme in Victoria concerns video films only but this is intended to be extended. In the meantime satisfactory legislation exists for printed matter and films for theatres by way of the Police Offences Act 1958 and the Films Act 1971.

(*b*) The classification of video tapes is carried out by the Commonwealth Film Censorship Board—including those for non-commercial use—under criteria laid down in the legislation as well as guidelines set by Ministers responsible for censorship. Material depicting child pornography, promoting terrorism or offending against generally accepted standards of morality, decency and propriety would be refused classification under this legislation.

DECENTRALIZATION ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

(Question No. 217)

Mr HANN (Rodney) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. What was the total amount of financial assistance provided to dairy processing and manufacturing companies in Victoria under the "approved decentralized industry incentive scheme" for each of the financial years from 1980–81 to 1983–84, inclusive?

2. Which incentives are to be withdrawn from these companies and what will be the total cost to the above industries of the loss of these benefits?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources—The answer is:

1. The total amount of financial assistance provided to dairy processing and manufacturing companies in Victoria under the "approved decentralized industry incentive scheme" for each of the financial years from 1980–81 to 1983–84 inclusive is as follows:

	$'000
1980–81	3725
1981–82	3022
1982–83	2499
1983–84	3218

It should be noted that the years 1981–82 and 1982–83 were drought-affected and consequently the levels of activity in the dairy industry were low, resulting in reduced payments under the scheme.

2. The Government announced in April 1984 that "decentralization" assistance schemes would be progressively phased out, to be replaced by a new range of State and regional industry policy measures.

Unlike the "decentralization" schemes which did little to upgrade the performance of businesses receiving these benefits, the new business support services and industry assistance schemes are helping Victorian industries to improve their competitiveness to their own lasting benefit and to the long-term benefit of their region of the State.

Already, more than 300 firms have chosen to participate in the new schemes by way of business planning assistance—261 firms, $1·5 million—and capital projects—67 firms, $26·2 million.

"Decentralization" assistance, "adjustment" assistance and "special" assistance package(s)—1985–86 only—provided to dairy product companies after introduction of the new industry assistance schemes is:

1984–85	$4 215 000
1985–86	$6 946 052 (estimated)

Assistance for 1986–87 onwards depends on these companies' take-up rate of the new schemes.

DECENTRALIZED INDUSTRIES IN GIPPSLAND WEST

(Question No. 232)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. What are the names and addresses of all approved decentralized industries located within the boundaries of the electoral district of Gippsland West?

2. What was the total amount each of these industries received by way of Government rebates by virtue of their status as approved decentralized industries, including pay-roll tax rebates and all other forms of rebates and incentive payments for the 1982–83 and 1983–84 financial years?

3. As a result of Government policy to phase out grants to approved decentralized industries, what is estimated to be the rebates received by each of these industries for the financial years from 1984–85 to 1987–88 inclusive?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

Under the provisions of the Decentralized Industry Incentive Payments Act the information sought in relation to the affairs of individual firms is confidential—that is, it is not able to be disclosed by the director-general.

For that reason I am not prepared to accede to the request for:

1. Names and addresses of "approved decentralized industries located within the boundaries of the electoral district of Gippsland West";

2. Rebates and other payments made to each of these industries; and

3. Rebates etc. made to these industries over the "phase out" period 1985–86 to 1987–88.

I am, however, able to advise the honourable member that "decentralization" assistance payments totalling $746 000 were made to fourteen firms in the electorate of West Gippsland in 1984–85. Of this, 70 per cent went to four firms.

As announced in April 1984, in the context of introducing the Government's new State and regional industry policy measures, decentralization assistance is being phased out, at the rate of 75 per cent, 50 per cent and 25 per cent over the three years commencing 1985–86.

RESIDENCES OWNED BY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

(Question No. 242)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of all residences owned by departments, agencies and authorities within his administration as at 1 April 1985, and which have been vacant for two months or longer, what is the length of time each has been vacant, the location and the reason?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

In line with Government policy, the transport authorities are arranging to dispose of property which is in excess of operational requirements. Procedures followed by the previous Government resulted in extensive delays in disposing of surplus transport residences. Administrative processes have been rationalized to facilitate the handling of applications to purchase surplus houses and land.

Since 30 June 1982, the number of residences owned by the State Transport Authority has been reduced from 2074 to 1110.

If there is a specific area in which you are interested, I am prepared to make available to you details of transport residences there which have been vacant for two months or longer.

BUDGET ALLOCATION OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA

(Question No. 281)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

1. Whether any moneys were allocated by departments, agencies and authorities within his administration in the State Budget delivered on 18 September 1984 which would be available for distribution at his discretion; if so, what is the amount allocated?

2. Whether such discretionary funds were available within the 1983–84 State Budget; if so, what amount?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

No specific discretionary funds are available in the Health Department's budgetary allocation. All funds made available to the department are allocated for indentified programs and purposes. Within these programs, and subject to Treasury regulations, the Minister, as the person responsible for the implementation of the Government's policies, has discretion in the allocation of funds.

REGIONAL STUDY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN BALLARAT

(Question No. 325)

Mr A. T. EVANS (Ballarat North) asked the Minister for Transport:

Whether he will lay on the table of the Library the report arising out of regional studies of public transport in the area embracing Ballarat?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

A regional study of public transport in the Ballarat area has commenced which will look at improvements to the existing system including bus time-tables and bus routes. Submissions will be sought from representative groups.

This study follows other studies which have been successfully completed in Geelong, Bendigo and Warrnambool. All these studies have resulted in major changes to the existing transit systems and have substantially increased patronage.

This is part of the Government review of urban public transport systems throughout Victoria.

Details of the study will be released after it has been considered by the Government.

USE OF VEHICLES BY DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES

(Question No. 341)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

In respect of motor vehicles operated by each department, agency or authority within his administration, how many travelled on either the South Gippsland or Bass highways, or both, on Saturday, 1 June 1985, indicating—(*a*) the registration number of each vehicle; (*b*) how many officers travelled in each vehicle; and (*c*) the purpose of the trip in each case?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

Vehicles operated by the Department of Industry, Technology and Resources, the State Electricity Commission and the Gas and Fuel Corporation travelled on either the South Gippsland or Bass highways, or both, on Saturday, 1 June 1985.

Details are as follows:

Reg. No.	*No. of Officers*	*Purpose of trip*
1. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES		
MXL 549	1	Take camp site rubbish from Drill 29 to Woodside tip
MXL 577	1	Cart water to Drill 29 camp site
MXL 578	1	Buy supplies for Drill 29 camp site
2. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION		
MZY 685	2	Electrical fault work
MXE 804	1	Electrical installation inspection (houses)
MXL 697	1	Electrical installation inspection (houses)
MXF 697	2	Fault attendances
MZY 732	3	District sub-maintenance work (Barrys Beach)
MYS 161	2	Alterations to meters (Barrys Beach)
MXG 003	1	Returning to Yarram Depot after availability completion
MYS 700	2	Attendance to electrical fault (Outtrim)

3. GAS AND FUEL CORPORATION

The corporation does not maintain a central record of vehicle trips. As there are a large number of corporation vehicles on permanent allocation associated with duties commencing or finishing in the field, and out of hours call-outs associated with public safety and security of gas supply, individual questioning of each corporation driver would be costly and cannot be justified in this case.

4. Vehicles operated by no other agencies or authorities which come within my administration travelled on either the South Gippsland Highway or the Bass Highway on Saturday, 1 June 1985.

USE OF VEHICLES BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA

(Question No. 359)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of motor vehicles operated by each department, agency or authority within his administration, how many travelled on either the South Gippsland or Bass highways, or both, on Saturday, 1 June 1985, indicating—(*a*) the registration number of each vehicle; (*b*) how many officers travelled in each vehicle; and (*c*) the purpose of the trip in each case?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

On Saturday, 1 June 1985, two Health Department Victoria vehicles were allocated for duty purposes to staff working in the Gippsland area and both vehicles travelled on the South Gippsland or Bass highways, or both.

Specific details are:

(*a*) Vehicles MXD 606 and MXJ 225.

(*b*) One person in each vehicle.

(*c*) One vehicle was used by a community nurse from Dandenong, the other by a community nurse from Traralgon. Both were visiting clients.

It is possible that other vehicles permanently allocated to institutions or to staff for use in the course of their duties may have travelled on the nominated roads on 1 June 1985; however, no central records are kept of these vehicles' movements.

PUBLICATIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES

(Question No. 364)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. What is the name of each book, brochure, pamphlet or publication produced by each department, agency or authority within his administration in the three-year period ended 2 March 1985?

2. What was the approximate date of publication of each book, brochure, pamphlet or publication?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The time and resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified. However, reference may be made to the annual reports and/or Part II statements of the Department of Industry, Technology and Resources, and of the various agencies within my administration, which show lists of major publications produced during the year.

Arrangements can also be made for publications to be inspected or obtained as follows:

Department of Industry, Technology and Resources—1st Floor, 140 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation—15 McKoy Street, Wodonga—note that all publications are produced by the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation, a Commonwealth Statutory Authority

Alpine Resorts Commission—World Trade Centre, Melbourne—brochures and pamphlets are also kept at major resort offices

Coal Corporation of Victoria—64 Church Street, Traralgon

Gas and Fuel Corporation—various points—see annual reports for details

Geelong Regional Commission—State Government Offices, cnr Fenwick and Little Malop Streets, Geelong

Liquor Control Commission—232 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

Latrobe Regional Commission—43 Grey Street, Traralgon

Overseas Projects Corporation—no publications were produced during the period requested

Small Business Development Corporation—100 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

State Electricity Commission—various points—see annual reports or contact the secretary

Victorian Economic Development Corporation—55 Collins Street, Melbourne

Victorian Solar Energy Corporation—270 Flinders Street, Melbourne

Victorian Tourism Commission—7th Floor, Building D, World Trade Centre, Melbourne

PUBLICATIONS BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA

(Question No. 379)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

1. What is the name of each book, brochure, pamphlet or publication produced by each department, agency or authority within his administration in the three-year period ended 2 March 1985?

2. What was the approximate day of publication of each book, brochure, pamphlet or publication?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

The time and resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified. However, the information may be gained from available reference material.

The Health Department's annual report contains a list of major publications produced during the year. In addition, some publications may be obtained from the department's Health Promotions Unit.

LAUNDRY SERVICES USED BY MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Question No. 391)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Whether the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services has laundry undertaken in a State owned or controlled laundry; if so—(*a*) what is the location; and (*b*) what is the capital investment and financial results of each such laundry?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

1. The Victoria State Emergency Service does not use the services of any laundry.

2. The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board contracts out laundry on a commercial basis after obtaining tenders.

3. The Country Fire Authority has laundry carried out at various locations by the local dry cleaner or laundry, none of which is State owned or controlled.

4. The Victoria Police Force has laundry carried out at a number of laundries throughout the State. A list of these services has been examined and inquiries have indicated that a number of these may be State owned or controlled.

(*a*) The following list indicates the location of any laundries, used by the Victoria Police, which may be State owned or controlled:

Laundry	*Used By*
Central Linen Service, Royal Melbourne Hospital	Victoria Police Hospital
Gippsland Geriatric Centre Laundry	Bairnsdale Police Station
Wimmera Base Hospital Laundry	Horsham Police Station
Mildura Base Hospital Laundry	Mildura Police Station
Wonthaggi and District Hospital Laundry	Wonthaggi Police Station

(*b*) Details of the capital investment and financial results of the above laundries are not available within the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services.

STATE LAUNDRY SERVICES

(Question No. 392)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

Whether the Health Department Victoria or any of its agencies has laundry undertaken by a State owned or controlled laundry; if so—(*a*) what is the location; and (*b*) what is the capital investment and the financial results of each such laundry?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

There are thirteen State owned or controlled laundry services, which are run as self-contained units under the managerial control of a public hospital or public nursing home.

Details of each service are shown in the schedule attached, by location, total financial result and capital investment for the year ended 30 June 1984.

Comparative figures are also shown for the year ended 30 June 1985, by way of further information.

In the figures given on the schedule:

(1) Total result means net trading profit derived after providing for depreciation on fixed assets plus investment or other income.

(2) The historic cost of the fixed assets, whenever purchased, from which total depreciation provided has been deducted, is interpreted as meaning capital investment.

(3) No inference relating to efficiency or otherwise should be drawn from the "total result" shown in relation to the "Depreciated Book Value of Fixed Assets" see Explanatory Notes point 4.

In addition to the above laundries referred to, there are four public hospital and three mental health hospital laundries. The operating results and costs of capital investment are integrated with over-all results of each hospital and the services provide linen etcetera, for internal use only.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Return of Investment

Central Linen Services are required to operate on a "break even" basis after making provisions for depreciation and other liabilities to ensure long-term viability.

Compliance with this criteria renders "Return on Investment" meaningless.

2. Income

Income is dependent on the number and size of clients serviced and the plants' capacity to handle the requirements.

Production/Linen Issues and their corresponding charging rate determines income revenue in combination with income from investment funds which are for provision of depreciation, long service leave, linen replacement, etcetera.

Total income is taken into account in arriving at a final charging rate.

3. Linen Charges

Linen charging rates are budgeted and pegged to the lowest possible figure to achieve a "break even" point.

4. Capital Investment

Capital investment is based on historic book values. The oldest central linen service in the State was established in 1953 and the most recent in 1979, hence presenting a time span variance and cost differential of 26 years for the building structure and electrical and mechanical services.

Furthermore, some linen service buildings are up to 60 years old, hence further distorting the situation.

Equipment/machinery is equally recorded on a book value basis, with age and level of technology varying across the spectrum of all the linen services.

5. Budgeted Surplus

A budgeted surplus (profit) over the "break even" point is transferred to an "Asset Replacement Reserve Account" for equipment replacement if and when required.

(that is, Equipment replacement = Depreciation provision + Surplus)

6. Non-Budgeted Surplus

Non-budgeted surplus (profit), over the "break even" point, has in the past been paid back to the participants in the form of a rebate.

STATE CONTROLLED LAUNDRIES—PUBLIC HOSPITAL

		1983–84		*1984–85*	
Name	*Location*	*Total Result*	*Depreciated Book Value of Fixed Assets*	*Total Result*	*Depreciated Book Value of Fixed Assets*
Barwon	Grace McKellar House, North Geelong	23 585	1 455 677	52 830	1 412 124
Central Highlands	Queen Elizabeth Geriatric, Ballarat	(15 273)	3 387 114	67 293	3 547 766
East Gippsland	Gippsland Base Hospital, Sale	39 093	256 509	(7 413)	347 317
Glenelg	Hamilton Base Hospital	36 596	265 112	37 659	259 052
Goulburn Valley	GV Base Hospital, Shepparton	68 689	356 341	84 428	208 140
Loddon	Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged, Bendigo	(16 551)	401 886	2 955	668 003
Mallee	Mildura Base Hospital, Mildura	15 247	163 037	(2 423)	177 294
Norther Suburbs	Austin Hospital, Heidelberg	111 093	2 194 032	27 910	2 358 217
Royal Melbourne	Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville	271 163	2 578 600	90 730	2 935 737
W. J. Smith	Wangaratta District Base, Wangaratta	(8 756)	831 442	48 720	845 531
Warrnambool	Warrnambool and District Base Hospital, Warrnambool	2 724	637 603	2 214	462 404
West and South Gippsland	West Gippsland Hospital, Warragul	17 976	836 469	56 598	1 340 789
Wimmera	Wimmera Base Hospital, Horsham	20 826	418 154	31 293	398 787

PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET

(Question No. 397)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Premier:

In respect of departments, agencies or authorities within his administration:

1. Which buildings are—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of those leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and the use being made of each building?

2. What land is—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of land leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and use of such land?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

I am informed that the following agencies within my administration do not own or lease any buildings or land:

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Public Service Board

Promotions Appeals Board

Audit Office

Ombudsman's Office

Office of the Governor

Victorian Relief Committee

PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

(Question No. 398)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of departments, agencies or authorities within his administration:

1. Which buildings are—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of those leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and the use being made of each building?

2. What land is—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of land leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and use of such land?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

1. (*a*) *Agency*	*Building(s) Owned*
State Bank	415 Branches 139 Residences 43 Branches with residences attached
State Superannuation Board	35 Spring Street, Melbourne 555 Collins Street, Melbourne 232-240-250 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 589 Collins Street, Melbourne Lot 1, Midland Highway, Shepparton 559-587 Collins Street, Melbourne 200-208 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn 318-322 Auburn Road, Hawthorn Cnr Moreland, Parker and Whitehall Streets, Footscray Lot 2, Abbots Road, Dandenong
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Board	Safeways Supermarket, Burwood Highway, East Burwood 28-40 Dunlop Road, Mulgrave 493 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne 67-73 Cochranes Road, Moorabbin 335 Plummer Street, Port Melbourne Lot 3 Norcal Road, Nunawading 130 Browns Road, Noble Park Woolworths Supermarket, Plenty Road, Bundoora 115 City Road, South Melbourne
Hospitals Superannuation Board	691 Burke Road, Camberwell

State Insurance Office

Cnr Auburn Road and Hall Street, Hawthorn. Lot 58/59 Rosslyn/Adderley Streets, West Melbourne, Lot 1-5 Young Street, Frankston, Lot 1 currently being sold under terms contract of sale.

270 King Street, Melbourne, Lots 1 and 20 Gordon/Birdwood Street, Footscray, Lot 5 530 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Lots 15 and 16 480 Collins Street, Melbourne, Lot 1 Lennox Street, Richmond Depot, Lot 22 Downie Street and Flinders Lane, Lot Pt 3 and 4 Eastwood Street, Ballarat, Lot 37-42 Ryley Street, Wangaratta, Lot Pt 1-11 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Lot 5 470 Collins Street, Lots 1, 5A Gray/Thompson/French Street, Hamilton, Lot 2 Old Wool Exchange, 120 King Street, Melbourne.

1. (*b*) *Buildings Leased*

Agency	*Location*	*Lessor*	*Length of Lease*	*Cost*	*Use*
State Bank*	—	—	—	—	81 for branch, 1 for residence

* Release of the location and details of all land and buildings, on undeveloped land, owned and leased by the bank would, it is considered, jeopardize the bank's commercial dealings and have, as a consequence, not been included.

Agency	*Location*	*Lessor*	*Length of Lease*	*Cost*	*Use*
				$	
Metropolitan Fire Brigade Superannuation Board	Part 7th floor, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne	State Superannuation Board	10 years	14 992 per annum	Office
Motor Accidents Board	Part 35 Spring Street, Melbourne	State Superannuation Board	6 years from 1-7-84	491 537 per annum	Office
State Employees Retirement Benefits Board	Part 7th Floor, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne	State Superannuation Board	to 31-1-90	91 462 per annum	Office
State Insurance Office	Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, Allotment 7A–7	Crown	63 years from 7-10-55	170 000 per annum	Part leased to commercial enterprise. Part used as SIO for sale of damaged vehicles
Victorian Accident Rehabilitation Council	Ground floor 314–316 Thomas Street, Dandenong	Tria Pty Ltd	5 years	72 800 per annum	Regional Office
Accident Compensation Commission	348–358 Latrobe Street, Melbourne	Dalmeg Investments Pty Ltd	18 months from 20-1-86	83 315 per annum	Office

2. (*a*)

Agency	*Land Owned*
State Bank	19 (future branches) 2 (future residences)
State Insurance Office	530 Collins Street, Melbourne Allotment 2 and 3 Rear 412 Collins Street, Nr Mitre Tavern off ROW Allotment Pt 5+6 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool East
State Superannuation Board	Part of 559–587 Collins Street, Melbourne Stages 3 and 4 Mullum Park Estate East Doncaster The board also has title to roads, reserve for drainage and sewerage purposes and reserve for municipal purposes.

1. (*b*) *Land Leased*

Agency	*Location*	*Lessor*	*Length of Lease*	*Cost*	*Use*
				$	
State Superannuation Board	Laneway near 555 Collins Street	Robert Saltzer Constructions	999 years	1 per annum	access to car park
State Insurance Office	(see answer for 1 (*b*))				

PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

(Question No. 415)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Treasurer, for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

In respect of departments, agencies or authorities within his administration:

1. Which buildings are—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of those leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and the use being made of each building?

2. What land is—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of land leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and use of such land?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs is:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

All buildings occupied by the department are on land held in the name of the Crown or leased through the Minister for Property and Services. All land occupied by the department is also held in the name of the Crown or leased through the Minister for Property and Services.

AUSTRALIAN BARLEY BOARD (in respect of its Victorian operations)

1. (*a*) Nil.

1. (*b*) Office accommodation, Third floor, 40–44 Chetwynd Street, West Melbourne.

Leased from J. Wilder and Moses, at an annual rental of $27 663.60.

Approximately 54 small offices adjacent to silo facilities, leased from V/Line, Grain Elevators Board or shire councils, details of which were sent direct to the honourable member in response to his request under the Freedom of Information Act.

2. (*a*) Nil.

2. (*b*) Nil.

MELBOURNE WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET TRUST

1. (*a*) The buildings situated at the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

1. (*b*) Nil.

2. (*a*) Crown allotments 10C and 11F and part of Crown allotment 10B, section 1B, Parish of Doutta Galla, County of Bourke that is, the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

2. (*b*) (i) An area of 6810 m^2, part of CA 10B, section 1B. Leased from the City of Melbourne for a term of one year from 1 January 1986 at a rental of $37 118. The land is used for market purposes.

(ii) The land known as railway lot 48 at South Dynon. Leased from the Victorian Railways Board for a term of 50 years at an annual licence fee of $2. The land and the buildings are used for the purpose of a rail terminal in which to receive and/or despatch goods carried by rail, including fruit and vegetables.

(iii) Railway lot 62—South Dynon—leased from State Transport Authority for twelve years at a rent of $520 yearly for first ten years and thereafter as agreed upon.

RURAL FINANCE COMMISSION

1. (*a*) The commission is the registered proprietor of the following properties which are leased to officers of the commission as staff dwellings:

18 Riverview Terrace, Warrnambool

12 Wilson Street, Swan Hill

3 Rule Street, Shepparton

1. (*b*) Office accommodation, 325 Collins Street, Melbourne—Floors 7, 8, 10, 11 and part of the basement.

Leased from Western Australian Trustees Ltd for a term of four years with a three-year option, at an annual rental of $469 517.

Office accommodation, 31–33 Deakin Avenue, Mildura.

Leased from Murray Industries Development Association Ltd for a term of three years with a three-year option, at a weekly rental of $95.

Office accommodation, Swan Hill. Office No. 1, Dunoon Place, 270 Campbell Street, Swan Hill.

Leased from A. G., V. O., D. A. and G. M. Dunoon and S. E. West, on a weekly tenancy of $90 a week for a term of two years with a two year-option.

Office accommodation, Welsford Street, Shepparton.

Leased from the Department of Property and Services for an indefinite term at an annual rental of $8800.

Office accommodation, 124 Koroit Street, Warrnambool.

Leased from K. R. Parker Pty Ltd for a term of three years with an option for two further three-year terms at a rental of $1500 per month.

2. (*a*) The land described in 1 (*a*) above.

2. (*b*) Nil.

TOBACCO LEAF MARKETING BOARD

1. (*a*) Nil.

1. (*b*) Nil.

2. (*a*) Nil.

2. (*b*) Nil.

VICTORIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

1. (*a*) 44 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.

Offices at Domville Avenue, Hawthorn.

1. (*b*) Store and transport depot, 202 Grange Road, Fairfield. Leased from Mardes Nominees Pty Ltd for a term of three years with a three-year option, at an annual rent of $15 530. Approximately 90 square metres of the building is sublet to an organization that provides services to the authority.

2. (*a*) The land described in 1 (*a*) above.

2. (*b*) Nil.

VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD

1. (*a*) Nil.

1. (*b*) Office accommodation and grading room at 87 Orange Street, Mildura. Leased from W. T. and J. M. Hood for a term of three years at a rental of $3900 per annum.

2. (*a*) Nil.

2. (*b*) Nil.

VICTORIAN EGG MARKETING BOARD

1. (*a*) Grading floor and offices at 551 Chandler Road, Keysborough.

Buildings at 612 Talbot Street, Ballarat.

1. (*b*) Nil.

2. (*a*) The land described in 1 (*a*) above.

2. (*b*) Nil.

WESTERN METROPOLITAN MARKET TRUST

1. (*a*) Buildings on land comprising lots 1 and 2, certificate of title volume 7156 folio 156, Pig and Calf Market, Brooklyn Road, Footscray.

1. (*b*) Part of the land—and buildings—described in 1 (*a*) is leased by the trust to Ace Tyres Pty Ltd.

2. (*a*) The land described in 1 (*a*) above.

2. (*b*) Part of the land described in 1 (*a*) is leased by the trust to Ace Tyres Pty Ltd.

PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

(Question No. 418)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of departments, agencies or authorities within his administration:

1. Which buildings are—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of those leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and the use being made of each building?

2. What land is—(*a*) owned by such bodies; and (*b*) leased, indicating in respect of land leased the name of the lessor, the length of the lease, the cost and use of such land?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services is:

1. VICTORIA CONSERVATION TRUST

(i) *Buildings owned*

Ralph Illidge Sanctuary, Naringal East. (Caretaker's residence and interpretive centre)

Pirianda, Olinda. (Home of Mr and Mrs Ansell)

R. James' land, Charman Avenue, Gembrook. (Modest weatherboard home)

House at Kinglake. (Residence)

Yarwood property at Kinglake. (Farm residence)

The George Tindale Memorial Gardens. (Residence)

(ii) *Land owned*

Ralph Illidge Sanctuary, Narigal East, 40 hectares.

Land at Linton, 20 hectares.

Land at Steiglitz, 0·3 hectares.

Mr R. James' land, Gembrook, 3·5 hectares.

Hadbury, Gembrook, 20 hectares.

Mrs P. Tully's land, Bruthen, 19 hectares.

Mr L. S. Brownell's land, Kinglake, 8 hectares.

Miss K. Hastwell's land, Kinglake, 27 hectares.

Miss E. Yarwood's land, Kinglake, 73 hectares.

Land at Linton, 119·3 hectares.

Dr B. Dobson's land, Montrose, 1·2 hectares.

Buildings and land leased, nil.

2. HISTORIC BUILDINGS COUNCIL

Buildings owned

Nil.

Land owned

9–11 Gawher Street, Portland.

Buildings and land leased

Nil.

3. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Buildings owned

Queens Street, Altona—Vehicle testing station.

Waller Street, Benalla—Regional officer's residence.

Buildings leased

Nil.

Land owned

Nil.

Land leased

EPA leases a number of small areas of land as sites for ambient air monitoring stations which are mainly housed in relocatable buildings.

Details of leases are as follows:

Address	*Lessor*	*Length of Lease*	*Rental*
Indwe Street, Footscray	City of Footscray	10 years from 1.7.79	$100 per year
Troups Road, Mount Cottrell	Mr A. Rollo	5 years from 1.6.82	$120 per year
RAAF Station, Point Cook	Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services	10 years from 1.1.82	$10 per year
Pilgrim Street, Seddon	MMBW	5 years from 1.1.82	$100 per year
Pecks Road, Sydenham	Mr R. G. Stillman	7 years from 1.12.81	$150 per year
Railway Lot 29, Lindsay Street, Brighton	Metropolitan Transport Authority (ex Victorian Railways)	6 monthly automatically renewable tenancy, terminable on 6 months' notice, from 1.6.82	$104 per year

4. MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

The Ministry does not own or lease any buildings or land.

LAUNDRY COSTS

(Question No. 427)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

1. Whether the Government has undertaken an analysis of comparative costs as between Government operated and private laundries respectively; if so—(*a*) what was the result; (*b*) who were the members of the review committee; (*c*) what were the terms of reference; and (*d*) how many and which laundries were surveyed?

2. Whether the committee took account of business costs not borne by Government operations; if so, what were the factors allowed for and what quantum or weight was given to each area so allowed?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

1. Yes, an analysis was carried out by the central linen services working party and is included in their report of February 1984. However, the report does note that, where actual costs associated with private sector laundries were not known, estimates have been used and therefore the comparison is between actual public laundries and the same services that would operate under a private laundry cost structure.

(*a*) The result shows that, although the services provided by the respective laundries differ, making a comparison somewhat difficult, the cost to the client is little different overall.

However, the report states on page 22, "until such time as standardized accounting practices and standardized weights are introduced for Central Linen Services, the working party will not be in a position to make a more exact and comprehensive review of the competitive situation either between Central Linen Services or to private laundries".

Notes—

Standardized Accounting Manual was introduced by CLS laundries in April 1986.

Standardized weights are to be introduced before the end of the calendar year.

(*b*) The members of the working party (review committee) were:

Mr H. V. Feehan—(Chairman) Hospital Division, Health Department Victoria

Mr K. Barnes—Alfred Hospital, Finance Manager

Ms V. Barlett—Special Projects Officer, Hospitals Division, Health Department Victoria

Mr N. Brown—Manager, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Central Linen Service

Mr P. Friend—Investigating Accountant, Finance Division (to November 1983)—Health Department Victoria

Mr R. Kronborg—General Manager, Austin Hospital

Mr B. Meeham—Accounting Investigating Accountant (from November 1983)—Finance Division, Health Department Victoria

Mr H. Roth—Manager, Central Highlands Central Linen Service

(*c*) Terms of reference were:

To review current accounting statistical and financial practice in the central linen services and to make recommendations on a standard accounting system to be applied by all central linen services, paying particular attention to the following matters—

(*a*) Chart of accounts, accounting definitions and accounting policy manual to be used;

(*b*) Composition and frequency of reports;

(*c*) Classification of costs of staff wages and other expenses as between the functional areas;

(*d*) Calculation of steam and other charges where supplies are obtained from the hospital;

(*e*) The treatment and calculations of asset replacement reserves;

(*f*) Method used to provide for linen replacement and the basis of stock valuation for linen in use;

(*g*) Basis of depreciation calculation;

(*h*) Treatment of provisions for leave;

(*i*) Methods used to establish and monitor units of measurement of linen produced and charged for;

(*j*) Methods of calculation of prices to be charged;

(*k*) Any other relevant matters.

To advise on:

(*a*) whether, and if so what extent, the central linen services bear any imposts or receive any concessions which are not applicable to private laundries;

(*b*) whether, and if so to what extent, private laundries bear any imposts or receive any concessions which are not applicable to central linen services;

(*c*) whether any imposts or concessions identified pursuant to paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) above create a competitive advantage or disadvantage for either central linen services or private laundries;

(*d*) if the answer to the question in paragraph (*c*) is in the affirmative, what steps it would be necessary to take to place central linen services and private laundries on an equivalent, competitive basis if it were considered necessary to avoid the cost to the community arising from distorted resourses allocation as a consequence of unequal competition;

(*e*) as stated earlier, the comparison was based on estimates where actual private sector costs were unknown.

(*d*) The Government-operated laundries surveyed were the Royal Melbourne Hospital linen service and the Central Highlands linen service.

2. In relation to business costs, the working party noted that both private and public sector laundries enjoyed concessions and bore imposts.

Imposts and Concessions in the Public Sector

Imposts

Higher award rates in the public sector.

Higher liability for superannuation and sick leave.

Strict guidelines on staff reductions.

Strict limitations on clientele and type of service to be provided.

Compliance with State preference scheme with respect to linen purchase.

Concessions

Collective buy subsidy.

Workers compensation and other insurances paid by the Health Department—with the introduction of WorkCare, superannuation is now a cost borne by the CLS and is consequently reflected in its charges.

Imposts and Concessions in the Private Sector

Imposts

Pay-roll tax.

Sales tax.

Income tax.

Need to make an acceptable rate of return for investors.

Concessions

Generous award provisions relating to the use of junior staff. Flexible pricing and marketing policies which includes the ability to refuse service to unprofitable clients.

Freedom to purchase goods from cheapest supplier irrespective of State preference guidelines.

The ability to vary staffing levels to suit the workload.

Quote from report (p. 22).

"In the most modern and efficient central linen service it can be considered that there is very little competitive advantage or disadvantage between public and private laundries on a financial basis other than profit."

PROVISIONAL LIBERTY TO PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

(Question No. 432)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

How many persons who may have been admitted into and detained in a psychiatric hospital under section 42 of the Mental Health Act 1959 are now on provisional liberty from such hospital indicating how many have been at liberty for—(i) under 1 year; (ii) 1 to 2 years; (iii) 2 to 3 years; (iv) 3 to 4 years; (v) 4 to 5 years; and (vi) over 5 years in each Victorian region?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

Patients admitted to and detained in psychiatric hospitals under section 42 of the Mental Health Act who were on trial leave as at 31 July 1985 by hospital, region and length of time on leave:

	Under 1 Year	*1–2 Years*	*2–3 Years*	*3–4 Years*	*4–5 Years*	*Over 5 Years*
Region 1						
Geelong	65	15	0	1	0	0
Warrnambool	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total	70	15	0	1	0	0
Region 2						
Ballarat	25	2	0	0	0	1
Region 3						
Bendigo	36	7	3	2	3	0
Mildura	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	36	7	3	2	3	0
Region 4						
Beechworth	2	0	0	0	0	0
Region 5						
Traralgon	5	1	0	0	0	0
Region 6						
Footscray	104	11	5	0	0	0
Royal Park	74	26	12	2	3	0
Total	178	37	17	2	3	0

	Under 1 Year	*1–2 Years*	*2–3 Years*	*3–4 Years*	*4–5 Years*	*Over 5 Years*
Region 7						
Larundel	191	44	18	7	3	3
Mont Park	22	1	0	0	0	0
Plenty	34	2	0	0	0	0
Willsmere	64	16	4	1	0	0
Total	311	63	22	8	3	3
Region 8						
Dandenong	21	7	0	2	0	1
Total of all regions	648	132	42	15	9	5

Total of patients on trial leave from psychiatric hospitals as at 31 July 1985 = 851.

HOUSING MOVABLE UNIT PROGRAM

(Question No. 475)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Housing:

In respect of the administration of the movable unit program for each of the financial years 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, who were the three most senior officers responsible for the administration of this program?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

1982–83—Director of Housing General Manager, Development and Property Acting General Manager, Housing Services.

1983–84—1.7.83–31.12.83 Director of Housing General Manager, Development and Property Acting General Manager, Housing Services.

1983–84—1.1.84–30.6.84 Director of Housing Acting General Manager, Development and Property Acting General Manager, Housing Services.

1984–85—Director of Housing General Manager, Development and Property General Manager, Housing Services.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES STAFF

(Question No. 480)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. How many members comprise the Minister's personal staff, indicating the position, classification and salary of each?

2. Whether their costs are provided for in the Budget; if so, under what item; if not, what other organization or body, partly or wholly, funds their cost?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

1. There are four (4) members on my personal staff, comprising—
   (i) Ministerial Adviser, Grade IV, $46 907 per annum, plus 15 per cent of salary (commuted allowance);
   (ii) Private Secretary, Grade III, $26 657 to $27 310 per annum, plus 20 per cent of salary (commuted allowance);
   (iii) Confidential Secretary, Grade III, $23 090 to $23 906 per annum; and
   (iv) Typist, $16 095 to $17 574 per annum.
2. All costs of Ministerial staff are provided for in the Appropriation Act under program 472.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT STAFF

(Question No. 488)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Transport:

1. How many members comprise the Minister's personal staff, indicating the position, classification and salary of each?

2. Whether their costs are provided for in the Budget; if so, under what item; if not, what other organization or body, partly or wholly, funds their cost?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

1. The Minister's staff comprises four personal staff. They are:

Position	*Classification*	*Salary Range $*
Ministerial Adviser	Grade 1	35 823–37 505 (plus 15 per cent allowance)
Secretary	Grade 3	23 090–23 906
Private Secretary	Grade 1	23 119–23 906 (plus 20 per cent allowance)
Word Processing Operator	Grade 1	18 294–18 578

In addition, the Ministry has assigned an assistant director-general to assist as required with matters of portfolio-wide significance.

2. Costs are provided for in the Budget, under item 1102 of the Appropriation Act.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA STAFF

(Question No. 498)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

1. How many members comprise the Minister's personal staff, indicating the position, classification and salary of each?

2. Whether their costs are provided for in the Budget; if so, under what item; if not, what other organization or body, partly or wholly, funds their costs?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

1. The Minister's personal staff consists of:

Ministerial Advisers (2)—Salary range $41 047–$43 991 plus a 15 per cent commuted allowance.

Private Secretary (1)—Salary range $24 867–$25 656 plus a 20 per cent commuted allowance.

2. Costs incurred by the Minister's personal staff are provided for under the general Budget allocation for the Minister's office.

WORKERS COMPENSATION COSTS OF MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

(Question No. 520)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In relation to each department, statutory authority or other body within his administration:

1. In respect of each of the years ended 30 June 1984 and 1985, whether he will provide details of—(*a*) the total amount of workers compensation premiums incurred; (*b*) other workers compensation costs incurred; (*c*) the estimated cost of workers compensation incurred, including claims incurred but not reported; and (*d*) any other expense associated with injuries subject to workers compensation claims?

2. What is the amount of accident compensation levy expected to be incurred in relation to the year ended 30 June 1986?

3. What is the total amount of other workers compensation costs expected to be incurred in relation to the year ended 30 June 1986?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of all Ministers.

WORKERS COMPENSATION COSTS OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA

(Question No. 522)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In relation to each department, statutory authority or other body within his administration:

1. In respect of each of the years ended 30 June 1984 and 1985, whether he will provide details of—(*a*) the total amount of workers compensation premiums incurred; (*b*) other workers compensation costs incurred; (*c*) the estimated cost of workers compensation incurred, including claims incurred but not reported; and (*d*) any other expense associated with injuries subject to workers compensation claims?

2. What is the amount of accident compensation levy expected to be incurred in relation to the year ended 30 June 1986?

3. What is the total amount of other workers compensation costs expected to be incurred in relation to the year ended 30 June 1986?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

I refer the honourable member to my colleague, the Honourable the Treasurer, who has agreed to answer this question on my behalf.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 523)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Premier:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

1. Domestic air travel has been used on 99 occasions by senior public servants—that is, SES 1 level or equivalent and above—since April 1982.

International air travel was used on eleven occasions by senior public servants.

2. The travel guidelines applied were those issued by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

3.

Domestic Travel (Yearly totals)	*Flight Cost*	*No.*
	$	
April 1982 to December 1982	5807.00	27
1 January 1983 to 31 December 1983	5191.00	18
1 January 1984 to 31 December 1984	7117.00	24
1 January 1985 to 31 December 1985	7934.20	30

International Travel	*Flight Cost*	*No.*
	$	
April 1982 to 30 June 1983	3 445.00	1
1 July 1983 to 30 June 1984	8 877.00	3
1 July 1984 to 30 June 1985	16 723.00	4

The international flight costs refer to eight occasions which were paid for by the department. On the other three occasions, officers were travelling overseas at their own cost and were recalled to duty. They were not reimbursed for their flight cost.

4. The Victorian Tourism Commission was the only agent used in connection with overseas flights.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 525)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

TRANSPORT BRANCH

During the period between April 1982 and December 1985 the following air travel was undertaken by senior officers, that is, SES1 and above, of the agency previously known as the Education Department.

1. (*a*) 5.

(*b*) 66.

2. All air travel is arranged according to instructions issued by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. (*a*) $4324 (overseas) $47 030 (domestic).

(*b*) These expenses were met by the Education Department now part of the Ministry of Education.

4. All air travel arrangements were made via the agency of the Victorian Tourism Commission as stipulated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet policy.

COUNCIL OF ADULT EDUCATION

1. In the period 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985, two senior public servants at the equivalent of SES Level 1 or above have undertaken travel overseas, and four have undertaken domestic travel.

2. The guidelines and procedures applied were those set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. Total flight expenses incurred were—

(*a*) $4980.30 for domestic travel, and

(*b*) $10 317 for overseas travel.

In no case was there reimbursement to the traveller or to the agency.

4. The Victorian Tourism Commission acted as agent in connection with both overseas and domestic flight arrangements.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

1. (*a*) 1.

(*b*) 1.

2. Since guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee were brought into operation in July 1983, these have been adhered to. Prior to that the IEA was conscious of the necessity to obtain the cheapest travel available and adopted that practice.

3. (*a*) Domestic travel—$195.20.

Overseas travel—$2921.00.

(*b*) Nil.

4. (*a*) Nova Travel, Exhibition Street, Melbourne acted as booking agents for the overseas flight travel of 27 July 1982 because inquiries to a number of travel agencies ascertained that they offered the most economical fare at the time.

(*b*) Nil.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. (*a*) Nil.

(*b*) 2.

2. The guidelines and procedures applied were those set down by the Protocol Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

3. (*a*) Domestic travel—$1996.

Overseas travel—Not applicable.

4. The agent acting on the board's behalf was the Victorian Tourism Commission.

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION BOARD

1. (*a*) Overseas travel—2.

(*b*) Domestic travel—12.

The definition of "senior public servant" is SES Level 1 or its equivalent and above.

The period for which the information is supplied is from 1 July 1983. Information for the period April 1982 to 30 June 1983 will be included in the reply from the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission.

2. The guidelines and procedures applied were those set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. (*a*) Flight Expenses were:

Domestic travel—$19 220.

Overseas travel—$6 696.

(*b*) Reimbursed to travellers—Nil.

Reimbursed to department or agency—Nil.

4. The Victorian Tourism Commission was the only agency used.

VICTORIAN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

1. (*a*) Overseas—5.

(*b*) Domestic—72.

2. Guidelines and procedures applied:

Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Overseas Visits Committee

3. (*a*) Overseas—$17 772.00.

Domestic—$17 962.

(*b*) Not applicable.

4. Pan Travel Agency until advised that this procedure was incorrect, then Victorian Tourism Commission since May 1983.

TEACHING SERVICE CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMISSION

1. (*a*) Nil.

(*b*) 3.

2. Air travel was arranged according to the instructions issued by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. (*a*) Overseas—Nil; Domestic—$1256.20.

(*b*) Not applicable.

4. All air travel arrangements were made through the agency of the Victorian Tourism Commission as stipulated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. (*a*) 3.

(*b*) 4.

2. Until January 1984 the Victorian Institute of Secondary Education guidelines and procedures were used. Since then guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have been observed.

3. Between 3 April 1982 and 15 October 1985 the following expenses were incurred by the four senior public servants involved.

Domestic Travel:

Paid to agency—$4633.10.

Reimbursed—Nil.

Overseas Travel:

Paid to agency—$9848.57.

Reimbursed—Nil.

4. Until January 1984 various private travel agencies were used. Since that date the Victorian Tourism Commission has been the sole agent used.

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 527)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

Information regarding overseas and domestic travel was requested and made available to the honourable member under freedom of information legislation.

MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 529)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agent; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

1. "Senior Public Servant" has been taken as referring to officers occupying positions of or above the classification SES Level 1 or its equivalent.

(*a*) The following numbers of senior public servants have used overseas air travel since 1982:

(i) Central Administration—none

(ii) Victoria State Emergency Service—none

(iii) Victoria Police Force—six.

(*b*) The following numbers of senior public servants have used the domestic air travel since April 1982:

(i) Central Adminstration—three

(ii) Victoria State Emergency Service—none

(iii) Victoria Police Force—fourteen.

2. The guidelines and procedures which applied during this period were those set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. (*a*) Total flight expenses incurred in the period 1982 to 1985 were:

(i) Overseas: Victoria Police Force—$4512.00

(ii) Domestic: Central Adminstration—$9086.80
Victoria Police Force—$23 220.60

(*b*) In three instances, overseas air travel was funded outside the Ministry; one was funded by the officer himself and two by the Federal Government.

4. In all cases, the Victorian Tourism Commission is the agent used in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 536)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minster for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

1. (*a*) During the period 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985 three (3) senior public servants used overseas air travel.

(*b*) During the period 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985 sixteen (16) senior public servants used domestic air travel.

2. The guidelines and procedures applied are those set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee except in the case of the Totalizator Agency Board who set their own policy between August 1982 and January 1983.

3. (*a*) Total flight expenses incurred by the department from 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985 are:

(i) Overseas travel—$25 094

(ii) Domestic travel—$25 816

(*b*) All expenses were incurred through department/agency budgets.

4. The Victorian Tourism Commission was the agent used in most cases except during the period August 1982 to January 1983 where the TAB used Wandana Travel Pty Ltd.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 538)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

("Senior public servant" is regarded as SES Level 1 or equivalent and above.)

1. (*a*) Two.

(*b*) Eighteen.

2. The guidelines and procedures which applied were those set down by the Protocol Branch, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. The Ministry does not maintain separate accounts for the various types of travel expenses incurred, for example overseas and domestic air travel, rail and road travel. It is considered that the time and resources necessary to collate the information in the format requested cannot be justified. The total amount spent on fares for the period 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985 was $127 820.

4. (*a*) The Victorian Tourism Commission.

(*b*) In respect of light aircraft charter, contractors to the State Tender Board.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 541)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Treasurer, for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs is shown in the following schedule and footnotes in relation to parts 1 and 3 of the question:

SCHEDULE

	Column 1	*Column 2*	*Column 3*	*Column 4*	*Column 5*	*Column 6*
			$	$		$
Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	13	16	69 300	42 300	Nil	82 300 (*a*)
Citrus Fruit Marketing Board	Nil	Nil	..	..	..	..
Rural Finance Commission	1	7	430	24 378	Nil	504 (*b*)
Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board	Nil	1	Nil	852	Nil	Nil

	Column 1	*Column 2*	*Column 3*	*Column 4*	*Column 5*	*Column 6*
			$	$		$
Victorian Dairy Industry Authority	1	1	8 578	8 671	Nil	Nil
Victorian Dried Fruits Board	Nil	Nil	..	..	..	..
Victorian Egg Marketing Board	1	2	5 338	4 769	Nil	Nil

Footnotes:

Column 1: Number of senior public servants who used overseas air travel from 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985. For the purposes of the question the definition of "senior public servant" is SES Level 1, or equivalent and above.

Column 2: Number of senior public servants who used domestic air travel from 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985.

Column 3: Estimated cost of flight expenses for overseas travel.

Column 4: Estimated cost of flight expenses for domestic travel.

Column 5: Reimbursed to the traveller.

Column 6: Paid on behalf of or reimbursed to the agency. Reimbursements relate to both overseas and domestic air travel.

(*a*) Of the overseas travel flight expenses incurred, an estimated $65 400 was paid direct by industry or Commonwealth agencies or international agencies. Of the domestic travel air fares, it is estimated that 40 per cent was reimbursed by industry or Commonwealth Government agencies. It is not possible without a very considerable amount of work to determine the actual level of reimbursement.

(*b*) $504.40 was paid in reimbursement to the Rural Finance Commission outlaid on behalf of a senior officer of the Department of Management and Budget.

With regard to part 2 of the question, the travel guidelines and procedures that applied were those issued by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, except as noted in the response to part 4 of the question.

With regard to part 4 of the question all overseas and domestic flight arrangements were made through the Victorian Tourism Commission except in the case of bookings made by industry or Commonwealth agencies or international agencies. There were also exceptions in the case of the Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board and the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority, where bookings were made directly with the carriers as well as through the Victorian Tourism Commission.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 542)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

1. (*a*) 17.

(*b*) 578.

These figures were calculated for senior public servants only, that is, SES-1 level or equivalent for the period from 3 April 1982 up to and including 15 October 1985.

2. Procedures followed were those outlined in the current circulars issued by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet entitled "Official Overseas Travel by State Government Employees and Other Persons" and "Domestic Travel Policy".

3. Flight expenses for the period 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985, were:

Overseas	*Domestic*
$57 203	$136 503.34

These amounts are unable to be dissected any further and represent both incurred and reimbursed expenditures.

4. (*a*) All official travel both overseas and domestic was booked through the Victorian Tourism Commission as agents.

(*b*) No individuals or other organizations were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel.

EMPLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

(Question No. 546)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Premier:

Further to the answer to question No. 36 given on 18 September 1985 in respect of the years ended 30 June 1984 and 1985:

1. What was the number of permanent and part-time employees in each Government department?

2. What was the total wages bill for each department?

3. What percentage of the wages bill was paid in overtime and penalty rate allowances?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

A. The information on employment is available from the Public Service Board's annual report except for part-time employees as at 30 June 1984. Part-time employment for permanent officers was introduced in December 1984 only. Temporary and exempt employees were employed part-time at 30 June 1984. However, the time and resources necessary to collate information on the number of such cases cannot be justified.

B. The information to answer parts 2 and 3 is available from Victorian Budget Paper No. 3.

COLLECTION OF BLOOD SAMPLES FROM ACCIDENT VICTIMS

(Question No. 547)

Mr WHITING (Mildura) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of the collection of blood for alcohol testing from persons involved in motor vehicle accidents will he ascertain and advise:

1. Whether all occupants of vehicles, regardless of injuries, are required to submit to blood tests.

2. Whether police officers are permitted to direct that a blood sample not be taken.

3. Whether the Government is liable in respect of any doctor who contracts a blood-borne viral disease as a result of taking any such blood sample.

4. Whether doctors involved in collection of blood have recourse to compensation.

5. Whether consideration has been given to restricting collection of such blood samples to Government employed doctors.

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

The matters raised in this question are not within my jurisdiction. Should the honourable member wish to pursue the question further, I suggest that he direct it to my colleague, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

EARLY RETIREMENT SCHEMES OF STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION AND GAS AND FUEL CORPORATION

(Question No. 565)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. Whether the—(*a*) State Electricity Commission; and (*b*) Gas and Fuel Corporation have an early retirement scheme or package; if so, what is the purpose and terms of such schemes?

2. How much was paid out under such schemes or packages by the—(*a*) commission; and (*b*) corporation for the financial years 1982–83, 1983–84, 1984–85 and what is the estimate for 1985–86?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

1. (*a*) Since July 1975 the rules of the SEC Superannuation Fund—for staff employees—have provided for payment of an early retirement benefit on retirement with the approval of the commission at ages between 55 and 60. Benefits were based on average salary over the last two years, length of contributory service to the fund and an early retirement discount according to the following scale:

Age 59—94 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
58—86 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
57—76 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
56—64 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
55—50 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership

As from 1 July 1985, with the approval of the Treasurer of Victoria, the early retirement scale in the SEC Superannuation Fund was amended as follows:

Age 59—96 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
58—91 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
57—85 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
56—78 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
55—70 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership

As from 1 July 1985, a comparable early retirement scale was introduced in the SEC Employees' Retirement and Benefit Fund—for wages employees—thereby extending similar early retirement provisions to the whole of the commission's work force.

As from 1 January 1986, again with the approval of the Treasurer, the early retirement scale applicable to both funds was further amended as follows:

Age 59—96 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
58—92 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
57—88 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
56—84 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership
55—80 per cent of normal formula based on fund membership

(*b*) The Gas and Fuel Corporation has had early retirement provisions in its superannuation fund since 1964. The purpose is to provide appropriate financial arrangements for officers who retire before they reach the age of 65 years.

The Government recently approved alterations to the corporation's superannuation fund early retirement provisions, which significantly improve the relevant financial arrangements.

The new superannuation fund formula for early retirement which is in accordance with the Government's optional early retirement policy is:

> The lump sum retirement allowance is 19·25 per cent of adjusted final fund salary multiplied by years of membership. Lump sums may be wholly or partially commuted to a pension.

2. (*a*) Benefits payable to State Electricity Commission personnel who have elected to retire at ages between 55 and 60 have been calculated and paid according to their entitlements under the trust deeds governing the SEC Superannuation Fund or the SEC Employees' Retirement Benefit Fund. These moneys are paid from the relevant trusts and are not paid by the commission.

(*b*) The GFC Superannuation Fund, as distinct from the corporation, has paid out from its own funds the following amounts:

1982–83	$4 449 087
1983–84	$10 926 495
1984–85	$8 222 460
1985–86	$3 994 000 (estimated)

DUPLICATION OF PRINCES HIGHWAY

(Question No. 573)

Mr DELZOPPO (Narracan) asked the Minister for Transport:

What State Government funds have been spent to supplement Federal Government funds and capital works involved in duplicating the Princes Highway, east of the metropolitan area to the Latrobe Valley in each of the past five financial years and what sum is allocated for the current financial year, describing the works involved in each case?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The Princes Highway is Victoria's busiest rural State highway, with traffic volumes generally in the range of 15 000 vehicles per day. Bypass and duplication works on the section between Dandenong and Traralgon are being provided progressively using Federal funds, as a national development road. Completed stages revert to rural arterial status and are maintained by the State.

In the years 1980–81 to 1984–85, Federal funding for duplication work on the Princes Highway east of the metropolitan area to the Latrobe Valley was supplemented by normal State road funds in financial year 1980–81 only to the extent of $53 294. As funds from State and Federal Government sources were not specifically allocated to individual jobs during the year 1980–81 but to specific road classes only, the individual jobs on which these funds were expended cannot be identified. No State road funds were used on these works during the years 1981–82 to 1984–85.

Additional funds were made available during that period by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria for duplication and upgrading works to expedite the transport of heavy vehicles to Loy Yang. The amounts which were provided in each year are shown in Appendix 1 attached.

In the 1985–86 financial year, landscaping work on the Berwick bypass was fully funded by State Government funds with an allocation of $125 000.

In mid-1985 the Federal Minister imposed a diversion of funds from this road to the Hume Highway, but this was averted following urgent approaches by the State to continue the existing improvement program in this important corridor.

Considering the metropolitan connection for the Princes corridor, the State is providing two major improvements:

South Eastern/Mulgrave Arterial Road Link, costing $120 million—including $48 million of Federal funds.

Princes Highway, duplication in Caulfield, costing $11 million—including $4 million of Federal funds.

Appendix 1

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Funds provided by State Electricity Commission of Victoria for upgrading and duplication of roads and bridges between Melbourne and Loy Yang

	1980–81	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	*Total*
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Dandenong Creek Bridge and Approaches	209 056.09	111 477.12	..	..	..	320 533.21
Cardinia Creek Bridge and Approaches	2 895.21	..	..	..	..	2 895.21
Ararat Creek Bridge and Approaches	26 925.81	90 217.37	277.53	..	..	117 420.71
Bypass of Buln Buln Road Overpass	152 371.08	38 667.20	..	..	..	191 038.28
Wirraway Street Bridge (strengthening)	..	[35.67]	..	..	..	[35.67]
Bunyip River Bridge and Approaches	367 674.65	123 575.74	..	..	..	491 250.39

	1980–81	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	*Total*
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Loch Creek Culvert and Approaches	141 916.24	3 358.28	8 077.48	[67.97]	..	153 284.03
Mosquito Creek Culvert and Approaches	140 590.30	2 409.89	363.13	..	..	143 363.32
Little Moe River Bridge and Approaches	346 404.75	52 918.50	..	..	..	399 323.25
Moe River Bridge and Approaches	174 531.11	116 031.80	[9 536.61]	4 056.41	14 200.00	299 282.71
	1 562 365.24	538 620.23	[818.47]	3 988.44	14 200.00	2 118 355.44

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET ANNUAL COSTS

(Question No. 574)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Premier:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the annual cost in 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively, and the Budget estimate for 1985–86, for each of the following types of payments and allowances—(*a*) personal and travelling—(i) domestic travel; (ii) overseas travel; and (iii) removal and relocation expenses; (*b*) car mileage; (*c*) tea money; (*d*) expense of office; (*e*) entertainment; and (*f*) any other allowances paid to employees?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

1. DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET, AUDIT OFFICE, OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE, PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD, PROMOTION APPEALS BOARD AND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

	1982–83 Actual	*1983–84 Actual*	*1984–85 Actual*	*1985–86 Estimate*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) (i) Domestic	334 233	332 818	348 909	269 000
(ii) Overseas	13 575	22 334	27 649	—
(iii) Removal and Relocation	15 887	6 293	7 103	16 000
(*b*) Car Mileage	24 230	21 433	10 042	2 000
(*c*) Tea Money	4 796	5 528	6 436	7 800
(*d*) Expense of Office	110 386	179 299	200 422	143 000
(*e*) Entertainment	9 033	10 496	10 011	12 000
(*f*) Other	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

2. STATE RELIEF COMMITTEE

Total	2 358	3 268	3 515	4 500

These expenses represent the annual, combined totals in respect of the Chairman, Secretary and Fundraiser of the State Relief Committee. It is not feasible to break down the figures into the categories requested.

3. OVERSEAS OFFICES

Travel	76 651	72 981	56 927	—
Entertainment	31 246	22 492	10 158	—

In respect of the Overseas Offices, travel includes domestic and overseas all charged against the same heading. There are no 1985–86 estimates as the offices were transferred to the Department of Industry, Technology and Resources in February 1985.

MINISTRY OF THE ARTS ANNUAL COSTS

(Question No. 579)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Minister for the Arts:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the annual cost in 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively, and the Budget estimate for 1985–86, for each of the following types of payments and allowances—(*a*) personal and travelling—(i) domestic travel; (ii) overseas travel; and (iii) removal and relocation expenses; (*b*) car mileage; (*c*) tea money; (*d*) expense of office; (*e*) entertainment; and (*f*) any other allowances paid to employees?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer is:

The required information in respect of the Ministry and its branches is provided in the ten attachments hereto.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS—TOTAL

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	120 667	128 996	155 675	185 363
(ii) Overseas Travel	19 163	20 098	39 767	29 680
(iii) Removal and Relocation	5 501	11 109	18 181	11 971
(*b*) Car Mileage	6 471	11 279	12 273	13 800
(*c*) Tea Money	19 015	19 537	22 771	25 263
(*d*) Expense of Office	21 775	23 981	34 057	54 099
(*e*) Entertainment	57 328	50 642	80 485	83 116
(*f*) Other Allowances	28 676	38 955	44 430	52 428
Total	278 596	304 597	407 639	455 720

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS—HEAD OFFICE

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	23 910.37	19 585.97	11 754.22	15 500.00
(ii) Overseas Travel	—	3 035.56	5 948.12	500.00
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Car Mileage	—	—	37.80	100.00
(*c*) Tea Money	1 908.40	1 570.10	2 284.90	3 300.00
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	—	5 507.86	6 000.00
(*e*) Entertainment	10 386.65	6 227.41	6 846.03	9 000.00
(*f*) Other Allowances	4 478.00	6 180.08	4 542.51	4 500.00

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	11 637.69	7 878.62	9 202.88	9 300.00
(ii) Overseas Travel	—	—	—	9 285.00
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Car Mileage	1 097.31	703.04	1 139.12	1 200.00
(*c*) Tea Money	2 341.15	3 831.30	3 044.80	3 500.00
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	—	—	—
(*e*) Entertainment	—	—	—	—
(*f*) Other Allowances	2 046.85	674.04	13.20	—

STATE FILM CENTRE

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	1 527.04	1 650.55	3 333.49	2 200.00
(ii) Overseas Travel	719.40	—	—	—
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Car Mileage	623.15	3 601.03	668.25	1 500.00
(*c*) Tea Money	6 298.08	4 071.18	3 341.00	3 500.00
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	—	—	—
(*e*) Entertainment	749.91	243.90	166.36	800.00
(*f*) Other Allowances	—	—	—	—

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	22 088.74	23 106.20	25 055.20	23 580.00
(ii) Overseas Travel	320.80	—	—	—
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Car Mileage	764.22	1 182.88	2 671.00	2 400.00
(*c*) Tea Money	19.70	8.40	—	450.00
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	—	—	—
(*e*) Entertainment	1 025.99	690.42	815.25	450.00
(*f*) Other Allowances	—	—	—	—

MUSEUM OF VICTORIA

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	12 532.84	10 760.05	16 995.45	17 000.00
(ii) Overseas Travel	—	—	—	—
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	—	8 580.58	600.00
(*b*) Car Mileage	—	651.29	421.02	1 000.00
(*c*) Tea Money	2 112.30	2 915.75	2 855.30	3 200.00
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	—	—	—
(*e*) Entertainment	2 741.34	1 870.31	3 438.03	4 000.00
(*f*) Other Allowance*	19 208.99	19 599.82	15 031.38	15 000.00

* Personal Expenses: Re Field Trips.

ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING TRUSTEES

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	2 460.00	1 900.00	2 537.00	2 300.00
(ii) Overseas Travel	—	—	—	—
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Car Mileage	—	—	—	—
(*c*) Tea Money	—	—	1 039.00	1 500.00
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	—	—	—
(*e*) Entertainment	4 159.00	5 782.00	8 298.00	9 800.00
(*f*) Other Allowances	—	—	—	—

FILM VICTORIA

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	5 280.00	13 992.00	16 232.00	28 250.00
(ii) Overseas Travel	—	11 158.00	18 026.00	10 750.00
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Car Mileage	2 025.00	2 391.00	2 600.00	3 600.00
(*c*) Tea Money	110.00	133.00	280.00	675.00
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	—	2 178.00	2 955.00
(*e*) Entertainment	3 287.00	6 791.00	19 187.00	25 500.00
(*f*) Other Allowances	—	—	827.00	4 475.00

GEELONG PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	60.00	139.00	190.00	—
(ii) Overseas Travel	—	—	—	—
(iii) Removal and Relocation	—	3 772.00	1 000.00	4 000.00
(*b*) Car Mileage	1 961.00	2 750.00	4 736.00	4 000.00
(*c*) Tea Money	—	—	—	—
(*d*) Expense of Office	—	2 000.00	2 000.00	2 000.00
(*e*) Entertainment	331.00	497.00	1 174.00	1 200.00
(*f*) Other Allowances	114.00	1 150.00	2 482.00	2 500.00

VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE TRUST

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86**
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and Travelling Expenses—				
(i) Domestic Travel	21 466.72	32 555.19	28 421.45	29 017.68
(ii) Overseas Travel	18 122.92	5 903.99	15 792.41	9 144.93
(iii) Local Travel‡	19 703.76	17 428.84	41 953.21	58 215.27
(iv) Removal and Relocation	5 501.25	7 336.96	8 600.70	7 370.70
(*b*) Tea Money†	6 225.40	7 007.58	10 964.76	10 638.21
(*c*) Expense of Office	21 774.64	21 981.19	24 371.63	43 144.24
(*d*) Entertainment	34 647.54	34 321.74	48 858.38	42 165.60
(*e*) Other: Clothing/Laundry of Uniforms	2 828.60	5 569.40	13 235.62	16 152.94

* Estimate
† Includes Meal Allowance
‡ Includes Local Travel/Taxi Fares/Car Mileage
The time and resources necessary to dissect this information cannot be justified.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT ANNUAL COSTS

(Question No. 584)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the annual cost in 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively, and the Budget estimate for 1985–86, for each of the following types of payments and allowances—(*a*) personal and travelling—(i) domestic travel; (ii) overseas travel; and (iii) removal and relocation expenses; (*b*) car mileage; (*c*) tea money; (*d*) expense of office; (*e*) entertainment; and (*f*) any other allowances paid to employees?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

The information required, as it applies to the Local Government Department, is as follows:

Payments and allowances	1982–83 *(Actual)*	1983–84 (Actual)	1984–85 *(Actual)*	1985–86 *(Estimate)*
	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	179 702	173 200	171 178	46 570
(ii) Overseas travel	9 159	12 753	—	—
(iii) Removal and relocation	18 248	6 537	6 065	500
(*b*) Car mileage	120 974	131 733	149 264	500
(*c*) Tea money	1 217	718	616	580
(*d*) Expense of office	8 677	7 567	8 551	10 500
(*e*) Entertainment (committee sustenance)	4 006	3 544	3 775	3 720
(*f*) Other allowances—				
(i) Board expenses	20 861	27 008	31 848	25 950
(ii) Minister's conference	—	—	16 814	—

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS ANNUAL COSTS

(Question No. 592)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Treasurer, for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the annual cost in 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively, and the Budget estimate for 1985–86, for each of the following types of payments and allowances—(*a*) personal and travelling—(i) domestic travel; (ii) overseas travel; and (iii) removal and relocation expenses; (*b*) car mileage; (*c*) tea money; (*d*) expense of office; (*e*) entertainment; and (*f*) any other allowances paid to employees?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs is set out in the following schedule.

Item	*Expenditure* 1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	*Budget* 1985–86
	$	$	$	$
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS				
Personal and travelling				
(i) Domestic travel	952 976.00	1 013 560.00	1 235 936.00	1 300 000.00
(ii) Overseas travel	44 563.00	43 200.00	19 867.00	20 000.00
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	49 005.00	31 695.84	34 988.00	60 000.00
Car mileage	343 047.00	285 538.00	235 187.00	240 000.00
Tea money	28 000.00	35 000.00	43 390.00	40 000.00
Expense of office	3 268.00	3 438.00	17 105.00	20 000.00
Entertainment	4 892.91	4 214.00	5 376.33	5 500.00
Any other allowances paid to employees	See note (*a*)			
CITRUS FRUIT MARKETING BOARD				
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	254.00	449.00	678.00	987.00
(ii) Overseas travel	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	549.00	101.00	Nil
Car mileage	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tea money	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Expense of offfice	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Entertainment	Nil	3.00	8.00	48.00
Any other allowances paid to employees	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
MELBOURNE WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET TRUST				
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	13 070.00	14 210.00	24 533.00	25 000.00
(ii) Overseas travel	5 800.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Car mileage	12 148.00	18 521.00	20 285.00	22 000.00
Tea money	6 762.00	6 780.00	8 122.00	8 500.00
Expense of office	2 148.00	2 148.00	2 148.00	2 500.00
Entertainment	Any expenditure on entertainment is included under domestic travelling. The amount of time and effort involved in producing the separate amounts cannot be justified.			
Any other allowances paid to employees	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
RURAL FINANCE COMMISSION				
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	79 645.00	48 898.00	46 044.00	50 000.00
(ii) Overseas travel	Nil	2 032.00	817.00	1 500.00
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	3 550.00	2 650.00	5 000.00
Car mileage	12 800.00	3 335.00	2 630.00	2 500.00
Tea money	11 000.00	3 700.00	1 350.00	1 500.00
Expense of office	3 307.00	3 486.00	2 426.00	6 000.00
Entertainment	7 086.00	10 941.00	12 524.00	14 000.00
Any other allowances paid to employees	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Item	*Expenditure* 1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	*Budget* 1985–86
TOBACCO LEAF MARKETING BOARD	$	$	$	$
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	40 699.00	27 297.00	21 773.00	24 000.00
(ii) Overseas travel	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Car allowance	16 354.00	9 779.00	9 923.00	10 000.00
Tea money	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Expense of office	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Entertainment	See note (*b*)			
Any other allowances paid to employees	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VETERINARY BOARD OF VICTORIA (*c*)				
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	Nil	Nil	378.20	—
(ii) Overseas travel	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Car mileage	686.52	3 735.21	4 108.64	4 300.00
Tea money	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Expense of office	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Entertainment	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Any other allowances paid to employees	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
VICTORIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY				
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	30 054.00	47 115.00	56 874.00	92 740.00
(ii) Overseas travel	Nil	11 956.00	11 499.00	16 000.00
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Car mileage	9 416.00	6 572.00	8 624.00	12 700.00
Tea money	2 804.00	1 372.00	2 007.00	2 500.00
Expense of office	441.00	Nil	1 386.00	5 188.00
Entertainment	10 534.00	7 819.00	9 487.00	21 576.00
Any other allowances paid to employees	Nil	18 489.00	25 376.00	26 660.00
VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD (*c*)				
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	4 385.00	5 906.00	8 011.00	9 000.00
(ii) Overseas travel	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Car mileage	4 704.00	3 681.00	6 061.00	5 000.00
Tea money	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Expense of office	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Entertainment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Any other allowances paid to employees	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
VICTORIAN EGG MARKETING BOARD (*c*)				
Personal and travelling—				
(i) Domestic travel	216 871.00	234 810.00	255 162.00	250 474.00
(ii) Overseas travel	Nil	3 959.00	Nil	Nil
(iii) Removal and relocation expenses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Car mileage	See note (*d*)	—	—	—
Tea money	14 214.00	18 760.00	27 785.00	28 906.00
Expense of office	See note (*d*)	—	—	—
Entertainment	6 357.00	3 189.00	5 587.00	4 376.00
Any other allowances paid to employees	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

NOTES:

(*a*) The time and resources necessary to collect the information to answer this part of the question cannot be justified.

(*b*) Entertainment is included under a heading of "General Expenses" and the time and resources necessary to collect the information to answer this part of the question cannot be justified.

(*c*) The financial year of the Veterinary Board of Victoria and the Victorian Dried Fruits Board is a calendar year. The time and resources necessary to recalculate this information in financial years cannot be justified.

(*d*) Car mileage and expense of office allowance included in item (i). The time and resources necessary to calculate the information separately cannot be justified.

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 601)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Treasurer:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

Information regarding overseas and domestic travel was requested and made available to the honourable member under freedom of information legislation.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 605)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Ethnic Affairs:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)—The answer is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 84/4, issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2. Hosts have not been involved with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality to SES level public servants since 1982 and hence there were no recipients of such benefits.

3. Nil.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 606)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 84/4, issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2. Nil.

3. Nil.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 607)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts: and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 84/4, issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2. According to our records no officer received any benefits.

3. According to our records no benefits were provided.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 614)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Local Government:

Further to the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 84/4, issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2. In August 1983, the then Valuer-General, Mr Adrian McGlade, attended an international conference of valuers held in Malaysia.

During February–March 1984 Mr George Pentland, Director-General for Local Government, undertook a study tour of Canada, Britain, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden.

In April 1984, Mr Pentland and Mr Russell Badham, then Ministerial Adviser to the Miniser for Local Government, attended the Local Government Ministers' conference held in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Travel arrangements in all cases were handled by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in accordance with the guidelines referred to above. For the time all three officers were on duty overseas they received the normal daily travelling allowance.

3. The answers to the third question are:

(*a*) Nil
(*b*) Nil
(*c*) Nil
(*d*) Nil
(*e*) Nil

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 616)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

1. The travel guidelines and procedures with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above, are set down in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's circular "Official Overseas Travel by State Government Employees and Other Persons—Overseas Visits Committee System" under the section entitled "Additional Travel".

2. (*a*)

	Host	*Recipient*
(i)	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)	Dr J. Grigor, Acting Director, Mental Health Division
(ii)	World Psychiatric Association (WPA) RANZCP	Dr J. Grigor, Acting Director, Mental Health Division

3. (*a*) (i) The cost of air travel to Vienna and return, from 28 June to 30 July 1983, was met entirely by the RANZCP—amount unknown.

(ii) The total cost of Dr Grigor's attendance at the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) RANZCP Conference in Rome was $3000—from 4 October to 12 October 1984. A grant of $1500 was made by RANZCP towards the cost of the air fare to Rome and return. An amount was contributed by the World Psychiatric Association towards the air fare and the balance of the total expenses was met by Dr Grigor.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) In both cases referred to above, grants were made towards the cost of air travel only. No other benefits were provided.

MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 618)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 84/4 issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2. Since April 1982 the only officer of this Ministry at the SES level to receive hospitality was Mr Paul Le Roy, Environment Protection Authority.

Mr Le Roy's accommodation for four days was paid for by conference organizers (POLMET) in Hong Kong when Mr Le Roy gave the main address in the Air Quality Management stream of the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference. Mr Le Roy's other expenses were paid for by the State Government.

3. Approximate cost $400 (Aust.).

(Question No. 619)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Water Resources, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

In connection with his responsibilities for Aboriginal affairs, and in view of the answer given on 21 November by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organizations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Water Resources)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 84/4 issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2. Since Aboriginal Affairs came under the responsibility of the Minister for Planning and Environment the answer is nil. For the period April 1982 until coming under the Minister's control, Aboriginal affairs was part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The answer supplied by that department is: Nil.

3. Nil.

INTERNAL AUDITORS IN DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET

(Question No. 622)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Premier:

Whether there are any internal auditors employed by his department; if not, why?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

Due to its size, the Department of Premier and Cabinet does not employ a full-time internal auditor. However, the internal audit function is carried out by the Personnel Branch on organizational structure and efficiency matters with the Audit Office reviewing the financial and accounting matters.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 625)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport for the Minister for Health:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of all Ministers.

MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 627)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of all Ministers.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 629)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 630)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

This question will be answered by the Treasurer on behalf of all Ministers.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 633)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for the Arts:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer is:

I am advised that the Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of all Ministers.

MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 634)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

This question will be answered by the Treasurer.

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 636)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Property and Services:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Property and Services)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 638)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Local Government:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

The Treasurer has undertaken to answer this question on my behalf.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 640)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Ethnic Affairs:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 641)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of all Ministers.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 643)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

I wish to advise the honourable member that the Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of all Ministers.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, FORESTS AND LANDS PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 644)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education, for the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within her administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on behalf of all Ministers.

LAW DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF CORRECTIONS PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 645)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for the Arts, for the Attorney-General:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 646)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Treasurer, for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within his administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets?

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

A consolidated answer to this question will be provided by me on behalf of all Ministers.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS INTERNAL AUDITORS

(Question No. 648)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

Whether any internal auditors are employed by the department and any authorities or agencies under his administration; if not, why?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

Resource constraints currently preclude the establishment of an internal audit function. Consideration is being given to utilizing the services of the Bureau of Internal Audit in the Department of Management and Budget, when that bureau is able to provide services on a contract basis.

COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GRANTS

(Question No. 652)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education:

What grants have been made to the Council for Christian Education in schools in each of the years 1983–84 and 1984–85, and what is the estimated grant for 1985–86?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

Due to a policy arrangement between the Council for Christian Education, the Victorian Ministry of Education is responsible for 37·5 per cent of the council's total expenditure. This is given in the form of grants.

Grants were as follows:

1983–84	$244 000
1984–85	$259 000
1985–86	$263 200 (estimated)

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN DONCASTER ELECTORATE

(Question No. 654)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education.

In respect of each State primary school in the electoral district of Doncaster:

1. What is the anticipated enrolment and pupil-teacher ratio, detailing the likely classification of each teacher at the beginning of the 1986 school year?

2. What public works are taking place or are proposed during 1986?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1.

No.	*Name of School*	*Enrol*	*Prin*	*B4*	*B3*	*B2*	*B1*	*Total Staffing Est.*	*Pupil/ Teacher Ratio*
197	Doncaster P S	289	B	1	2	4	8	16	18·1:1
2096	Doncaster East P S	330	A	1	2	4	9	17	19·4:1
4813	Beverley Hills P S	268	B	1	2	4	7	15	17·9:1
4888	Doncaster Heights P S	219	B	1	2	3	5	12	18·2:1
4961	Donvale P S	355	A	2	2	4	10	19	18·7:1
5008	Waldau P S	368	A	2	2	4	10	19	19·4:1
5019	Donburn P S	220	B	1	2	3	6	13	16·9:1
5065	Botanic Park P S	215	B	—	2	3	6	12	17·9:1
5168	Serpell P S	348	B	1	2	4	10·5	18·5	18·8:1
5212	Milgate Park P S	439	A	2	2	4	16	25	17·6:1

2.

No.	*Name of School*	*Ministry of Education School Council Contracts*	*Public Works Dept. Minor Works*
197	Doncaster P S	—	Nil
2096	Doncaster East P S	Outdoor Area	Ext. Painting and Repairs
4813	Beverley Hills P S	Intruder Detection System	Security Gates
4888	Doncaster Heights P S	Carpet	Path Repairs
4961	Donvale P S	Siteworks, Canteen Repairs	Gas Meter Enclosure
5008	Waldau P S	Lighting Upgrade	Repairs to Canteen Grill $650
5019	Donburn P S	Playground Upgrade	Nil
5065	Botanic Park P S	Storeroom	Carpet
5168	Serpell P S	Windbreak Panels—Covered Areas	Nil
5212	Milgate Park P S	Storage Shed	Security Lighting

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 656)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

Year	*Course*	*Total Participants*	*No. Women*
1983	Nurse Management Programs	274	90
1984	Managing Change Workshop	19	8
	*Personnel Officers Management Program (MHD)	15	Nil
	Psychiatrists Management Development Program	15	5

* At the time of conducting these courses there were no women in those occupational groups.

Year	*Course*	*Total Participants*	*No. Women*
1985	*Hospital Managers Management Development Workshop	20	1**
	* Deputy Hospital Managers Introduction to Management	16	Nil
	Personnel Officers Management Program (PSB)	5	1
	Introduction to Management Courses (Mayfield)	166	74
1986	Introduction to Management Courses (Mayfield)	97	57
	Supervisors Course (Nurses)	19	9
	Supervisors Course (Admin.)	15	5
	Management Development Program	18	9
	Personnel Officers Management Program	3	Nil
	Estimate for July–December 1986	33	16

* At the time of conducting these courses there were no women in those occupational groups.

** Three people from Health Department Victoria also attended this course and one of these was a woman.

Notes:

1. Policy on 50 per cent of training places to be filled by women

The department's first Action Plan for Women was implemented in June 1985. It is the department's policy to actively promote training programs among women and to encourage them to nominate. The department's target is to have 50 per cent of training places filled by women.

2. The above information is supplied for the Health Department Victoria. The department does not hold records of training programs attended by staff from public hospitals. The time and resources required to obtain this information, which would entail a large manual effort involving several members of staff, cannot be justified.

MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 658)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

The number of women who have attended potential middle managers' courses for—

1983	9
1984	15
1985	20
1986	27 (Estimate)

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 663)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

NUMBER OF WOMEN ATTENDING POTENTIAL MIDDLE MANAGEMENT COURSES

Agency	1983	1984	1985	1986 *(Estimate)*
Accident Compensation Commission	N/A	N/A	*	*
Accident Compensation Tribunal	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Government Statist and Actuary	—	—	—	1
Head Office	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	60
Hospitals Superannuation Board	—	—	—	—
Motor Accidents Board	—	—	—	—
State Bank	133	178	54	150
Stamp Duties Office	—	—	2	2
State Employees Retirement Benefits Board	—	—	—	2
State Insurance Office	1	3	3	13
State Superannuation Board	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	1
State Tender Board	—	—	—	—
State Taxation Office	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	3
Victorian Accident Rehabilitation Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
VicFin	N/A	N/A	—	—
Victorian Development Fund	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	No Records Kept	—

* The Accident Compensation Commission commenced operation on 1 September 1985 and, during the period since then, the general pressure of work on the staff at the ACC has precluded attendance at courses of any nature. It is likely that this will be the case at least until the end of 1986.

N/A: Organization not established at the time.

MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 665)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

The following numbers of women have attended potential middle managers' courses:

(i) Central Administration	1983—none 1984—none 1985—one 1986—estimate three
(ii) Victoria Police Force:	1983—three 1984—one 1985—seven 1986—estimate two
(iii) Victoria State Emergency Service:	1983 to 1986—none
(iv) Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board:	1983 to 1986—none
(v) Country Fire Authority:	1983—none 1984—none 1985—two 1986—estimate twelve

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 668)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

"Middle Managers Courses" have been taken to apply to those which provide management skills for officers between ADM 4 and ADM 8 (and equivalent levels).

Authority	1983	1984	1985	1986 *(Estimate)*
Ports and Harbors Division	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Metropolitan Transit Authority	No records	7	21	19
Grain Elevators Board	3	5	2	3
Port of Melbourne Authority	1	Nil	6	10
Road Construction Authority	1	3	Nil	3
Ministry of Transport	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Port of Geelong Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
State Transport Authority	2	6	11	10
Port of Portland Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Marine Board of Victoria	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Road Traffic Authority	Nil	Nil	2	3
Property Development Branch	1	Nil	1	Nil

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 669)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

No women within the Local Government Department attended potential middle managers' courses in the years 1983, 1984 or 1985. The estimate of those attending such courses in the first six months of 1986 is nil. It is estimated that one woman will attend a potential middle management course in the second half of 1986.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 670)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

Potential middle managers' courses were introduced into the Ministry in 1985 in the form of a three day "Supervision Course". Details of women attending such courses to date are as follows:

	Officers between ADM-4 and ADM-8 (and equivalent levels)	Total Number of Women attending such courses
1985	2	6
1986	2 (Estimate)	8 (Estimate)

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 672)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

The number of women that have attended potential middle management courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and prospectively for 1986 are as follows:

Year	Number
1983	6
1984	6
1985	7
1986	27

MINISTRY OF HOUSING MIDDLE MANAGERS' COURSES

(Question No. 674)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers' courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

1983

3 women—already middle management

1984

1 woman—potential middle management
6 women—already middle management

1985

10 women—already middle management

1986

8 women—already middle management (currently involved)
2 further women nominated
Likely a further 6–10 will participate in 1986.

TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD DIVIDENDS

(Question No. 678)

Mr REYNOLDS (Gisborne) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of each of the racing seasons 1974–75 to 1984–85 inclusive, what were the amounts paid to the Treasury from the—(*a*) on-course totalizator; and (*b*) off-course totalizator or TAB by way of—(i) unclaimed dividends; and (ii) "fractions" derived from calculation of totalizator dividends to the lower ·05 cents for each of the three racing codes—thoroughbred racing, harness racing and greyhound racing?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

Records of unclaimed totalizator dividends and fractions are such that, without a major administrative exercise, it is not possible to differentiate between accruals from operations on each of the racing codes. The total amounts paid to the Treasury in each year since 1974–75 were as follows:

(i) Unclaimed Totalizator Dividends

	On-Course	**Off-Course*
	$	
1974–75	188 444	..
1975–76	290 777	..
1976–77	293 307	..
1977–78	256 724	..
1978–79	311 793	..
1979–80	316 998	..
1980–81	328 944	..
1981–82	321 391	..
1982–83	396 964	..
1983–84	444 493	..
1984–85	674 798	..

* unclaimed off-couse dividends are not required to be paid to Treasury.

(ii) Totalizator Fractions

	On-Course	*Off-Course*	*Total*
	$	$	$
1974–75	*	*	3 314 654
1975–76	*	*	4 085 140
1976–77	3 737 442	398 597	4 136 039
1977–78	4 287 418	390 042	4 677 460
1978–79	4 101 613	422 697	4 524 310
1979–80	4 234 505	431 204	4 665 709
1980–81	5 524 556	453 345	5 977 901
1981–82	5 669 393	303 107	5 972 500
1982–83	7 235 137	160 728	7 395 865
1983–84	6 766 651	115 327	6 881 978
1984–85	9 445 435	83 717	9 529 152

* Separation between on-course and off-course not available.

CRIME REPORTS IN CITY OF DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE

(Question No. 681)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe what were the number of reports to police stations for the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 to date respectively in—(*a*) Neighbourhood Watch areas; and (*b*) other areas, involving—(i) larceny; (ii) house breaking and stealing; (iii) shop breaking and stealing; (iv) other breaking and stealing; (v) car stealing; (vi) vandalism of property; (vii) crimes involving false pretences; (viii) other "victimless" crimes; (ix) possession, supply and use of drugs; (x) sex crimes; and (xi) all other crimes against persons?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

While information is readily available on the total crime statistics in the Doncaster and Heidelberg Criminal Investigation Branches, the information requested in this question—that is, broken into Neighbourhood Watch and other areas—is not immediately available from the existing crime statistics. To manually obtain all of the requested information from crime reports would be time consuming and the necessary resources are not available.

Neighbourhood Watch records indicate that there are now sixteen separate Neighbourhood Watch areas established within the boundaries of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. These areas have been established between November 1984 and May 1986, and incorporate 10 164 homes with an average of 635 homes per area. Residents in these areas number approximately 45 730 with an average per area of 2858.

The five most recent areas established in these districts have been running for too short a period to allow reliable crime comparisons to be made. In the other eleven areas, house burglary has decreased on average by 18·31 per cent, other crime has decreased on average by 7·38 per cent and there has been an 8·02 per cent drop in all crime.

STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE

(Question No. 682)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Property and Services:

Whether the Freedom of Information Act 1982 applies to the State Electoral Office; if so, whether he will ascertain and advise if the Commonwealth Electoral Office is obliged to meet the requirements of such Act in the furnishing of information collected and collated within the terms of the joint electoral agreement gazetted on 26 February 1953?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Property and Services)—The answer is:

The provisions of the Victorian Freedom of Information Act 1982 do apply to the State Electoral Office.

The Australian Electoral Commission, which is subject to the Commonwealth Freedom of Information Act 1982, is responsible under the Joint Rolls Arrangement for the preparation, alteration and revision of rolls of electors.

Accordingly, requests for access to joint Commonwealth–State enrolment information should be directed to the Australian Electoral Commission.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXPENDITURE

(Question No. 685)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education:

In respect of the financial year 1985–86:

1. What is the estimated expenditure on—(i) emergency teachers; (ii) in-service education; (iii) study leave for teachers; (iv) clerical assistance to schools; (v) school medical and dental services; and (vi) specialist teachers indicating— (*a*) ethnic aides and community language teaching; (*b*) counselling services; (*c*) counselling guidance and clinical services and speech therapy; (*d*) physical education and (*e*) librarians?

2. What increases will be provided to comply with the terms of settlement of a recent industrial dispute for each of the above items?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. Only some of these items are specifically costed. Items marked with an asterisk are not specifically costed.

	Expenditure (Salaries and Allowances) 1985–86
	$m
(i) Emergency teachers	44·6
(ii) In-service education	*
(iii) Study leave for teachers	6·8
(iv) Clerical assistance to schools	46·9
(v) School medical and dental services	*
(vi) Specialist teachers—	
ethnic and community language teachers	1·62
counselling services	2·21
counselling, guidance and clinical services and speech therapy	25·6
physical education	*
librarians	*

2. Prior to the industrial action taken by teachers in October 1985 discussions and extensive consultation was undertaken by officers of the Ministry in an attempt to identify ways in which expenditure on emergency teachers could be contained within budgetary allocations.

The teacher unions and other groups opposed some of the measures being suggested. However, no "settlement" was reached nor were increases required.

The position adopted in regard to emergency teachers was both reasonable, in that the needs of the schools were well catered for and successful, in that some reduction in the rate of expenditure was achieved.

STUDY ASSISTANCE POLICY

(Question No. 687)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Premier:

In respect of the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985, how many male and female officers, respectively—(i) qualified; and (ii) were assisted, under the study assistance policy adopted by the Public Service Board?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

The time and resources necessary to provide the information in the categories requested by the member cannot be justified. However, the Public Service Board's annual report provides data on officers given full-time study leave and those given part-time study leave.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

(Question No. 689)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Premier:

Whether the occupational health and safety code used by Government departments and instrumentalities has been reviewed since January 1980; if not, why?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

Victorian Government agencies have used the code of general principles and practice for occupational health and safety in the Commonwealth Government as a point of reference. The passage of the Victorian occupational health and safety legislation has provided the means for developing codes and practices for Victorian agencies, and the Government and the relevant unions are currently establishing consultative mechanisms to develop these codes and practices.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF ECONOMICS STUDY OF REDUCED HOURS OF WORK

(Question No. 690)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

Whether he will make available to honourable members a copy of a study by the Commonwealth Bureau of Economics on the likely consequences of the introduction of a 35-hour week?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

It is presumed that the honourable member is referring to the Bureau of Industry Economics' Research Report No. 15 entitled Reducing standard hours of work: analysis of Australia's recent experience (AGPS, Canberra, 1984)

This report is readily available from the Australian Government Publishing Service Bookshop at 347 Swanston Street, Melbourne, priced at $6.80.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

(Question No. 695)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) First Division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) Second Division officers?

2. What total percentage of First and Second Division officers are women?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

The information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES

(Question No. 697)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) first division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) second division officers?

2. What total percentage of first and second division officers are women?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

For the Department of Industry, Technology and Resources, the Liqour Control Commission, the Victorian Tourism Commission and the Alpine Resorts Commission, the information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

For all other agencies within my administration, except the Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation (which employs no staff) the answer is set out in the table below.

Agency	*Q.*1(*a*)	*Q.*1(*b*)	*Q.*2
Coal Corporation of Victoria	Nil	4	16 per cent
Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria	Nil	97	8 per cent
Geelong Regional Commission	Nil	15	31 per cent
Latrobe Regional Commission	Nil	6	29 per cent
Overseas Projects Corporation	Nil	1	20 per cent
Small Business Development Corporation	Nil	11	31 per cent
State Electricity Commission of Victoria	3	74	4 per cent
Victorian Economic Development Corporation	Nil	3	18 per cent
Victorian Solar Energy Council	Nil	3	21 per cent

STATUS OF WOMEN IN DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

(Question No. 700)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) First Division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) Second Division officers?

2. What total percentage of First and Second Division officers are women?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

1. With the following exceptions the information is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

Agency	1 (*a*)	1 (*b*)	2
Accident Compensation Commission	*	*	*
Hospitals Superannuation Board	. .	17	46 per cent
Motor Accidents Board	1	48	35·3 per cent
State Bank	28	235	10·4 per cent

* The staff of the Accident Compensation Commission are not public servants as defined in the Public Service Act. The organization structure does not classify staff in terms of first and second division and it is difficult to relate their structure to those classifications. On that basis, I am unable to provide the information requested.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Question No. 702)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) First Division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) Second Division officers?

2. What total percentage of First and Second Division officers are women?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

In relation to the Central Administration, the Victoria Police Force, and the Victoria State Emergency Service, the information requested in both questions 1 and 2 is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

In relation to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, there are:

1. (*a*) No female First Division or equivalent officers;

(*b*) 35 women in the Second Division.

2. These women represent 21 per cent of First and Second Division officers.

In relation to the Country Fire Authority, there are no women employed as First or Second Division officers or officers of comparable status.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

(Question No. 705)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) First Division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) Second Division officers?

2. What total percentage of First and Second Division officers are women?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

1–2. In regard to the Ports and Harbors Division, Marine Board of Victoria and Ministry of Transport, the information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

Authority	*1st Division*	*1st Division*	*2nd Division*	*2nd Division*
		%		%
Port of Melbourne Authority	1	10	2	6
State Transport Authority	Nil	Nil	87	4
Port of Portland Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Grain Elevators Board	Nil	Nil	53	25
Road Construction Authority	1	4	402	20·6
Road Traffic Authority	1	4·3	78	11·9
Port of Geelong Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Metropolitan Transit Authority	1	4·76	33	20·56

STATUS OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

(Question No. 706)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) First Division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) Second Division officers?

2. What total percentage of First and Second Division officers are women?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

The information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION

(Question No. 709)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) first division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) second division officers?

2. What total percentage of first and second division officers are women?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

In relation to organizations where staff are subject to the Public Service Act, the information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

In relation to organizations where staff are not subject to the Public Service Act:

Totalizator Agency Board

1. (*a*) One woman holds First Division status

   (*b*) Fifty-seven women hold Second Division status

2. 30·36 per cent of officers who hold First and Second Division status are women

Harness Racing Board

1. Nil

2. Nil

Greyhound Racing Control Board

1. Nil

2. Nil

STATUS OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY OF HOUSING

(Question No. 711)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) first division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) second division officers?

2. What total percentage of first and second division officers are women?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

The information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN LAW DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF CORRECTIONS

(Question No. 713)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for the Arts, for the Attorney-General:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) First Division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) Second Division officers?

2. What total percentage of First and Second Division officers are women?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is:

For organizations within my administration whose staff are subject to the Public Service Act 1974 the information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

For the Law Reform Commission and the Legal Aid Commission the answer is:

1. (*a*) Law Reform Commission—none
   Legal Aid Commission—none

   (*b*) Law Reform Commission—10
   Legal Aid Commission—57

2. Law Reform Commission—100 per cent
   Legal Aid Commission—39 per cent

HOUSE BUILDERS' LIABILITY

(Question No. 718)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

1. What are the names of all registered builders subject to the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958 who failed financially during 1984, indicating—(*a*) the total number of houses built by each while they were registered; (*b*) with which approved guarantor each builder was first registered; and (*c*) with whom each builder was registered at the time of deregistration?

2. In respect of claims filed against each builder, what was the date of lodgment of each claim, indicating—(*a*) the claimant's name; (*b*) the municipality involved; (*c*) the list of defects submitted; (*d*) whether arbitration was involved, and if so, the name of the arbitrator; and (*e*) the outcome of the claim?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

The attached list sets out the details requested. However, in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned, I am not prepared to release the names of the individual claimants. This information is therefore not included.

Builder Registered Name	*Units*	*First Reg'd With*	*De-reg By*	*Date Claim Received*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit*	*Result*
Corband Pty Ltd	25	MBHF	MBHF	12.12.83	Nunawading	Water entry to ceiling	No	Rejected—No major defect
				2.2.84	Gisborne	Series of major defects	No	Paid out $11 000
Mount Fletcher Pty Ltd, T/as Alasdiar Macleod Builder	11	MBHF	MBHF	6.3.83	Sunbury	Incomplete heating, brickwork cracking	No	Builder rectified
				27.6.84	Essendon	House incomplete	No	Ongoing
				19.7.84	Hawthorn	House incomplete	No	Owner not proceeding
Siege Builders Pty Ltd	17	HBAL	HGFL	19.11.84	Croydon	Faulty roof	No	Paid out $3359
				17.9.84	Werribee	Series of minor defects	No	Owner not proceeding
				15.8.84	Flinders	House incomplete	No	Paid out $10 850
				15.8.84	Eltham	House incomplete	No	Paid out $11 550
				18.6.84	Mooroolbark	Series of minor defects	No	Paid out $5452
				11.4.85	Otway	Series of minor defects	No	Builder rectified
				14.12.84	Knox	Leaking shower	No	Paid out $652
				7.5.84	Knox	Maintenance problems	No	Owner not proceeding
				1.10.84	Lilydale	Roof fault and minor defects	No	Paid out $668
	16	HBAL	HGFL	3.8.84	Ringwood	Loss of deposit	No	Paid out $500
				15.8.84	Lilydale	House incomplete	No	Paid out $7998
				15.8.84	Glen Waverley	House incomplete	No	Paid out $11 912

Builder Registered Name	*Units*	*First Reg'd With*	*De-reg By*	*Date Claim Received*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit*	*Result*
				15.8.84	Croydon	House incomplete	No	Paid out $12 000
				15.8.84	Lilydale	House incomplete	No	Paid out $10 117
				15.8.84	Lilydale	House incomplete	No	Paid out $8659
				15.8.84	Lilydale	House incomplete	No	Paid out $8400
				7.9.84	Croydon	House incomplete	No	Paid out $12 000
				10.9.84	Healesville	House incomplete	No	Paid out $8796
				12.9.84	Lilydale	Loss of deposit	No	Paid out $1000
Welton Developments Pty Ltd	209	HBAL	HBAL	24.11.77	Dandenong	Roof problems	No	Rejected—No major defect
				19.3.79	Croydon	Plaster and tile cracking	No	Builder rectified
				29.5.80	Nunawading	Eave and spouting problems	No	Builder rectified
				29.5.80	Nunawading	As above	No	Builder rectified
				29.5.80	Nunawading	As above	No	Builder rectified
				29.5.80	Nunawading	As above	No	Builder rectified
				29.5.80	Nunawading	As above	No	Builder rectified
				29.5.80	Nunawading	As above	No	Builder rectified
				29.5.80	Nunawading	As above	No	Builder rectified
				23.3.81	Knox	Series of minor defects	No	Builder rectified
				9.3.82	Nunawading	Brickwork cracking	No	Builder rectified
				2.6.82	Nunawading	Minor cracking	No	Builder rectified
				1.10.82	Nunawading	Series of minor defects	No	Builder rectified
				19.11.82	Nunawading	Plumbing defects	No	Builder rectified
				4.7.83	Knox	Brickwork and plaster cracking	No	Builder rectified
				30.11.83	Knox	Shower leak	No	Builder rectified
				20.12.83	Knox	Series of minor defects	No	Rejected—No major defects
				28.3.84	Kew	Incomplete house	No	Owner not proceeding
				15.5.84	Knox	Roof leak	No	Rejected—Incorrect notice: defect apparent from 4/83
				19.7.84	Nunawading	Shower leak	No	Builder rectified

Builder Registered Name	*Units*	*First Reg'd With*	*De-reg By*	*Date Claim Received*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit*	*Result*
				24.10.84	Nunawading	Cracking to garage	No	Incorrect notice: defect apparent from 3/81
				30.1.85	Knox	Plaster cracking	No	Incorrect notice: defect apparent from 8/84
				8.3.85	Nunawading	Garage pillar cracking	No	Incorrect notice: defect apparent from 12/83
E. W. Rose Pty Ltd	4	MBHF	HGFL	15.5.84	Heidelberg	House incomplete	No	Ongoing
Ralinda Investments Pty Ltd	47	HBAL	HGFL	1.3.85	Barrabool	House incomplete	No	Paid out $10 068
				3.1.85	Barrabool	Roof leaks	No	Builder rectified
				19.12.84	Barrabool	House incomplete	No	Paid out $622
				14.12.84	Barrabool	House incomplete	No	Paid out $5590
				29.11.84	Barrabool	House incomplete	No	Rejected—Purchaser has funds complete
				9.11.84	Barrabool	House incomplete	No	Paid out $4510
				15.1.85	Winchelsea	House incomplete	No	Ongoing
				16.9.83	Barrabool	Spouting problem	No	Builder rectified
Gathercole Industries Australia Pty Ltd	0	MBHF	HGFL					
Woodland Homes Pty Ltd	59	HBAL	HGFL	11.3.81	Moorabbin	Plaster and tile cracking	No	Rejected—No major defects
				19.8.83	Springvale	Plaster cracking	No	Builder rectified
				14.11.84	Waverley	Shower screen faulty	No	Rejected—No major defect
				23.4.85	Springvale	Tile and plaster cracks	No	Paid out $282
				9.5.85	Waverley	Series of minor defects	No	Rejected—Not covered by Act
				9.5.85	Waverley	As above	No	As above
				9.5.85	Waverley	As above	No	As above
				9.5.85	Waverley	As above	No	As above
Zancan Constructions Pty Ltd	3	MBHF	HGFL					
Carrington Developments Pty Ltd	35	HBAL	HGFL	21.9.84	Mornington	Borers	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship
				5.9.84	Hastings	House incomplete	No	Paid out $5732
				3.8.84	Mornington	Series of defects inc. sewerage	No	Paid out $7661.16

Builder Registered Name	*Units*	*First Reg'd With*	*De-reg By*	*Date Claim Received*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit*	*Result*
				5.4.84	Flinders	Series of minor defects	No	Paid out $720
				10.9.84	Mornington	Cracked sill bricks	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship
				24.7.81	Mornington	Roof tile problems	No	Builder rectified
				4.7.83	Mornington	Smoking chimney and windows not sealed	No	Builder rectified
				14.1.85	Mornington	House incomplete	No	Ongoing
MGK Design and Construction Pty Ltd	9	MBHF	HGFL	21.4.80	Chelsea	Roof leaks	Yes R. A. Eggleston	Paid out $2994.10
				21.3.85	Sunshine	Minor defects	No	Paid out $1518
				16.5.85	Sunshine	Roof leaks	No	Paid out $783
				20.11.85	Sunshine	Blocked sewer	No	Rejected—No major defect
Alexis Constructions Pty Ltd	13	HBAL	HGFL	22.11.82	Broad-meadows	Water leak and minor defects	No	Builder rectified
				13.9.83	Preston	Cracking to window sills	No	Builder rectified
Poulston Builders Pty Ltd	40	MBHF	HGFL	12.10.84	Barrabool	Walkaway	No	Paid out $11 185
				15.10.84	South Barwon	Loss of deposit	No	Paid out $580
				25.1.85	Winchelsea	Walkaway	No	Ongoing
				6.6.85	Keilor	House incomplete	No	Paid out $11 500
Esquire Homes Pty Ltd	35	HBAL	HGFL	19.6.84	Springvale	House incomplete	No	Paid out $12 000
				9.11.84	Cranbourne	House incomplete	No	Paid out $6412
				16.11.84	Berwick	Shower leak and others	No	Paid out $425
				29.11.84	Knox	Roof leaks	No	Paid out $886
				10.12.84	Waverley	Loss of deposit	No	Paid out $1782.50
				10.12.84	Waverley	As above	No	Paid out $1782.50
				10.12.84	Waverley	As above	No	Paid out $1782.50
				18.12.84	Knox	Plaster cracks and roofleak	No	Paid out $725
				20.12.84	Berwick	Cracked tiles, plaster and brickwork	No	Rejected—Money withheld by purchaser

SPERWAY CONSTRUCTION PTY LTD

(Question No. 719)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In relation to Sperway Construction Pty Ltd and other building companies having one or more directors in common with Sperway Constructions Pty Ltd:

1. What is the name of each company and on what date was it first registered with an approved guarantor under the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958?

2. What are the names of all current and past directors of each company?

3. How many houses have been built by each company?

4. In respect of claims filed against each company, what was the claimant's name, indicating—(*a*) the municipality involved; (*b*) the list of defects submitted; (*c*) whether arbitration was involved, and if so, the name of the arbitrator; and (*d*) the outcome of the claim?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

No other building companies have been registered under the Local Government (House Builders Liability) Act 1958 that have one or more directors common with Sperway Constructions Pty Ltd. The details requested in relation to Sperway Constructions Pty. Ltd. are as follows:

Date Registered: 21/5/81

Name of Directors: D. J. Sperway and J. M. Sperway
(past and present)

Number of Houses Built: Nil

Number of Claims: Nil

STERLING HOMES (VIC.) PTY LTD

(Question No. 720)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In relation to Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd and other building companies having one or more directors in common with Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd:

1. What is the name of each company and on what date was it first registered with an approved guarantor under the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958?

2. What are the names of all current and past directors of each company?

3. How many houses have been built by each company since each was first registered under the Local Government Act 1958?

4. What limitations and constraints an approved guarantor has currently imposed on the operations of each of the companies including the number of houses each company is permitted to have under construction at any one time?

5. What limitations and constraints had been imposed previously by an approved guarantor on the operations of each of the companies and the reason for any variation to each imposition?

6. In respect of claims filed against each company, what was the claimant's name, indicating—(*a*) the municipality involved; (*b*) the list of defects submitted; (*c*) whether arbitration was involved, and if so, the name of the arbitrator; and (*d*) the outcome of the claim.

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

Sterling Homes Pty Ltd became registered on 15.10.74 and changed its name to Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd several years later. No other building companies having one or more directors in common with Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd are registered under the Local Government (House Builders Liability) Act 1958.

The information requested in relation to Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd is as follows:

1. Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd was first registered with an approved guarantor on 15.10.74.

2. Names of current and past directors: A. Fuller, N. Stokes.

3. Number of houses built: 413.

4. The company has a condition under its rule 3 (*e*) (10) that the builder may have 75 houses under construction at any one time.

5. When the builder was first registered a condition was placed on the registration that the builder could only have under construction 25 houses at any one time. That limit was increased in 1977 to 75 houses at the request of the builder due to an increase in business activity and based on financial information supplied.

6. The attached table sets out the details requested. However, in order to protect the privacy of the individual claimants, I am not prepared to release their names. This information is therefore not included.

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd	12.7.77	Knox	House reblocking and underpinning	No	Paid out $2950
	21.11.77	Knox	Brickwork cracking, gaps in fascia mitre in eaves	Yes—Brian Gallagher	Paid out $2920
	7.7.78	Nunawading	Subsidence affecting concrete stumps	No	Paid out $920
	9.2.79	Whittlesea	Underpinning and cracked brickwork	No	Paid out $800
	26.4.82	Lilydale	Brickwork cracking and floor defects	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship
	31.4.82	Frankston	Leaking tiles	No	Builder rectified
	14.5.82	Nunawading	Water penetration	No	Builder rectified
	16.6.82	Waverley	Leaking shower base	No	Builder rectified
	14.9.82	Dandenong	Tiles dislodged, gaps around eaves	No	Rejected—No major defects
	15.12.82	Knox	Cracked brickwork	No	Rejected—No major defects
	18.1.83	Dandenong	Sheered bathroom and en suite tiles	No	Builder rectified
	27.1.83	Knox	Cracked brickwork	No	Builder rectified
	10.3.83	Knox	Cracked brickwork	No	Builder rectified
	19.12.83	Nunawading	Gap over top of stump	No	Rejected—No major defects
	25.9.84	Nunawading	Extensive cracking in upstairs floor	No	Builder rectified
	16.10.84	Diamond Valley	Crack in laminex, warped door	No	Rejected—No major defects
	6.2.85	Pakenham	Loose bricks, uneven cupboard door	No	Builder rectified
	13.6.85	Knox	Cracked brickwork, subsiding floor, cracked plaster and tiles	No	Ongoing
	30.3.79	Knox	Prominent staining of poly marble shower base	No	Builder rectified
	4.9.79	Oakleigh	Doors needed to be repaired	No	Builder rectified
	29.11.79	Knox	Sunken ridge on roof, inner stumps appeared faulty	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship
	11.12.79	Moorabbin	Leaking shower, wall cracking in bathroom, shaky tiles on window	No	Builder rectified
	22.10.80	Oakleigh	Incomplete painting, door uneven, plaster needed patching	No	Rejected—No major defect
	31.10.80	Croydon	Sliding door and window buckled	No	Rejected—No major defects
	1.4.81	Doncaster	Loose bricks near front door	No	Rejected—No major defects
	21.5.81	Nunawading	Cracks in rear wall, movement of patio floor	No	Rejected—No major defects
	29.7.81	Moorabbin	Cracks between bricks, holes in cement brickwork bricks	No	Rejected—No major defects
	17.2.76	Waverley	Carport needed rebricking, regrade shower base	No	Builder rectified
	14.5.76	Croydon	Cracked brickwork, house needed under-pinning	No	Paid out $650
	8.6.76	Knox	Fascia boards split, gutters not falling to outlets, eaves sagged	No	Builder rectified
	12.11.76	Broad-meadows	Gutter overflowing—water penetration	No	Builder rectified

N. AND J. BALES PTY LTD

(Question No. 721)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In relation to N. and J. Bales Pty Ltd and other building companies having one or more directors in common with N. and J. Bales Pty Ltd:

1. What is the name of each company and on what date was each first registered with the approved guarantor under the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958?

2. What are the names of all current and past directors of each company?

3. How many houses have been built by each company?

4. In respect of claims filed against each company, what was the claimant's name, indicating—(*a*) the municipality involved; (*b*) the list of defects submitted; (*c*) whether arbitration was involved, and if so, the name of the arbitrator; and (*d*) the outcome of the claim?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

There is no company named N. and J. Bales Pty Ltd registered under the Local Government Act (House Builders Liability) Act 1958. There is, however, a company named N. and J. Bale Pty Ltd and I will proceed on the assumption that this in fact is the company to which the question refers.

The attached broadsheet sets out the details requested. However, in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned, I am not prepared to release the names of the individual claimants. This information is therefore not included.

N. and J. Bale Pty Ltd—Registered Number 00502

Director Name	*Company Name*	*Date Registered*	*Name of Directors*	*No. of Houses Built*	*No of Claims*
N. J. Bale	N. and J. Bale Pty Ltd	15.10.74	N. J. Bale J. Bale	6	—
	Cowells Group Ltd T/A Blunts Homes	18.12.79	M. P. Tiddy J. L. McMaugh N. J. Bale W. G. Forde M. J. Lloyd A. T. Matters R. A. Bowley S. B. Denton J. M. Simpson T. B. Simpson A. N. Powell G. R. R. Mawer B. J. Tenby G. Hofmeyer	713	6

Please note that the builder is N. and J. Bale Pty Ltd not N. and J. Bales Pty Ltd.

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
Cowells Group Ltd T/A Blunts Homes	19.8.80	Waranga	Gaps in floor sheeting	No	Rejected—No major defect
	22.4.83	Shepparton	Twisted door, paint, cracked floor tiles	No	Builder rectified
	13.5.83	Shepparton	Timber floor allowed extensive subjection to rain	No	No major defect
	20.6.83	Kerang	Water penetration	No	Builder rectified
	24.10.83	Talbot and Clunes	Water penetration	No	Builder rectified
	12.3.85	Creswick	Gap in door, heater damaged, grouting	No	Builder rectified

OXFORD HOUSING (VIC.) PTY LTD

(Question No. 722)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In relation to Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty Ltd and other building companies having one or more directors in common with Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty Ltd:

1. What is the name of each company and on what date was each first registered with the approved guarantor under the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958?

2. What are the names of all current and past directors of each company?

3. How many houses have been built by each company?

4. In respect of claims filed against each company, what was the claimant's name, indicating—(*a*) the municipality involved; (*b*) the list of defects submitted; (*c*) whether arbitration was involved, and if so, the name of the arbitrator, and (*d*) the outcome of the claim?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

There are three (3) directors of Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty Ltd who are directors of other building companies registered under the provisions of the Local Government (House Builders Liability) Act 1958, namely:

R. A. Maxwell
L. McKusker
R. Fazio

The attached list sets out the details requested. However, in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned, I am not prepared to release the names of the individual claimants. This information is therefore not included.

Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty Ltd—Registered Number 00556

Company Name	*Date Registered*	*Name of Directors*	*No. of Houses Built*	*No of Claims*
Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty Ltd	15.10.74	R. A. Maxwell L. McKusker R. Fazio	440	14
Midland Housing Pty Ltd	30.4.82	R. A. Maxwell L. McKusker W. E. Oldfield	34	3
John Peeman (Vic.) Pty Ltd	15.10.74	R. A. Maxwell L McKusker R. Fazio	Nil	Nil
R. A. Maxwell	24.8.78	R. A. Maxwell	3	Nil
Maxwell Family Homes Pty Ltd	21.6.79	R. A. Maxwell D. J. Maxwell	35	Nil
John Peeman (Vic.) Pty Ltd	10.3.82	R. M. Smith L. McKusker M. G. Poulston	826	2
Manu (Vic.) Pty Ltd	12.2.81	L. McKusker R. M. Smith	114	5

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
Oxford Housing (Vic.) Pty Ltd	17.4.78	South Barwon	Leaking roof	No	Builder rectified
	10.4.79	Geelong	Water leaks in lounge, family and utility rooms	No	Builder rectified
	18.4.79	Queenscliffe	Stumps out of vertical alignment, several major defects	Yes, Brian Gallagher	Rejected—Not covered by Act
	25.6.79	Queenscliffe	Defective tiling	No	Builder rectified
	3.3.80	South Barwon	Cracked tiles to en suite	No	Rejected—No major defects

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
	18.4.80	South Barwon	Mould damage to kitchen cupboards	No	Builder rectified
	10.7.80	Bellarine	Damaged floor in kitchen	No	Builder rectified
	16.4.82	Winchelsea	Leaking windows	No	Builder rectified
	20.7.82	South Barwon	Cracked s/screen, gap in archway	No	Rejected—No major defects
	29.9.83	Queenscliffe	Defective tiling	No	Rejected—No major defects
	5.12.84	South Barwon	Brickwork not filled with mortar	No	Rejected—No major defects
	2.5.85	South Barwon	Cracks in walls, ceiling and brickwork	No	Rejected—No major defects
	19.7.85	Bellarine	Roof beam failing and collapsing	No	Rejected—No major defects
	9.10.85	Werribee	Holes in roof	No	Builder rectified, ongoing
Midland Housing Pty Ltd	2.8.77	Shepparton	Cracked tile, wind moulds missing from laundry window	No	Owner did not proceed
	9.4.81	Shepparton	Sagging roof	No	Rejected—No major defects
	4.6.82	Rodney	Doors don't close, associated cracking	No	Rejected—No major defect
John Peeman (Vic.) Pty Ltd	18.6.85	Dandenong	Cracked plaster, tiles need regrouting	No	Builder rectified
	18.7.85	Werribee	Chipped bench top, two doors don't close, laminex scratched	No	Rejected—Amount not in excess of minimum amount
Manu Pty Ltd	22.6.82	Portland	Cracked brickwork	No	Builder rectified
	1.12.82	Bellarine	Power point not fitted, grouting not completed, paint splashed, wood broken above door	No	Builder rectified
	3..6.83	Bacchus Marsh	Nail popping through ceiling, guttering not level	No	Builder rectified
	8.12.83	Winchelsea	Insufficient downpipes, water penetration	No	Rejected—No major defects
	7.9.84	Werribee	Moved ridge supports, ceiling dropped above lounge window	No	Builder rectified

HOUSE BUILDERS' LIABILITY

(Question No. 723)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

1. What are the names and qualifications of all persons who have served or currently serve on the board of directors of each approved guarantor pursuant to the house builders' liability provisions of the *Local Government Act* 1958?

2. Which of the directors of these companies are proprietors of, or in any other capacity involved in, a builder registered by an approved guarantor pursuant to the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958, indicating—(*a*) the name of the director; (*b*) the name of the registered builder with which he is involved; the name of the guarantor with which the builder is registered; and (*c*) the date of first registration and, if applicable, the date of termination or cessation, giving the reason in each case?

3. How many houses have been built by each such builder since the date of registration under the Local Government Act 1958?

4. In respect of claims filed against each builder, what was the claimant's name, indicating—(*a*) the municipality involved; (*b*) the list of defects submitted; (*c*) whether arbitration was involved, and if so, the name of the arbitrator; and (*d*) the outcome of the claim?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

The attached lists set out the details required. However, in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned, I am not prepared to release the names of the individual claimants. This information is therefore not included.

1.

	Name	*Qualification*
	History of MBHF Directors 15.10.74 to 31.6.84	
15.10.74	Maxwell Joseph O'Brien (Chairman)	Builder
	David Henry Murden	Executive Director MBAV
	Donald Cockram	Builder—Resigned 9.9.75, resumed 13.10.77
	Warner Kenneth Bastian	Unknown
	Joffre James Devieseux	Builder—Resigned 2.9.82
	William Robert Fox	Builder—Resigned 2.9.82
	Ronald Besford	Builder—Resigned 15.9.77
	Frank Albert Hansen	Builder—Deceased 2.2.77
9.9.75	Henry Robert Holdsworth	Accountant
29.6.83	M. N. Mitchell	Builder
	History of HBAL Directors 15.10.74 to 31.6.84	
15.10.74	D. R. Dossetor	Builder—Resigned 22.7.82
	N. J. Bale	Builder
	A. C. Fuller	Builder
	J. H. Jewitt	Builder—Resigned 2.10.78
	D. Hamer	Senator
4.10.78	I. T. Sherwen	Executive Director Timber Promotion Council
14.2.83	D. J. Thompson	Managing Director
30.9.83	W. S. Young	Building Surveyor
	History of HGFL Directors from 1.7.84	
1.7.84	N. J. Bale	Builder
	M. J. O'Brien	Builder—Resigned 10.9.85
	A. C. Fuller	Builder
	J. F. O'Donnell	Public Servant—Resigned 10.9.85
	F. B. Head	Solicitor
	M. N. Mitchell	Builder
	I. T. Sherwen	Executive Director TPC
	D. H. Murden	Executive Director MBAV
10.9.85	D. Cockram	Builder
	I. Gibson	Public Servant

Only five of the directors are proprietors of or in any other capacity involved in a builder registered by Housing Guarantee Fund Limited under provisions of the Local Government (House Builders' Liability) Act 1958:

M. J. O'Brien
D. Cockram
M. Mitchell
N. J. Bale
A. C. Fuller

2, 3, 4. The following is a list of directors of the guarantor bodies who are proprietors of, or are in any other capacity involved in a builder registered.

Trading Name	*Date Registered*	*Date Ceased*	*Reason for Removal*	*No. of Jobs*	*No. of Claims*
	Director—M. J. O'Brien				
Commuter Builders Pty Ltd	11.10.74	n/a	n/a	97	4
	Director—D. Cockram				
D. Cockram	12.8.85	n/a	n/a	Nil	Nil

Trading Name	*Date Registered*	*Date Ceased*	*Reason for Removal*	*No. of Jobs*	*No. of Claims*
	Director—N. J. Bale				
N and J Bale Pty Ltd	6.4.72	n/a	n/a	6	Nil
Blunts Homes	18.12.75	n/a	n/a	713	6 Refer to answer of question No. 721 for detail of claim
	Director—A. Fuller				
Sterling Homes (Vic.) Pty Ltd	11.9.72	n/a	n/a	434	32 Refer to answer of question No. 720 for detail of claim
	Director—M. N. Mitchell				
Spaceline Homes Pty Ltd	11.10.74	n/a	n/a	2008	74

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
Commuter Builders Pty Ltd	2.2.84	Melton	Tiles falling off archways	No	Builder rectified
	25.2.77	Diamond Valley	Roof leaking	No	Rejected—No major defect
	29.3.77	Werribee	Cracking brickwork	No	Builder rectified
	4.12.86	Werribee	Cracking brickwork, tiles and plaster	No	Ongoing claim
Spaceline Homes Pty Ltd	16.3.76	Knox	Chipped bricks, varying mortar colour	No	Builder rectified
	22.4.76	Bulla	Weak brickwork mortar	No	Builder rectified
	22.4.76	Romsey	General maintenance	No	Builder rectified
	18.6.76	Berwick	HWS leak, buckled sliding door	No	Builder rectified
	16.5.77	Bulla	Cracked brickwork	No	Builder rectified
	9.8.77	Bulla	Shower base leak and general maintenance	No	Builder rectified
	20.9.77	Bulla	Brickwork and plaster defects during construction	No	Builder rectified
	19.4.78	Werribee	Foundation movement and brick cracks	No	Builder rectified
	31.5.78	Broad-meadows	Foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	21.12.78	Buln Buln	Minor maintenance works	No	Builder rectified
	21.12.76	Buln Buln	Minor maintenance works	No	Builder rectified
	30.5.79	Nunawading	Foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	4.7.79	Keilor	Plaster cracks to kitchen	No	Builder rectified
	6.9.79	Melton	Foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	18.2.80	Woodend	Maintenance items	No	Builder rectified
	8.4.80	Gisborne	Cracked brickwork	No	Builder rectified
	9.9.80	Romsey	Minor maintenance works	No	Rejected—No major defects
	16.3.81	Romsey	Minor brickwork cracking	No	Builder rectified
	11.5.81	Frankston	Foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	1.12.81	Hastings	Septic tank—builder claimed owner owed money	No	Rejected—Builder taking action

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
Spaceline Homes Pty Ltd	29.1.82	Camberwell	Maintenance works only	No	Rejected—No major defect
	18.3.82	Nunawading	Water leak to kitchen	No	Builder rectified
	18.3.82	Eltham	Incorrect heater position	No	Builder rectified
	18.3.82	Berwick	Minor maintenance works	No	Builder rectified
	25.3.82	Bulla	Floor sag, twisted window frame	No	Builder rectified
	30.3.82	Whittlesea	Cracked brickwork, plumbing leaks	No	Builder rectified
	7.4.82	Keilor	Uneven lounge floor	No	Builder rectified
	26.4.82	Bulla	General maintenance	No	Builder rectified
	29.4.82	Bulla	Uneven floor and general maintenance	No	Builder rectified
	11.5.82	Bulla	General maintenance	No	Builder rectified
	11.6.82	Waverley	Plumbing leaks, cracking, minor foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	21.6.82	Dundas	Foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	22.6.82	Ringwood	General maintenance items	No	Builder rectified
	14.7.82	Croydon	Damaged perlite ceiling	No	Builder rectified
	12.8.82	Traralgon	General maintenance items	No	Builder rectified
	2.9.82	Caulfield	Leaking shower base	No	Builder rectified
	30.9.82	Romsey	Lounge plaster ceiling sag	No	Builder rectified
	13.10.82	Richmond	General maintenance and painting defects	No	Builder rectified
	10.11.82	Bulla	Foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	9.12.82	Bulla	Leaking windows, kitchen cupboard defect	No	Builder rectified
	14.2.83	Kew	General maintenance items only	No	Rejected—No major defect
	14.3.83	Coburg	Cracked front fence	No	Rejected—No major defect
	18.3.83	Glenelg	Cracked brickwork and leaking guttering	No	Builder rectified
	11.4.83	Kyneton	Leaking spouting	No	Rejected—No major defect
	11.4.83	Flinders	Warped fibro panels	No	Builder rectified
	18.4.83	Springvale	Faulty spa bath and vacuum-aid	No	Builder rectified
	27.4.83	Bungaree	Faulty septic system	No	Builder rectified
	27.4.83	Templestowe	Incorrect water meter position	No	Builder rectified
	11.5.83	Pakenham	Roof sag	No	Builder rectified
	26.6.83	Springvale	Leaking shower base	No	Builder rectified
	22.7.83	Whittlesea	General maintenance	No	Builder rectified
	3.8.83	Broad-meadows	Loose roof capping and eaves	No	Builder rectified
	18.8.83	Kilmore	Loose eaves sheets	No	Builder rectified
	22.8.83	Bulla	Site drainage problem	No	Builder rectified
	6.10.83	Springvale	Water leak under front door	No	Builder rectified
	19.3.84	Bulla	Septic problem (alleged)	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship
	27..4.84	Bulla	Foundation movement	No	Builder rectified
	2.5.84	Nunawading	Loose plaster, springing floor	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship
	7.6.84	Keilor	Site drainage	No	Builder rectified
	14.6.84	Waverley	Repainting to window frames	No	Builder rectified
	14.6.84	Sherbrooke	Site drainage, garage door	No	Builder rectified
	16.8.84	Bulla	Top brickwork and general maintenance	No	Builder rectified
	4.9.84	Glenelg	Waste outlets all leaking	No	Rejected—Incorrect notice
	21.9.84	Eltham	Smoking fireplace	No	Builder rectified
	3.10.84	Kilmore	Tiled roof sagging	No	Rejected—No major defect

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
	16.11.84	Camberwell	Water seepage, walls and floor coverings	No	Builder rectified
	6.12.84	Glenelg	Roof batten loose and uneven	No	Builder rectified
	25.2.85	Springvale	Cracked walls	No	Builder rectified
	3.4.85	Berwick	Short steel lintel above garage door	No	Rejected—No major defect
	6.5.85	Mortlake	Foundation movement	No	Ongoing—Builder rectifying
	3.6.85	Kilmore	Squeaky floor, faulty roof tiles	No	Builder rectified
	11.6.85	Frankston	Cracking plaster, damaged fittings, brick cleaning required, water hammer	No	Ongoing
	27.9.85	Essendon	Cracks interior/exterior walls, sliding doors and cupboards out of alignment	No	Builder rectified
	16.10.85	Bulla	Concrete garage floor cracked	No	Ongoing

HOUSE BUILDERS' LIABILITY

(Question No. 724)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In respect of each person nominated for appointment to the board of directors of an approved guarantor but not appointed:

1. Who are proprietors of, or in any other capacity involved in, a builder registered by an approved guarantor pursuant to the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958, indicating—(*a*) the name of the director; (*b*) the name of the registered builder with which he is involved; (*c*) the name of the guarantor with which the builder is registered; and (*d*) the date of first registration and, if applicable, the date of termination or cessation, giving the reason in each case?

2. How many houses have been built by each such builder since the date of registration under the Local Government Act 1958?

3. In respect of claims filed against each builder, what was the claimant's name, indicating—(*a*) the municipality involved; (*b*) the list of defects submitted; (*c*) whether arbitration was involved, and if so, the name of the arbitrator; and (*d*) the outcome of the claim?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

1. and 2. The table attached sets out the details requested.

3. The attached list sets out the details requested. However, in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned, I am not prepared to release the names of the individual claimants. This information is therefore not included.

Only one person has been nominated for appointment and then not appointed who is a director of, or in any way related to, a company registered as a builder under the provisions of the Local Government (House Builders' Liability) Act 1958. That is P. Chiavaroli.

The building companies with which he is related are:

Trading name	*Date registered*	*Date ceased*	*Reason for removal*	*No. of jobs*	*No. of claims*
West Homes Realty Pty Ltd	10.9.74	N/A	N/A	482	46
West Homes (Adelaide) Pty Ltd	21.2.75	N/A	N/A	168	17
West Homes Melbourne Pty Ltd	20.5.76	N/A	N/A	273	11
West Homes Realty (Aust.) Pty Ltd	12.8.85	N/A	N/A	29	Nil

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
West Homes Realty Pty Ltd	8.8.77	Werribee	Foundation movement	No	Paid out $7694
	16.11.77	Sunshine	Verandah concrete problems	No	Owner did not proceed
	8.8.78	Sunshine	Cracked brickwork, plaster and concrete	No	Paid out $2540
	10.10.78	Werribee	Cracked brickwork, tiles and plaster	No	Paid out $2050
	10.10.78	Keilor	Cracked brickwork	No	Builder rectified
	1.2.79	Sunshine	Cracked plaster	No	Rejected—No major defects
	24.10.79	Broad-meadows	Roof, plumbing and paint defects	No	Builder rectified
	5.6.80	Keilor	Poor plastering	No	Builder rectified
	12.6.80	Werribee	Blocked sewerage drain	No	Rejected—Incorrect notification
	24.7.80	Waranga	Loose roof tiles and defective chimney	No	Builder rectified
	24.7.80	Gisborne	Series of defects, e.g. cracked bricks	No	Builder rectified
	20.10.80	Sunshine	Warped doors	No	No major defects
	20.11.80	Diamond	Brick pillars to garage not aligned	No	Paid out $350
	26.11.80	Heidelberg	Roof tiles loose and brick pillar falling	No	Builder rectified
	26.2.81	Keilor	Roof tile mortar loose	No	No major defects
	16.3.81	Kilmore	Smoking fireplace	No	Builder rectified
	13.4.81	Keilor	Front door, brick and plaster defects	No	Rejected—No major defects
	20.4.81	Keilor	Poor paintwork and minor defects	No	Builder rectified
	1.5.81	Melton	Floor creaking	No	Rejected—No major defects
	16.7.81	Sunshine	Foundation movement	No	Rejected—Incorrect notification
	7.9.81	Keilor	Distorted windows and door defects	No	Builder rectified
	7.9.81	Corio	Cracked wall tiles	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship
	20.1.82	Werribee	Defective carport guttering and eaves	No	Builder rectified
	3.2.82	Sunshine	Poor plastering	No	Paid out $2075
	21.4.82	Sunshine	Plaster cracking	No	Builder rectified
	17.8.82	Keilor	Brickwork, plaster cracking and loose tiles	No	Builder rectified
	19.10.82	Altona	Broken floor tiles and leaking windows	No	Builder rectified
	24.1.83	Keilor	Foundation movement, plaster cracking	No	Ongoing—Builder rectifying
	4.12.83	Keilor	Subsidence	No	Rejected—No bad workmanship: owner took responsibility for drainage
	3.3.83	Whittlesea	Wall cracking, loose roof tiles and door problems	No	Builder rectified
	9.3.83	Sunshine	Plaster cracking, doors jamming and foundation movement	No	Paid out $1680
	5.8.83	Sunshine	Shower leak and consequential damage	No	Builder rectified

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
	15.9.83	Keilor	Cracks in concrete	No	Rejected—Incorrect notice: owner aware since Sept. 1982
	30.9.83	Keilor	Cracks to archway	No	Builder rectified
	11.11.83	Keilor	Separation of bricks and concrete to verandah	No	Rejected—No major defects
West Homes Realty Pty Ltd	9.12.83	Keilor	Cracks to archways	No	Rejected—Incorrect notice: Owner aware since June 1983
	17.1.84	Keilor	Foundation movement	No	Board approval—Works in progress
	30.4.84	Werribee	House frame shrinkage	No	Rejected—No major defects
	18.5.84	Keilor	Brickwork separated on verandah	No	Rejected—No major defects
	28.6.84	Keilor	Foundation movement	No	Ongoing—Builder rectifying
	28.11.84	Whittlesea	Brickwork cracking	No	Ongoing
	10.5.85	Altona	Brick wall and ceiling separating	No	Rejected—Incorrect notice: Owner aware since February 1983
	23.5.85	Kilmore	Plaster cracking	No	Rejected—No major defects
	28.5.85	Keilor	Loose wall tiles	No	Ongoing
	25.6.85	Whittlesea	Roof sagging and water entry	No	Rejected—No major defects
	16.10.85	Melton	Plaster archway cracking	No	Rejected—No major defects
	8.11.85	Keilor	Foundation movement	No	Rejected—Incorrect notification: Owner aware since 1983
West Homes (Adelaide) Pty Ltd	27.3.79	Keilor	Loose tiles and windows and plaster cracks	No	Builder rectified
	30.7.79	Bulla	Series of minor defects	No	Rejected—No defects
	16.8.79	Whittlesea	Cracked concrete and other minor defects	No	Rejected—Amount not exceeding minimum claim
	11.4.80	Keilor	Series of minor defects	No	Rejected—No major defects
	3.6.80	Sunshine	Subsidence	No	Paid out $5298
	21.7.80	Gisborne	Tiling defects	No	Builder rectified
	21.2.83	Whittlesea	Brickwork cracking	No	Builder rectified
	18.3.83	Sunshine	Brickwork cracking, window and tile defects	No	Paid out $1720
	15.12.83	Keilor	Brickwork cracking, window frames moving away	No	Paid out $3470
	7.5.84	Werribee	Bent window frames, cracked tiles	No	Rejected—No major defects
	26.10.84	Waverley	Brickwork cracking, doors not closing	No	Builder rectified
	21.11.84	Werribee	Cracked grouting, shower recess not level	No	Ongoing—Builder rectifying
	26.11.84	Melton	Ceiling and wall cracking	No	Ongoing
	29.1.85	Melton	Guttering hung incorrectly, bricks need cleaning	No	Rejected—No defects

Builder Registered Name	*Claim Date*	*Municipality*	*Defects*	*Arbit.*	*Result*
	26.4.85	Keilor	Plaster cracking	No	Builder rectifying
	29.8.85	Keilor	Loose tiling	No	Builder rectifying
	15.11.85	Keilor	Plaster cracking and cracked floor to garage	No	Ongoing
West Homes Melbourne Pty Ltd	24.10.78	Werribee	Subsidence	No	Paid out $2700
	2.5.80	Keilor	Various minor window defects	No	Builder rectified
	28.11.80	Bacchus Marsh	Brickwork cracking	No	Cash settlement between owner and builder
	18.1.82	Sunshine	Cracks in wall, plaster and bricks	No	Builder rectified
	27.1.82	Werribee	Plaster cracking	No	Works carried out for previous owner—Release and authority forms signed
	8.2.82	Sunshine	Subsidence	No	Paid out $2273
	21.3.83	Bulla	Tile and spouting problems	No	Builder rectified
	30.8.83	Keilor	Series of minor defects, e.g. loose tiles, cracked plaster	No	Builder rectified
	19.1.84	Keilor	As above	No	Ongoing
	12.4.85	Sunshine	Fencing and door defects	No	Builder rectified
	6.6.85	Sunshine	Plaster cracks and poor paintwork	No	Builder rectified

HOUSE BUILDERS' LIABILITY

(Question No. 725)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

1. Which persons, who are past or current directors of any approved guarantor, have been involved in any capacity or held any beneficial or other interest in an insurer which has provided insurance required pursuant to the house builders' liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1958 to an approved guarantor, stating the name of the person, the capacity and the beneficial or other interest?

2. What are the names of the directors of approved guarantor companies who have not been or are not builders, and what positions did they hold in the guarantor company, the Housing Industry Association, or the Master Builders Association, prior to their appointment as a director of an approved guarantor body?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

1. No nominee of the Housing Industry Association to the board of the Housing Guarantee Fund Ltd or its predecessor, the Housing Builders Association Ltd, has been involved in any capacity or held any beneficial or other interest in an insurer which has provided insurance to these companies.

In relation to the Master Builders Association of Victoria the answer is:

Name	*Capacity*	*Beneficial or other interest*
Warner Kenneth Bastian	Employed by Associated General Contractors Insurance Co Ltd and subsequently Palmdale Ltd	2000 shares in Palmdale between 1975 and 1977
David Cockram	Director of Associated General Contractors Insurance Co Ltd and Palmdale Ltd	Nil
David Henry Murden	Member of Local Advisory Board of Associated General Contractors Insurance Co Ltd	Nil

Name	*Position*
Senator David Hamer	Director of Guarantor Company
I. T. Sherwen	Director of Guarantor Company
W. Young	Director of Guarantor Company
D. J. Thompson	Director of Guarantor Company and State Councillor and Executive Committeeman—Housing Industry Association
W. K. Bastian	Insurance Adviser
D. H. Murden	Executive Director of Master Builders Association of Victoria

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT CONSULTANTS

(Question No. 729)

Mr COOPER (Mornington) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what are the names of each consultant employed since March 1985, indicating:

1. For what purpose they were employed?
2. What working plan they were given?
3. What was the cost of their services?
4. What was the duration of their contract?
5. Were any additional payments made in excess of the contract price, if so, what were the amounts paid?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

Since March 1985 the only consultants engaged in the Local Government Department have been officers of the Public Service Board.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION CONSULTANTS

(Question No. 731)

Mr COOPER (Mornington) asked the Minister for Ethnic Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what are the names of each consultant employed since March 1985, indicating:

1. For what purpose they were employed?
2. What working plan they were given?
3. What was the cost of their services?
4. What was the duration of their contract?
5. Were any additional payments made in excess of the contract price, if so, what were the amounts paid?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)—The answer is:

The Ethnic Affairs Commission has not employed consultancies since March 1985.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS

(Question No. 732)

Mr COOPER (Mornington) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what are the names of each consultant employed since March 1985, indicating:

1. For what purpose they were employed?
2. What working plan they were given?
3. What was the cost of their services?
4. What was the duration of their contract?
5. Were any additional payments made in excess of the contract price, if so, what were the amounts paid?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

Two consultants have been engaged by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs in the period since March 1985.

The following table provides the answers to items 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the question in respect of each consultancy:

Name of Consultant	(1) Purpose Engaged	(3) Cost	(4) Duration	(5) Excess Costs
Archival Systems	Re-design systems of administration for licensing of occupational groups	$35 000	September 1985 to February 1986 (inclusive)	Nil
PA computers and telecommunications	Development of two computer systems for handling of claims and customer inquiries	$232 700	20 weeks commencing February 1986	No excess payments to date

Item 2.

Each consultant was provided with a detailed project specification and/or terms of reference, details of which can be provided to the honourable member if he so wishes.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT CONSULTANTS

(Question No. 733)

Mr COOPER (Mornington) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what are the names of each consultant employed since March 1985, indicating:

1. For what purpose they were employed?
2. What working plan they were given?
3. What was the cost of their services?
4. What was the duration of their contract?
5. Were any additional payments made in excess of the contract price, if so, what were the amounts paid?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

Due to the diverse and complex nature of the portfolio, the Ministry and authorities from time to time require the services of a large number of consultants to undertake studies, reports and various tasks. The time and resources necessary to compile the information requested cannot be justified. However, should the honourable member wish to provide me with the nature of consultancies he is interested in, I would be pleased to provide the relevant details requested.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 752)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Housing:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

$19 355 was paid in 1984–85 and $25 395 was paid in 1985–86 to the Young Women's Housing Collective.

This was the only payment made to any of the organizations listed during the periods quoted.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 755)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

No funds were provided to any of the groups and organizations listed, in the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 757)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

No funding has emanated from my department for any of the groups in any of the years mentioned.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 758)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

No funding was given to any of these groups in financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 760)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for the Arts:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer is:

The level of funding given to the following two groups for the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 was as follows:

Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament: Payments—1983–84, $500; 1984–85, $500; 1985–86, nil.

Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective: Payments—1983–84, $5000; 1984–85, $7500; 1985–86, $16 000.

The level of funding for all other groups referred to in the question during the abovementioned financial years was nil.

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 761)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Property and Services:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Property and Services)—The answer is:

The Department of Property and Services has not been involved in funding any of the groups referred to in this question during the financial years specified.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, FORESTS AND LANDS GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 763)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Education, for the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within her administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands is:

The only one of these groups to receive funding from my department was Friends of the Earth. The level of funding for each of the financial years was as follows: 1983–84, $2500; 1984–85, $20 500; 1985–86 (to 6 May 1986), nil.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 767)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

None of the groups listed received funding from the Health Department Victoria in the nominated years.

MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 768)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

Nil.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 769)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Treasurer, for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organization FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organization; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs is:

No department, agency or authority within my administration has provided any funding to the groups named in the question for the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 or 1985–86.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 794)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Premier:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

(*a*) Section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983 ("the Act") applies to the following public bodies:

State Electricity Commission of Victoria
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works
Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria
Port of Melbourne Authority
Grain Elevators Board
Metropolitan Transit Authority
State Transport Authority

All of these bodies submitted an annual report for the financial year 1984–85.

(*b*) Not applicable for the reason set out above.

(*c*) An annual report for each of these bodies was tabled in Parliament on the following dates:

State Electricity Commission of Victoria	15 October 1985
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	15 October 1985
Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria	24 October 1985
Port of Melbourne Authority	17 October 1985
Grain Elevators Board*	11 March 1986
Metropolitan Transit Authority	31 October 1985
State Transport Authority	17 October 1985

* In respect of year ended 30 September 1985.

(*d*) No public body which has cash payments from all sources during a financial year not exceeding $1 million has been declared by Order of the Governor in Council to be a public body to which the Act applies.

(*e*) Not applicable—see paragraph (*d*) above.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 795)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 796)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 797)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Labour:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr CRABB (Minister for Labour)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 798)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for the Arts:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 799)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) *a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 800)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Water Resources:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding million?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Water Resources)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 801)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Property and Services:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Property and Services)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 802)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 803)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr SIMMONDS (Minister for Local Government)—The answer is:

The Treasurer has undertaken to answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 804)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 805)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Ethnic Affairs:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 806)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 807)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Public Works:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr WALSH (Minister for Public Works)—The answer is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 808)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing:

In respect of those reports which he is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

I wish to advise the honourable member that the Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 809)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Water Resources, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

In respect of his responsibilities for Aboriginal Affairs, in respect of those reports which the Minister is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Water Resources)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, FORESTS AND LANDS ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 810)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Education, for the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands:

In respect of those reports which the Minister is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will she advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when she reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when she expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report she has advised each House that she has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will she table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

LAW DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF CORRECTIONS ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 811)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for the Arts, for the Attorney-General:

In respect of those reports which the Attorney-General is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 812)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Treasurer, for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

In respect of those reports which the Minister is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—On behalf of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 813)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of those reports which the Minister is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 814)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs, for the Minister for Community Services:

In respect of those reports which the Minister is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will she advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when she reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when she expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report she has advised each House that she has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will she table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Community Services is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

MINISTRY FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REPORTS

(Question No. 815)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

In respect of those reports which the Minister is required to report to the House in accordance with section 9 of the Annual Reporting Act 1983, will he advise—(*a*) which bodies have failed to submit an annual report; (*b*) when he reported this fact to each House of Parliament; (*c*) when he expects to have each report to present to the Parliament; (*d*) which annual report he has advised each House that he has received in accordance with section 9 (3) (*a*); and (*e*) will he table the annual reports of those public bodies with cash payments not exceeding $1 million?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

The Treasurer will answer this question on my behalf.

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—I refer the honourable member to my answer to question No. 794.

LIQUOR CONTROL ACT

(Question No. 817)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

What has been the cost to date of the review of the Liquor Control Act 1968?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

As at 30 June 1986 the total cost of the review of the Liquor Control Act was $560 052. No further costs are anticipated.

CRIME STATISTICS IN CITY OF DONCASTER AND TEMPLESTOWE

(Question No. 818)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

What number of burglaries, thefts, car thefts and armed robberies, respectively, in the City of Doncaster and Templestowe were reported to—(*a*) Heidelberg; and (*b*) Doncaster police during the six month period ended 31 December 1985, indicating how many of these crimes were solved?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

(*a*) CIB Division, Heidelberg; Police Sub-districts, Heidelberg, Heidelberg West; Local Government Area, City of Heidelberg.

Heidelberg	*Reported*	*Cleared*
	(July–December 1985)	
Homicide	0	0
Serious assault	23	18
Robbery	21	9
Rape	10	9
Burglary	828	85
Theft	792	135
Motor vehicle theft	193	28
Fraud, etcetera	123	119
Total	1990	403

(*b*) CIB Division, Doncaster; Police Sub-districts, Doncaster, Warrandyte; Local Government Area, Doncaster, Templestowe (part), Eltham (part).

Doncaster	*Reported*	*Cleared*
	(July–December 1985)	
Homicide	0	0
Serious assault	13	8
Robbery	15	6
Rape	3	1
Burglary	506	28
Theft	688	172
Motor vehicle theft	168	26
Fraud, etcetera	111	107
Total	1504	348

WEST GATE BRIDGE TOLLGATE STAFF

(Question No. 819)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of the removal of the toll on the West Gate Bridge:

1. How many former bridge tollgate staff were retrenched and compensated for loss of employment?

2. How many staff members were relocated to other Public Service positions?

3. What was the total payout of compensation to former bridge staff who were not provided with alternative Government positions?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The Government removed the toll on the West Gate Bridge to facilitate economic development in the western suburbs and to improve motor vehicle access for the western suburbs, Werribee and Geelong. There has been a substantial financial benefit to industry and the public by the removal of the toll.

1. The number of employees who have taken separation payments to date is 58 and a further 21 employees have not yet given a positive indication whether they will take a separation payment or seek redeployment.

2. To date eleven employees have been redeployed to other divisions within the RCA and one employee has been redeployed to another authority within the transport portfolio.

3. The total amount already paid by the RCA is $1 303 956 comprising—

	Paid
	$
Supplementary Pay	487 651
Long Service Leave	213 911
Annual Leave (including loading)	67 134
Service Payment	342 239
Retiring Gratuity	11 751
Tax Advice	495
Superannuation Payment	168 270
Supplementary Superannuation Payment	12 505
	1 303 956

Some items in this list such as long service leave payments and payments for accrued annual leave were entitlements which the officers could have taken at any time and should not be seen as consequences of the decision to lift the toll.

In addition to the RCA's contribution towards superannuation payments, employees who were members of superannuation funds received payments from the particular funds, that is State Superannuation Fund, State Employees Retirement Benefits Fund, Jacques Martin and National Mutual.

GEELONG HOSPITAL

(Question No. 821)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

1. Whether the Minister will advise what action is being taken to increase the number of beds available in the Geelong Hospital for the detoxification of hard drug addicts, indicating how many beds are currently available?

2. Whether the Minister will advise when additional facilities will be made available in the Geelong region for drug addicts who seek hospitalization in an effort to be cured of their addiction?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

1. The Geelong Hospital presently has available four beds in the detoxification unit and the department has not received any requests for expansion. Land has been acquired in Geelong for a community based detoxification unit and progress is being made in the planning of a building.

2. Service providers in Geelong have advised that a community based unit would be more effective than an increase in the number of in-patient beds.

MELBOURNE TO GEELONG TRAIN FARES

(Question No. 831)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of economy and first class return train fares between Melbourne and Geelong, what was the cost of—(*a*) daily; (*b*) weekly; (*c*) quarterly; (*d*) half-yearly; and (*e*) yearly tickets, in each of the years 1980 to 1986, respectively?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

(*a*)	*Daily*	*Economy*	*First Class*
		$	$
	1980 (to 31.12)	5.20	6.60
	1981 (to 3.10)	5.20	6.60
	(to 31.12)	6.40	8.60
	1982 (to 31.12)	6.40	8.60
	1983 (to 15.10)	6.40	8.60
	(to 31.12)	8.00	11.20
	1984 (to 31.12)	8.00	11.20
	1985 (to 9.11)	8.00	11.20
	(to 31.12)	8.60	12.00
	1986 (to present)	8.60	12.00

(*b*)	*Weekly*	*Economy*	*First Class*
		$	$
	1980 (to 31.12)	13.40	17.85
	1981 (to 3.10)	13.40	17.85
	(to 31.12)	16.50	22.10
	1982 (to 31.12)	16.50	22.10
	1983 (to 15.10)	16.50	22.10
	(to 31.12)	21.90	30.70
	1984 (to 31.12)	21.90	30.70
	1985 (to 9.11)	21.90	30.70
	(to 31.12)	23.50	32.90
	1986 (to present)	23.50	32.90
(*c*)	*Quarterly (13 weeks)*	*Economy*	*First Class*
		$	$
	1980 (to 31.12)	122.50	163.30
	1981 (to 3.10)	122.50	163.30
	(to 31.12)	159.90	215.80
	1982 (to 31.12)	159.90	215.80
	1983 (to 15.10)	159.90	215.80
	(to 31.12)	205.40	287.30
	1984 (to 31.12)	205.40	287.30
	1985 (to 9.11)	205.40	287.30
	(to 31.12)	221.00	309.40
	1986 (to present)	221.00	309.40
(*d*)	*Half Yearly (26 weeks)*	*Economy*	*First Class*
		$	$
	1980 (to 31.12)	245.00	326.60
	1981 (to 3.10)	245.00	326.60
	(to 31.12)	319.00	431.60
	1982 (to 31.12)	319.80	431.60
	1983 (to 15.10)	319.80	431.60
	(to 31.12)	410.80	574.60
	1984 (to 31.12)	410.80	574.60
	1985 (to 9.11)	410.80	574.60
	(to 31.12)	442.00	618.80
	1986 (to present)	442.00	618.80
(*e*)	*Yearly (52 weeks)*	*Economy*	*First Class*
		$	$
	1980 (to 31.12)	465.60	626.60
	1981 (to 3.10)	465.60	626.60
	(to 31.12)	639.60	863.20
	1982 (to 31.12)	639.60	863.20
	1983 (to 15.10)	639.60	863.20
	(to 31.12)	821.60	1149.20
	1984 (to 31.12)	821.60	1149.20
	1985 (to 9.11)	821.60	1149.20
	(to 31.12)	884.00	1237.60
	1986 (to present)	884.00	1237.60

Whilst the average increase in V/Line fares in recent years has been in keeping with consumer price index movements, it is worth noting that there have been significant improvements in the standard and frequency of the services between Geelong and Melbourne.

Since 1981, old wooden-bodied rolling stock has been progressively withdrawn and replaced by modern air-conditioned carriages. The Geelong line was one of the first to receive the benefit of new rolling stock for commuter traffic.

In addition, from Sunday, 10 November 1985, the portion of the inter-urban rail service between South Geelong and Lara was incorporated into the Geelong Transit System (GTS).

The current fare for this service is a time-based flat fare of 80 cents adult and 40 cents concession.

The GTS ticket issues—whether issued for rail or bus travel—provide for unlimited travel on both bus and rail for a minimum period of two hours and a maximum of three hours.

Over and above the concessions granted to specific groups of people, V/Line also offers its substantially reduced super saver fares to those who can make their journeys within specified times.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT BORROWINGS

(Question No. 832)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each of the financial years 1981-82 to 1984-85 inclusive—(*a*) what amount of money was borrowed; and (*b*) what interest charges were paid, by each of the following authorities or their successors—State Transport Authority; Road Traffic Authority; Road Construction Authority; Metropolitan Transit Authority; Port of Melbourne Authority; Port of Geelong Authority; Port of Portland Authority; and Grain Elevators Board?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

(*a*) The amount of money borrowed between 1981-82 and 1984-85 is detailed in Appendix 1. This information has also been provided to the honourable member in question No. 838.

(*b*) The amount of interest paid on loans during the period can be obtained from the annual accounts of the relevant authorities.

APPENDIX 1

In response to the honourable member's question, a summary of the total amounts transacted by each authority has been provided for the period 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1985.

Authority		*Amount*
		$M
MTA		
—	Loans	490·5
—	Leases	181·1
		671·6
STA		
—	Loans	231·1
—	Leases	282·2
—	Promissory Notes	17·1
		530·4
RTA		
—	Loans	7·7
—	Promissory Notes	2·5
		10·2
RCA		
—	Loans	111·0
—	Leases	2·0
—	Promissory Notes	13·4
		126·4
PPA		
—	Loans	6·2
GEB		
—	Loans	44·9
PMA		
—	Loans	108·8
—	Leases	9·0
—	Promissory Notes	2·5
		120·3
Ministry of Transport (Ports and Harbors)		
—	Loans	3·4

MOUNT BUFFALO CHALET

(Question No. 836)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

With respect to the Mount Buffalo Chalet for each of the financial years 1981–82, 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85—(*a*) what was the total income; (*b*) what was the total wages paid; (*c*) what was the total of other costs; and (*d*) what was the total loss or profit?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85
(*a*)	2 405 000	2 529 000	2 679 000	2 659 000
(*b*)	1 620 000	1 547 000	1 589 000	1 659 000
(*c*)	1 052 000	1 328 000	1 472 000	1 377 000
(*d*) PROFIT (LOSS)	(267 000)	(346 000)	(382 000)	(377 000)

Stable occupancy rates coupled with marginal increases in accommodation tariffs has resulted in only a small increase in revenue over the four-year period.

Costs have increased over the four-year period as a result of initiating a maintenance and improvement program to bring the chalet and its facilities up to standard.

The responsibility for the management and operation of the Mount Buffalo Chalet was taken over by the Victorian Tourism Commission during 1985–86.

STATE TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

(Question No. 837)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

For each of the financial years 1981–82, 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85:

1. What was the total value of items carried by the State Transport Authority or its successor bodies, which were—(*a*) damaged; and (*b*) lost or stolen?

2. How many prosecutions were launched as a result of stolen property being recovered or any employees charged indicating the convictions recorded and the sentences handed down?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

1. The total amounts paid out by the State Transport Authority were:

1981–82	(*a*) $500 836	(*b*) $345 732
1982–83	(*a*) $367 331	(*b*) $264 495
1983–84	(*a*) $307 103	(*b*) $271 750
1984–85	(*a*) $541 224	(*b*) $340 377

2. Prosecutions launched as a result of stolen property being recovered were as follows:

1981–82	Not available
1982–83	11 instances
1983–84	5 instances
1984–85	15 instances

The convictions recorded were for theft and, in a few instances, for receiving stolen property. The sentences handed down included good behaviour bonds, probation, fines and orders to contribute varying sums of money to the court poor box. In several cases, the defendant was ordered to pay costs or compensation.

VICTORIA TRANSPORT BORROWING AGENCY

(Question No. 838)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

For each of the financial years 1981–82, 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, what was the amount of money borrowed by the Victoria Transport Borrowing Agency or its successor bodies, indicating—(*a*) what were the terms of loans; (*b*) what was the interest rate applicable; (*c*) from whom the money was borrowed; (*d*) what costs were incurred in procuring each loan; and (*e*) what charges are applicable to loans other than the annual interest rate?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The amount borrowed between 1981–82 and 1984–85 has been provided to the honourable member in question No. 832.

The VTBA commenced operations on 1 July 1983 and therefore no funds were borrowed by the agency prior to that date.

(*a*) The full details of each offer to provide finance which was made to each body during this period cannot be made available due to the commercial sensitivity of the information. The VTBA, as a centralized borrowing agency for transport, continually received offers of finance from the market, both local and overseas on a day-to-day basis and these offers were evaluated in conjunction with the Department of Management and Budget and accepted or rejected on the basis of their merits subject to the overall guidelines established by Loan Council.

(*b*) The amount of interest paid on loans during the period can be obtained from the annual accounts of the relevant authorities.

(*c*) Details regarding each individual or organization approached to provide finance cannot be disclosed as this information would jeopardize the commercial position of the Government and the companies with which it has dealings.

(*d*) and (*e*) The costs incurred by the VTBA in processing each loan and charges applicable to loans raised are available from the annual reports of the VTBA.

APPENDIX 1

In response to the honourable member's question, a summary of the total amounts transacted by each authority has been provided for the period 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1985.

Authority		*Amount* *$M*
MTA		
—	Loans	490·5
—	Leases	181·1
		671·6
STA		
—	Loans	231·1
—	Leases	282·2
—	Promissory Notes	17·1
		530·4
RTA		
—	Loans	7·7
—	Promissory Notes	2·5
		10·2
RCA		
—	Loans	111·0
—	Leases	2·0
—	Promissory Notes	13·4
		126·4
PPA		
—	Loans	6·2

Authority		*Amount $M*
GEB		
—	Loans	44·9
PMA		
—	Loans	108·8
—	Leases	9·0
—	Promissory Notes	2·5
		120·3
Ministry of Transport (Ports and Harbors)		
—	Loans	3·4

GRAIN HANDLING FACILITIES

(Question No. 842)

Mr AUSTIN (Ripon) asked the Minister for Transport:

Whether the Government has plans for upgrading grain handling facilities in the grain corridor of the Bendigo region; if so—(*a*) what improvements are proposed; (*b*) when is the proposed upgrade to be completed; and (*c*) what is the estimated cost of the upgrade?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

In preparing this response, it has been assumed that the "grain corridor of the Bendigo Region" in general, approximates the Grain Elevator Board's' "Central Region" (see attachment).

The major works are:

The establishment of a new central receival point (CRP) at Charlton. This will involve:

(*a*) Construction of new storage and receival facilities. The facility will comprise an Ascom jumbo unit consisting of 2 × 8000 tonne steel cells and 2 × 70 tonne weighbridges.

(*b*) Elevation and outloading facilities with a capacity of 500 t/hr.

(*c*) Ancillary road works and so on.

This will be a totally new unit, located on a "green fields" site adjacent to the city and serviced by a new rail siding to be constructed by the State Transport Authority.

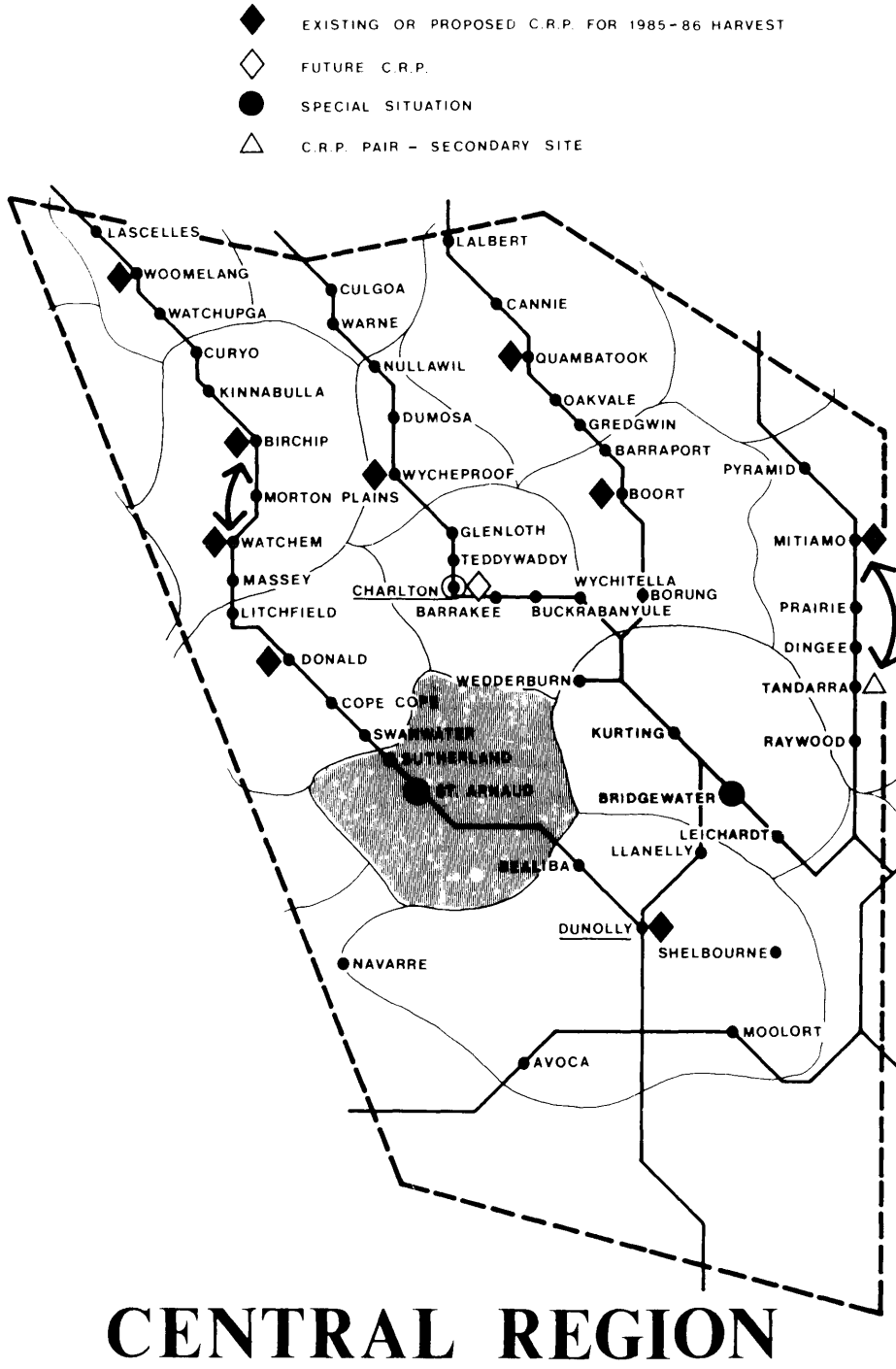
Other capital works scheduled for the region for completion in 1986 are:

	$	
Birchip	238 000	Roadworks/bunkers
Boort	10 000	Siding improvement
Bridgewater	50 000	Bunker works
Cape Cod	21 000	Hopper enlargement/amenities block
Donald	210 000	Sub-terminal upgrade
Lalbert	45 000	Site works/hopper enlargement
Mitiamo	230 000	Roadworks/bunkers
Quambatook	190 000	Elevator upgrade/site works/ bunkers
St Arnaud	30 000	Roadworks
Shelbourne	35 000	Electrical upgrade
Sutherland	16 000	Hopper enlargement/minor structural
Tandarra	220 000	Elevator upgrade/bunkers
Watchem	264 000	Roadworks/minor structural
Watchupga	33 000	Site works/drainage
Wycheproof	105 000	Outloading upgrade/bunkers

All these projects are scheduled for completion in 1986.

Further capital expenditure beyond 1986 is still being examined and will be somewhat dependent on the availability of capital funds generated from handling charges. This in turn is related to crop size and anticipated industry performance.

APPENDIX 1



CENTRAL REGION

LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTRE

(Question No. 847)

Mr TANNER (Caulfield) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In view of the abolition of the Victoria Police Force's Special Branch and in the light of Libyan Government representatives' admissions that the so-called Libyan Cultural Centre located in South Melbourne has not operated for three years:

1. Whether he is aware of what the centre is used for?

2. Whether he is aware that Commonwealth Government authorities have forced the withdrawal from Melbourne of the centre's director, Libyan diplomat, El Shokri?

3. Whether, in view of the fact that Libyans associated with the centre have indicated that they want to move the operations of the centre to Melbourne University, the Government is prepared to assist the Commonwealth Government in barring such a move?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

The Libyan Cultural Centre operates from premises situated at 461 Sydney Road, Brunswick. The first floor of the premises is shared with the pro-Libyan organization, Main Peoples Congress. Both groups have occupied the premises for the past six months.

1. The cultural centre purportedly operates as a cultural exchange facility for Libyan nationals living in Melbourne and for others sympathetic to Libyan policies and attitudes. As such, it gives support to Arab pro-Libyan groups, namely, the Syrian Socialist National Party and the Syrian Bath.

2. It is understood that the past director of the centre, Mansour Shoukry (El Shokri) is the subject of investigations by the Immigration Department. His whereabouts are not known and he is considered "persona non grata" at this time. The investigation is proceeding discreetly due to the nature of his post.

3. Inquiries indicate that no approach has been made to the Melbourne University regarding the establishment of a Libyan cultural centre office on campus and it is thought unlikely that the student council would favourably receive such a request.

VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(Question No. 852)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Victorian International Year of Peace Consultative Committee:

1. Who are the members?

2. What are the terms and conditions of appointment of—(*a*) the chairman; and (*b*) the members of the committee?

3. How many applications were received from members of the public for appointment to the committee?

4. What guidelines and criteria were used in deciding the composition of the committee?

5. Whether the chairman and members of the committee were selected by him; if not, were they appointed on the recommendation of a departmental officer or committee; if so—(i) what was the composition of the committee or who was the responsible officer; (ii) what was the committee's or officer's terms of reference; (iii) what were the recommendations of the officer or committee; (iv) whether he did not accept the recommendation(s) of the committee, either in whole or in part and, in the event that he did not, what were the recommendations rejected by him, and why?

6. Whether any further appointments are to be made to the committee?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. The members of the Victorian International Year of Peace Consultative committee are:

Chairperson— Prof. Max Charlesworth, Professor of Philosophy, School of Humanities, Deakin University.

Members—Hon. Gordon Bryant, Chairman Northern Metropolitan Regional Board of TAFE. Former Cabinet Minister in Whitlam Government; Rev. Wesley Campbell, Executive Secretary, Division of Social Justice, Uniting Church of Australia; Mr. Peter Christoff, a member of the People for Nuclear Disarmament Council; Mr Paul Di-Masi, secondary teacher, Coburg High School, member of Victorian Secondary Teachers Association

Peace and Disarmament Sub-committee; Ms Chris Johnston, National Co-ordinator, Australian Nuclear Free Zones Secretariat; Mr Stanley Johnston, President, United Nations Association Vic. Branch, Reader, Department of Criminology University of Melbourne; Ms Caty Kyne, Council of Adult Education; Mr Phillip Lamb, Director of Public Relations, Australian Red Cross Society (also Executive Officer of a Red Cross Committee concerned with international humanitarian law); Mr Laurie Lewis, Senior Curriculum Officer, Social Education, Ministry of Education; Mr Brian Loughnane, member and former branch secretary of Liberal Party. Subscriber, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace; Ms Wendy Lowenstein, Co-ordinator, Arts Action for Peace. Writer and publisher; Dr Greg Lyons, Assistant Director, Justice Branch, Department of Premier and Cabinet; Mr Frank Ness, Senior Foreign Affairs Representative, Regional Director (Vic.), Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr Max O'Halloran, member Victorian Branch, Returned Services League, State Executive; Dr. Belinda Probert, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Monash University; Dr Tilman Ruff, a member of the Medical Association for the Prevention of War; Ms Sarah Stephen, Ministry for Planning and Environment. 2. Members of the committee, including the chairman, have been appointed for the duration of 1986.

The committee was appointed to provide advice on IYP activities, to co-ordinate IYP activities, and make recommendations for funding projects from funds made available by both the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. The committee reports to the Minister for Education.

3. Thirty-eight applications were received from the general public.

4. Criteria used in selection of persons to become members of the committee were—

(*a*) representation from key Government departments, for example, Ministry of Education, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Industry, Technology and Resources;

(*b*) representation from the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs;

(*c*) persons nominated by groups and organizations with an interest in peace issues;

(*d*) a balance of male and female members.

5. Committee members were selected from the list of applications by the Minister in consultation with the Commonwealth Minister for Foreign Affairs. The chairman was appointed by the Minister.

6. No further appointments are intended at this stage.

(Question No. 853)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Victorian International Year of Peace Consultative Committee:

1. What are the terms of reference of the committee, and what powers of decision making does the committee hold?

2. Can he or any departmental officer overturn decisions of the committee?

3. What is the committee's relationship to the National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament?

4. What is the budget of the committee from both State and Federal sources?

5. What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee relating to—(*a*) applications for State Government grants for International Year of Peace activities; and (*b*) applications for Federal Government grants for International Year of Peace activities.

6. What criteria is the committee to use in deciding State and Federal grants for International Year of Peace activities?

7. Whether International Year of Peace activities announced prior to the appointment of the committee, such as the Youth Peace Conference announced in the Premier's News Release on 30 August 1985, are within the terms of reference of the committee, and is the funding of such activities to come from the committee's budget?

8. Whether the committee can decide not to proceed with International Year of Peace activities announced before the appointment of the committee?

9. What audit procedures have been established to monitor the use of funds by—(*a*) the International Year of Peace Consultative Committee; (*b*) the International Year of Peace Secretariat; and (*c*) organizations and individuals granted public funding for community activities as part of the International Year of Peace?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. The Victorian International Year of Peace Consultative Committee reports to the Minister for Education. The committee was appointed to provide advice on IYP activities, to co-ordinate IYP activities, and make recommendations for funding projects from funds made available by both the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. The committee has no executive function.

2. The committee is advisory to the Minister, who may accept or reject the advice given. All committee decisions are referred to the Minister for approval or otherwise.

3. The committee has no relationship with the National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament.

4. The State Budget allocation for 1985–86 and 1986–87 is $450 000. The Commonwealth allocation for Victorian projects is expected to be $150 000.

5. (*a*) The committee receives applications and makes recommendations to the Victorian Minister for Education for grants to Victorian community groups and organizations.

(*b*) The committee assists the Commonwealth Secretariat for International Year of Peace in making recommendations to the Commonwealth Minister for Foreign Affairs for grants to Victorian community groups and organizations.

6. The criteria are similar for State and Commonwealth grants, and are contained in the guidelines and application forms available from the Victorian and Commonwealth secretariats for the International Year of Peace.

7. The committee has accepted that the International Year of Peace program would include—(*a*) a youth peace conference; (*b*) the implementation of key recommendations of the Peace Education Task Force; and (*c*) grants to community groups and organizations, as foreshadowed in the Premier's News Release on 30 August 1985. These activities are funded from the State financial allocation.

8. The committee has accepted the activities described in (7) above as part of its charter.

9. (*a*) Members of the IYP Consultative Committee do not receive any payment for their services.

(*b*) Funds for the IYP Secretariat are held in a Ministry of Education account and are subject to the same conditions for expenditure as any other account.

(*c*) Accountability provisions are built into the conditions for the acceptance of every grant made.

VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE SECRETARIAT

(Question No. 854)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Victorian International Year of Peace secretariat:

1. What are the names of the public servants employed by the secretariat, indicating whether they are—(*a*) full-time; (*b*) part-time; (*c*) seconded employees, respectively?

2. What background experience is possessed by those public servants that qualifies them for appointment to the secretariat?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. (*a*) Dr Ray Maddocks (Co-ordinator, IYP Secretariat) Combines IYP duties with his other responsibilities as Ministry for Education's Executive Consultant.

(*b*) Mr Peter Sinnott (Executive Officer) On full-time secondment to secretariat from Department of Premier and Cabinet.

(*c*) Ms Effie D'Abreo (Senior Stenographer), also engaged on other duties.

2. These public servants have extensive experience within the public sector in administrative positions.

(Question No. 855)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Victorian International Year of Peace Secretariat:

1. What are the names of the project officers?

2. What are the terms and conditions of employment for project officers?

3. How many applications were received for appointment to the positions of project officer?

4. Who established and what was the criteria and guidelines used in selecting the project officers?

5. Who was responsible for the selection and appointment of the successful applicants to the position of project officer?

6. Whether the successful applicants for the positions of project officer listed any referees; if so, who were they?

7. What are the qualifications and experience of the project officers that qualified them for appointment?

8. Whether any project officer currently occupies other positions of paid employment; if so, what is the other employment?

9. What is the secretariat's budget for the current financial year?

10. What relationship does the secretariat have to the Federal International Year of Peace Secretariat?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. Ms Leanne Corbett
Mr Glenn Foard.

2. These two project officers were appointed to one position as advertised. Their term of appointment as exempt employees of the Public Service is to December 31, 1986.

3. Twenty-one applications including the successful jobshare application made by Ms Leanne Corbett and Mr Glenn Foard.

4. Criteria used in selecting the project officers were determined by the selection committee and included—

(*a*) organizing experience;

(*b*) capacity to work in a team situation; and

(*c*) interest in issues related to peace.

5. The selection committee consisted of Dr Ray Maddocks, Dr Greg Lyons and Ms Sarah Stephen. Appointment was made by the consultative committee.

6. Yes. The names of referees cannot be supplied as it is information which is personal to the applicant and the referee (or referees) concerned, and any release without the express permission of the parties involved would be a breach of confidence.

7. Each of the project officers holds the tertiary qualification of bachelor of social work. In addition each has extensive experience in working and liaising with community groups.

8. No.

9. $90 000 has been made available from the total allocation.

10. There is no relationship other than co-operation in assessing and making recommendations on Commonwealth grants to community groups and organizations, and in giving publicity to IYP events.

PEACE EDUCATION TASK FORCE

(Question No. 856)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Peace Education Task Force of the curriculum program section of the Education Department:

1. What are the terms of reference of the Peace Education Task Force?

2. What are the names of the members of the task force?

3. What is the task force budget for the current financial year?

4. Whether the implementation of the recommendations of the task force's report is among the terms of reference of the International Year of Peace Consultative Committee?

5. Whether he will advise why implementation of peace studies into Victorian education is to be a matter for the International Year of Peace Consultative Committee, rather than a decision of the Cabinet, the Minister or the normal curriculum development processes of the department?

6. Whether the Victorian International Year of Peace Consultative Committee is able to reject recommendations of the task force?

7. What is the Government's policy on the introduction of peace studies into Victorian education curriculum?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. The terms of reference of the Peace Education Task Force are:

(*a*) to establish what interest exists in the development of curriculum concerning peace education in Victorian primary and post-primary schools;

(*b*) to investigate existing local, interstate and overseas curriculum theory and practice as it relates to peace education;

(*c*) to identify what resources and/or curriculum guidelines need to be developed;

(*d*) to define ways in which these peace related issues may be integrated into existing curriculum;

(*e*) to suggest ways in which schools and teachers wishing to address these issues in their curriculum may be best supported.

2. The names of 1986 members of the Peace Education Task Force are:
Di Bretherton
Terry Deague
Tony Delaney (Curriculum Programs Officer)
Janet Hase (Convenor)
Christine Heffernan
Petra Krjutschkow
George Lees
Rod Marsh
Martin Peake
Susan Smith
John Tait

3. The Peace Education Task Force has no specific budget. Administrative costs are absorbed within the Curriculum Branch budget. It has a staffing allocation equivalent to 1·1 teachers.

4. No.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Peace Education Task Force is a Ministerial responsibility and not a matter for the IYP Consultative Committee.

6. The Victorian International Year of Peace Consultative Committee is advisory to the Minister for Education, and has no executive function.

7. The Government believes that peace education is a legitimate area of study for Victorian schools as demonstrated by a specific reference in Ministerial Paper No. 6, Curriculum Development and Planning in Victoria. How it is to be developed is a matter for individual school councils subject to broad Government guidelines that stress the need for balance and objectivity in handling sensitive curriculum areas.

PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL

(Question No. 857)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

1. Whether the Government has established policies on peace, disarmament and arms control; if so, what are those policies?

2. How does the Government policies on peace, disarmament and arms control differ from those of the Commonwealth Government?

3. Whether consideration will be given by the Victorian International Year of Peace Consultative Committee to applications for funding for International Year of Peace projects which are in conflict with—(*a*) the Commonwealth Government's policies on peace, disarmament and arms control; and (*b*) the Victorian Government's policies on peace, disarmament and arms control?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. As foreign affairs is a matter for the Commonwealth Government, the Victorian Government has no specific policies on the issues raised. However, the Victorian Government supports initiatives of the Commonwealth Government aimed at achieving peace.

2. In view of the answer to 1 above, the question of a difference in policies does not arise.

3. In considering applications for funding, the Victorian IYP Consultative Committee adheres to the Commonwealth guidelines for grants. The guidelines preclude the granting of funds for projects which are in conflict with Commonwealth Government policies on peace, disarmament and arms control.

INTEGRATION POLICY OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN PORT REGION

(Question No. 858)

Mr WEIDEMAN (Frankston South) asked the Minister for Education:

In respect of schools within the Western Port region:

1. How many children have learning difficulties and have been supported by integration aids in each of the years 1984, 1985 and 1986?

2. How many schools support the integration policy?

3. How many schools have children as students who have learning difficulties or are handicapped?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. The term "learning difficulties" does not refer to a specific syndrome or diagnostic category. It is a term which is used loosely and which means different things to different people.

Integration aides are provided for children with a range of different disabilities, for example physical, sensorial, emotional and cognitive disabilities. Not all children who are supported by integration aides have "learning difficulties" nor are all children with "learning difficulties" supported or in need of support by integration aides.

The allocation of integration aides in the Western Port region has been as follows:

1984 No integration aides were allotted.

1985 68 students; 35 aides (23·4 EFT)

1986 127 students; 67 aides (40·8 EFT)

2. All State schools are obliged to support the integration policy since it is a State policy.

Very many schools provide for disabled students in a manner which shows strong commitment to the integration policy; some of these students are supported by integration aides, others are not. Some schools indicate that resources are inadequate to meet needs, as perceived by the school, when individual potential enrolments are proposed. No school has stated opposition to the integration policy.

3. Attention is drawn again to the inadequacy and range of meanings that can be attributed to the term "learning difficulties". While most children learn readily in all or most areas of the curriculum, it would be unrealistic to suggest or state that any Victorian State school did not have students who had "learning difficulties". Indeed, a wide range of learning rates and individual differences exist in most classes.

In short, all schools have children as students who have "learning difficulties". All schools have children as students who are handicapped in some way.

There are 187 State schools in the Western Port region.

LAKE CONDAH ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

(Question No. 860)

Mr CROZIER (Portland) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Whether the Lake Condah Aboriginal Co-operative has been under investigation by officers of the Portland Criminal Investigation Branch since May 1985; if so—(*a*) what is the progress of this investigation; (*b*) have charges been laid as a result of these inquiries; and (*c*) what is the alleged deficiency in the funds of the co-operative?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

The Lake Condah Aboriginal Co-operative is under investigation by the Portland Criminal Investigation Branch, inquiries having commenced in May 1985. Difficulties are being encountered in locating and interviewing some of the members of the co-operative.

No charges have been laid at the present time and until inquiries are completed it will not be possible to determine whether a criminal offence is involved. Similarly, it will not be possible to determine any alleged deficiency of funds until the investigation is complete.

TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD

(Question No. 862)

Mr REYNOLDS (Gisborne) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of the Totalizator Agency Board's 25th anniversary celebrations:

1. What are the respective functions, publications, dinners, sponsorships and other celebrations, including dates and venues, that have been held or are proposed to be held to celebrate the anniversary, indicating—(*a*) what is the estimated cost of each; (*b*) what is the total estimated expenditure for these celebrations; and (*c*) how many people have attended each of the functions already held?

2. What is the amount of funds allocated and under what item of expenditure in the 1985–86 Totalizator Agency Board's budget is the 25th anniversary celebrations listed?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

I am advised by the General Manager of the TAB that:

1. The following functions, publications, dinners, sponsorships and other celebrations have been held or are proposed to be held for guests drawn from the racing industry, business, Government, media and TAB staff to celebrate the TAB's 25th anniversary:

Event	*Approximate Numbers Attending*
Breakfast Blue Diamond Stakes—Caulfield	(100)
Open Day at TAB	(8000)
Harness Racing A. G. Hunter Cup Night	(100)
TAB Marquee Flemington	(180)
Australian Cup Meeting	(80)
Anniversary Dinner—ANZ Pavilion	(200)
Greyhound Meeting	(20)
Special Tabloid Edition	
TAB Racehorse Performance Laboratory	
Jogorun	(2000)
MVRC Silver Anniversary Handicap	(3000)
VATC (Sandown) TAB 25th Anniversary Handicap	(3500)

(*a*) It is not possible to give the estimated cost of each of the above because in certain cases costs have not been finalized or the TAB has give undertakings to third parties not to disclose or publicize information related to the cost.

(*b*) Approximately $285 500.

(*c*) The approximate number of people attending the various functions is shown in brackets beside the events listed.

2. $350 000 was allocated in the 1985–86 Budget and included in the advertising and promotional budget.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATES

(Question No. 863)

Mr GAVIN (Coburg) asked the Minister for Ethnic Affairs:

1. How many Australian Citizenship Certificates were conferred in each metropolitan municipality in 1985?

2. What was the total number conferred in the State during 1985?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)—The answer is:

1. The number of Australian Citizenship Certificates conferred in each metropolitan municipality in 1985 is as follows:

Altona	400
Box Hill	212
Brighton	132

Broadmeadows	944
Brunswick	568
Camberwell	235
Caulfield	508
Chelsea	151
Coburg	470
Collingwood	237
Croydon	244
Dandenong	786
Diamond Valley	149
Doncaster/Templestowe	598
Essendon	241
Fitzroy	306
Footscray	940
Hawthorn	166
Heidelberg	269
Keilor	718
Kew	123
Knox	456
Lilydale	340
Malvern	182
Melbourne	700
Moorabbin	695
Mordialloc	88
Northcote	375
Nunawading	463
Oakleigh	719
Port Melbourne	106
Prahran	597
Preston	655
Richmond	796
Ringwood	212
Sandringham	83
Sherbrook	119
South Melbourne	152
Springvale	1572
St Kilda	672
Sunshine	1111
Waverley	790
Whittlesea	990
Williamstown	111
TOTAL	20 381

2. The total number of Australian Citizenship Certificates conferred in the State of Victoria in 1985 was 32 505.

Source: Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

MIGRANT INTAKE IN VICTORIA

(Question No. 864)

Mr GAVIN (Coburg) asked the Minister for Ethnic Affairs:

What was the migrant intake in Victoria during 1985 indicating the countries of origin concerned?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)—The answer is:

The date for the full calendar year 1985 relating to migrant intake for Victoria and with country of origin is not yet available from the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

The information will be forwarded to the honourable member as soon as it is available.

CRIME STATISTICS

(Question No. 865)

Mr GAVIN (Coburg) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

What was the number and nature of crimes reported to the Broadmeadows and Coburg criminal investigation branches during 1985?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

C.I.B DIVISION	OFFENCE	1985
BROADMEADOWS (This CIB Division includes the sub-districts of Broadmeadows, Fawkner, Glenroy and Westmeadows)	Homicide	1
	Serious assault	62
	Robbery	26
	Rape	8
	Burglary	1904
	Theft	2240
	Theft of a motor vehicle	674
	Fraud, false pretences, forgery etcetera	175
	TOTAL	5090
COBURG (This CIB Division includes the sub-districts of Coburg and Pascoe Vale)	Homicide	1
	Serious assault	53
	Robbery	32
	Rape	13
	Burglary	1257
	Theft	1104
	Theft of a motor vehicle	404
	Fraud, false pretences, forgery etcetera	225
	TOTAL	3089

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA STAFF

(Question No. 873)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In respect of each department, authority or agency within the Minister's administration for the period 2 February to 1 March 1986:

1. What was the authorized staff establishment?

2. What was the number of persons actually employed?

3. What was the number of persons absent from duty throughout the whole of the period on account of injury or illness, indicating—(*a*) what was the number of such persons claiming to be suffering repetitive strain injury or a similar condition; (*b*) what was the number of persons restricted to performing light duties throughout the whole of the period; (*c*) what was the number of temporary personnel on hire from staff agencies or other contractors, indicating the total number of manhours involved and the total cost, respectively; (*d*) what was the total number of manhours of such hire; and (*e*) what was the total cost of such hire?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

The Minister for Health is responsible for a large number of agencies in addition to the Department, such as public hospitals and community health centres. The following information relates only to the Health Department.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT VICTORIA

1.	Authorized Staff Establishment	9198
2.	The answer to this part of the question will be provided by the Premier in his reply to question No. 872	
3.	Number of persons absent from duty during February 1986	455
3. (*a*)	Number of persons suffering Repetitive Strain Injury	18
3. (*b*)	Number on light duties with RSI	12
3. (*c*)	Temporary personnel on hire from staff agencies or contractors	Nil
3. (*d*)	Not applicable	
3. (*e*)	Not applicable	

Notes:

1. Number of persons absent from duty during February is an estimate based on the number of staff on various forms of leave at 31.1.86.

2. Number of persons suffering RSI is based on reported cases to the Occupational Health and Safety Unit of the Health Department.

3. Information relating to public hospitals and community health centres is not held by the Health Department. To obtain this information would entail a large manual exercise by several officers and the time and resources involved in this cannot be justified.

EDUCATION COURSES FOR TEACHERS

(Question No. 890)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Education:

What action, if any, is being taken by the Education Department to implement Victorian Teachers Union policies seeking—(*a*) approval for the introduction in Victoria of four-year pre-service Bachelor of Education (Primary) courses for commencing and some continuing students in 1987; and (*b*) approval for the phasing-in period in Victoria for four-year Bachelor of Education (Primary) courses to conclude with all students completing the third year of a Bachelor of Education (Primary) course in 1989 proceeding immediately to the fourth year in 1990?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

The Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission has been requested to give consideration to the proposal of the Primary Teachers Registration Board that for the purposes of "full" registration persons who commence a pre-service generalist course of primary or early childhood teacher education on or after 1 January 1987 shall be required to undertake an approved four-year course.

I understand that this policy has the support of the Victorian Teachers Union. It also has the support of the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission. However, approval of such a development rests with the Commonwealth Government on the advice of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission.

The Chairman of the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission has had preliminary discussions with the Chairman of the Primary Teachers Registration Board and will have discussions with representatives of the Victorian Teachers Union shortly.

ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES

(Question No. 892)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

Whether the Minister will liaise with the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands and the Shire of Barrabool to plan for the location of electrical power transmission lines underground in coastal holiday resort areas; if so, will the Minister give an undertaking to investigate such a proposal with a view to its early implementation?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The current practice of overhead construction of such power lines is the most appropriate on economic grounds and in view of the high costs of undergrounding and its effects on electricity prices, it is not intended, as a general principle to treat coastal holiday resort areas any differently or more advantageously than other areas of the State.

Where underground power lines are desired for other than valid technical reasons, the State Electricity Commission adopts the "user pays" principle, whereby the person or body requesting the use of the underground construction and obtaining the resultant benefits is required to meet the additional costs involved. This is essential to achieve an equitable treatment for all electricity customers across the State or otherwise they would be, in effect, subsidizing the cost of undergrounding for the benefit of a minority group or area.

This "user pays" policy option is frequently taken up by land developers who choose to bear the additional costs in the development phase of new subdivisions and in turn recoup these costs from the ultimate purchasers.

In the case of private power lines which are used to provide supply to an individual property, the State Electricity Commission (Clearance of Lines) Act 1983 empowers the commission to require such lines to be placed underground in rural areas, provided that on-site conditions are not such as to unreasonably increase the costs. The costs of undergrounding low voltage lines compare favourably with those of overhead construction; however, a similar comparison does not exist for high voltage power lines and these would normally be constructed overhead unless technical requirements dictate otherwise.

An avenue, however, for the provision of underground electrical power transmission does exist through a committee known as "Relocation or Undergrounding of Power Lines Committee".

This committee is a body established to oversee the distribution of an amount of up to $1 million per annum, provided by the State Electricity Commission to subsidize the cost of relocation or undergrounding of overhead power lines in areas of particular aesthetic or historical significance, or environmental sensitivity. The subsidy is provided on a basis of up to $2 commission funding for every $1 of sponsor funding. Applications for funding of specific projects must be made by the persons or organizations sponsoring the project.

A successful example of such a project is the main street of Bright, where the particular aesthetic significance of the area has long been recognized. I will ensure that the Shire of Barrabool is made aware of the availability of the scheme.

LATROBE TERRACE BRIDGE PROJECT

(Question No. 893)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport:

With regard to funding for the new Latrobe Terrace Bridge project in Geelong, what contribution towards the funding of this multimillion dollar project will be made by—(*a*) the State Government; (*b*) the Federal Government; and (*c*) any other source?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The future funding currently proposed for the Latrobe Terrace Bridge project in Geelong is:

(*a*) State Government—$5·6 million

(*b*) Federal Government—$11·8 million

(*c*) Any other source—Nil.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

(Question No. 895)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Treasurer:

In relation to consultancy and other services provided to the State of Victoria and its agencies by Mr Ross Hepburn, Clurfield Pty Ltd and any associated person, corporation, or firm, what amounts have been paid and what expenditure has been authorized since 3 April 1982, indicating in respect of each amount—(*a*) the person to whom any such payment would be due; (*b*) the authorizing person or body; (*c*) the agency for which such services were to be provided; (*d*) the nature of the services involved; and (*e*) the project, program and so on to which such services relate?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

Information regarding consultancy and other services provided to the State of Victoria by Mr Ross Hepburn and Clurfield Pty Ltd was requested and made available to the honourable member under freedom of information legislation.

LAND TAX

(Question No. 896)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of each of the cities of Brighton, Moorabbin and Sandringham, how many properties were assessed for land tax in each of the years ended 31 December 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax assessed in each year for each of the cities?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

(Question No. 897)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Treasurer:

In relation to properties within the City of Brighton for the year ended 31 December 1985, how many properties had land tax assessments which fell within the ranges—(*a*) $0–$49; (*b*) $50–$199; (*c*) $200–$299; (*d*) $300–$399; (*e*) $400–$499; (*f*) $500–$599; and (*g*) $600 and above, respectively, indicating the total amount of land tax assessed within each range?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

(Question No. 900)

Mr E. R. SMITH (Glen Waverley) asked the Treasurer:

How many properties in the City of Waverley were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1981 to 1984, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

HEINZ LANE RAILWAY CROSSING

(Question No. 901)

Mr A. T. EVANS (Ballarat North) asked the Minister for Transport:

When V/Line will be proceeding with the installation of warning lights on the notoriously dangerous Heinz Lane crossing in Ballarat North?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

Preliminary work has begun to provide flashing light signals at the Heinz Lane level crossing, Ballarat North, and the installation is expeced to be completed by the end of August 1986.

LAND TAX

(Question No. 902)

Mr LEIGH (Malvern) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of each of the cities of Oakleigh, Malvern and St Kilda, how many properties were assessed for land tax in each of the years ended 31 December 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year for each of the cities?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Question No. 904)

Mr DELZOPPO (Narracan) asked the Minister for Property and Services:

1. When will the Government implement its policy of charging market rents for employee housing administered by the Government Employee Housing Authority?

2. When will the Government extend the application of this policy to all employee housing in the public sector?

Mr McCUTCHEON (Minister for Property and Services)—The answer is:

The Government has recently confirmed its market rental strategy for all Government departments which have employee housing stock. An implementation date of 6 July 1986 has been set for the payment of 80 per cent of market rent, and full market rent will apply from 1 January 1987.

The move to market rent is consistent with the Government's policy of more effective property management and means that rents will cover the cost of providing housing, including proper standards of maintenance and upgrading where appropriate. The low rental income resulting from heavily subsidized accommodation has generated insufficient funds for an adequate maintenance program. The market rent strategy will make the provision of Government housing and its maintenance cost effective.

An additional factor in the market rent strategy is the decision by the Federal Government to impose a tax of 46 cents in the dollar on the employer, for every dollar by which employee housing is subsidized, in relation to market rent.

The Government recognizes that some housing is required to be occupied and suitable arrangements will be negotiated by the departments responsible. However, because of the Federal Government's tax on any subsidized rents, the Victorian Government must either charge market rents or pay the Federal tax. The decision to move to market rents in stages was made in recognition of the various circumstances currently prevailing, and allows for the phasing in of new rents, but as the tax will apply from July 1, the additional cost of Government housing must be met.

The decision to move to market rent applies to all Government employee housing stock. It is anticipated that no one group of Government employees will be affected at the expense of any other.

LAND TAX

(Question No. 905)

Mr REYNOLDS (Gisborne) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of each of the shires of Bacchus Marsh, Bulla, Gisborne, Kyneton, Newham and Woodend, Metcalfe, and Romsey, how many properties were assessed for land tax for the years 1981 to 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

VICTORIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Question No. 907)

Mr HAYWARD (Prahran) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. Who are the current directors of the Victorian Economic Development Corporation and on what date was each appointed?

2. Whether there is presently a vacancy on the corporation's board of directors; if so, when does he plan to fill this vacancy?

3. What are the main criteria that he uses in choosing a director for the corporation?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

1. The current members of the corporation and their dates of appointment are as follows:

M. Currie	6 October 1982
D. Efron	6 October 1982

P. Reid	6 October 1982
K. Stone	1 September 1984
J. Walker	22 March 1983
D. Monro	22 March 1983
C. Fay	11 October 1983
D. Dunstan	12 July 1983
E. Noxon	11 October 1983

2. The Victorian Economic Development Corporation Act, section 6 (1), provides that the corporation shall consist of not more than ten part-time members. There are presently nine members and the appointment of another member is currently under consideration.

3. Section 6 (1) of the Victorian Economic Development Corporation Act provides that the corporation shall be representative of Victorian rural and urban interests and shall consist of persons with experience in industry, trade or commerce.

LAND TAX

(Question No. 908)

Mr HAYWARD (Prahran) asked the Treasurer:

How many properties in the City of Prahran were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1982 to 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year?

Mr JOLLY (Treasury)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

(Question No. 909)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of the City of South Barwon and the Shire of Barrabool, how many properties were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1982 to 1985, respectivley, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year for each municipality?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

KANGAROO PRODUCTS

(Question No. 910)

Mr WEIDEMAN (Frankston South) asked the Minister for Education, for the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands:

1. What measures are taken on a regular basis to check the legality of kangaroo products being processed in Victoria?

2. How are permits issued for each individual kangaroo imported into Victoria for commercial processing, indicating how many such permits have been issued since 1975?

3. How is the mandatory CONCOM tagging procedure for carcasses and skins applied and enforced in Victoria?

4. How many breaches of the Wildlife Act 1975 in regard to kangaroo imports for commercial processing have been detected in this State, indicating the number of prosecutions instigated and convictions recorded?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands is:

Prior to June 1980 regular checks were made of all premises which were licensed to process kangaroo products. There were no important breaches of licence conditions and the need for stronger law enforcement in other areas led to these regular inspections being discontinued.

Any premises which are processing kangaroo products or which are suspected of processing them may be entered by officers without notice and proof required that any kangaroo products found there were legally obtained from interstate.

Checks of this kind are infrequent because several kinds of evidence suggest that the presence of processing works in Victoria does not influence the conservation of kangaroos in this State. The work of continually monitoring supplies of kangaroo meat from other States cannot be given high priority.

Permits are not issued in Victoria in respect of each individual kangaroo imported into this State. Licences are issued to companies operating at defined locations to be in possession of wildlife products. Currently there are ten licensed processors of kangaroo products operating in Victoria. Two of these handle meat for pet food, while the other eight handle skins.

The CONCOM tagging procedure applies in any State in which animals of the family *Macropodidae* are subject to culling and subsequent commercial utilization. Since kangaroos killed in Victoria are not allowed to be used for commerce, this State does not require culled kangaroos to be tagged.

The way in which legal prosecutions have been recorded in the past does not make it possible to extract information relating to one kind of offence other than by a complete search and I am not able to tell the honourable members how many prosecutions have been launched in respect of kangaroo processing. However, I can advise the honourable members that none of the current holders of a wildlife processors licence has been convicted of an offence.

LAND TAX

(Question No. 911)

Mr JOHN (Bendigo East) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of the Borough of Eaglehawk, the cities of Bendigo and Castlemaine, and the shires of Strathfieldsaye, Huntly, East Loddon, McIvor and Marong, how many properties were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1981 to 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year for each municipality?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

(Question No. 912)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of the Borough of Queenscliffe, the cities of Geelong, Newtown, and Geelong West, and the shires of Bellarine and Corio, how many properties were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1982 to 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each for each municipality?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING WAITING LIST

(Question No. 915)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Minister for Housing:

How many residents of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe have applied for housing from the Ministry of Housing and were on the waiting list as at 31 March 1986?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

Current applications from residents of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe total 186.

BOATING PROJECTS

(Question No. 916)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In relation to the $600 000 allocated for boating projects in Victoria for the 1985-86 financial year, which individual projects received funding, indicating the amount allocated for each project?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

The Victorian Tourism Commission handles the funding for motor boating facilities in Victoria. Therefore, this question will be answered by the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources.

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

An amount of $650 000 was allocated for boating projects in Victoria in the 1985-86 financial year. An amount of $649 890 was allocated to individual projects as follows:

	Location/Summary of Works	*Amount*
		$
Shire of Bass	Corinella Boat ramp	14 000
Shire of Ararat	Greenhill Lake Reserve Boating facilities	48 000
Rural Water Commission	Provision of marker buoys and signs for water zoning purposes	33 290
City of Frankston	Olivers Hill—additional funds for improvements to car/trailer parking area	20 000
Shire of Orbost	Cape Conran West—extensions to boat ramp	40 000
Shire of Alberton	Port Albert—Stage 2 of boat launching facilities and car/trailer parking works	56 000
Port of Geelong Authority	Yarra Street Pier—repairs to floating breakwater	7 211
Shire of Cranbourne	Tooradin—provision of light at boat ramp	4 600
Shire of Goulburn	Buckley Park, Nagambie—sealing of boat ramp access road	11 200
Shire of Cobram	Kennedy Reserve—Thompson's Road sealing of access road to boat ramp	11 600
Shire of Otway	Apollo Bay—repairs to boat ramp	8 000
Ports and Harbours	Provision of zoning signs, beacons and marker buoys	12 600
Shire of Seymour	New Crossing Place River Reserve—construction of boat ramp	4 320
City of Warrnambool	Hopkins River—provision of boat zoning signs	3 200
Shire of Ararat	Lake Bolac—provision of boat zoning signs	2 880
Shire of Flinders	Rye Boat Ramp—dredging of gutway channel	40 000
Shire of Warrnambool	Lake Cartcarrong, Winslow—erosion control works adjacent to boat ramp	3 680
Shire of Portland	Fitzroy River, Tyrendarra—replacement of jetty and extension of boat ramp	4 080
Shire of Bairnsdale	Nicholson River Reserve—Stage 1 construction and sealing of access road to boat ramp and car/trailer parking area	22 960
City of Mildura	Apex Park—construction of boat ramp with car/trailer parking facilities	19 440
Shire of Bass	Corinella—construction of walkway along length of boat ramp	36 000
Shire of Yarrawonga	Bundalong Junction—provision of coin, electric barbeques adjacent to boat ramp	5 600
Shire of Tambo	North Arm, Lakes Entrance—completion of boat ramp and removal of cofferdam	12 800
City of Swan Hill	Riverside Park—final seal of car/trailer parking area (additional funds)	8 067
Borough of Queenscliffe	J. L. Jordan Reserve—provision of walkway along boat ramp	6 400
Shire of Cranbourne	Tooradin Foreshore—construction of landing jetty at boat ramp	25 600
Shire of Bairnsdale	Nicholson River Reserve—Stage 2 completion of facilities in conjunction with access road and car/trailer parking area	10 800
City of Sandringham	Half Moon Bay—construction of launching jetty	34 800
Rural Water Commission	Lake Eildon, Bonnie Doon and Jamieson—construction of boat ramps and associated facilities	34 400
Rural Water Commission	Lake Hume, Kennedy Point—provision of zoning points and poles	4 500
Rural City of Wodonga	Lake Hume, Ludlow and Edben Reserves—erosion control works, road construction and picnic facilities	30 577

	Location/Summary of Works	*Amount*
		$
City of Mordialloc	Chute Street Boat Ramp—construction of second land jetty	10 800
Shire of Tallangatta	Effects study of construction of weir at Tallangatta	10 000
Shire of Tambo	Harry Clues Memorial Park—work associated with car/trailer park	1 233
City of Mordialloc	Chute Street Boat Ramp—additional funds for construction of second landing jetty	3 600
Shire of Werribee	South Werribee—additional funds for construction of catwalk	7 086
City of Altona	Cresser Reserve, Seaholme—construction of second land jetty	36 000
Rural Water Commission	Additional funds for purchase of marker buoys and signs for water zoning purposes	1 666
Port of Geelong Authority	Provision of twenty boat ramp safety signs	2 500
Total		649 890

LAND TAX

(Question No. 917)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of the cities of Box Hill, Camberwell, Essendon, Moorabbin, Nunawading, Ringwood and Werribee, how many properties were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1981 to 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

PEACE STUDIES

(Question No. 918)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Minister for Education:

1. What curriculum development processes for courses in peace studies currently exist in—(*a*) the Government school system; (*b*) the independent school system; (*c*) the Catholic school system; and (*d*) the Council of Adult Education and colleges of advanced education?

2. What methods exist within—(*a*) the independent school system; (*b*) the Catholic school system; and (*c*) the Council of Adult Education and colleges of advanced education to ensure the form of peace studies being taught provides an objective and responsible analysis of peace issues?

3. Has any agency of the—(*a*) independent school system; (*b*) Catholic school system; (*c*) Council of Adult Education; or (*d*) any college of advanced education, received funding from the Government to assist in developing a peace studies curriculum or to implement a course of peace studies, if so, which organizations have received such funding, and how much was received by each organization?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. There are no specific curriculum development processes existing for peace studies courses.

Any school wishing to introduce aspects of peace education into its curriculum is able to do so, within Government guidelines.

School councils are responsible for the nature of their education programs and would need to ensure that these programs are within broad Government guidelines relating to all curricula. General advice applicable to any curriculum development is available from the Curriculum Branch of the Ministry.

A discussion document on peace studies has been prepared and distributed to all schools.

2. Broad Government guidelines require that sensitive curriculum areas are dealt with in a balanced and objective way. Individual school councils and employing bodies have the responsibility to ensure that this is done. Boards of studies or course accreditation committees would be responsible for monitoring the quality of courses in tertiary institutions.

3. No. However, the Council of Adult Education recently received $3800 to conduct a two-day workshop and seminar series on peace issues.

PEACE STUDIES CURRICULUM

(Question No. 919)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Minister for Education:

1. Whether his "Letter to the Editor" published in the *Age* on Saturday, 25 January 1986 represented the Government's current policy toward peace studies in Victorian schools?

2. Whether prescribed courses of study on peace exist within the Victorian education system?

3. Whether school councils currently have the right to determine school policies on curriculum?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. The letter signed by the Minister for Education which in fact appeared in the *Age* on Monday, 27 January 1986 was a reflection of current Government policy on peace education.

2. No prescribed courses of study on peace exist within the Victorian education system.

3. Within the Victorian State education system school councils have the right to determine school policies on curriculum within broad guidelines laid down by the Government.

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS

(Question No. 921)

Mr WEIDEMAN (Frankston South) asked the Minister for Education:

1. Whether the Ministry of Education has taken any action to ensure that known or suspected paedophiles do not come into class-room contact with children, indicating the type of action taken?

2. Will he take immediate steps to facilitate the inclusion of protective behaviours in school curricula by mid—1986?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. (*a*) In all cases of allegations of child molestation, the teacher is removed from the school situation and placed in a location where contact with children is not required.

(*b*) Allegations are investigated in accordance with agreed procedures by means of an inquiry. The inquiry report is the basis for further appropriate action.

(*c*) Allegations that have resulted in police investigations are not proceeded with until these investigations, and any subsequent court action, are finalized.

(*d*) Teachers remain in the non-school situation until the outcome of either (*b*) or (*c*) above is known.

(*e*) The file on any teacher dismissed as a result of disciplinary action is marked to ensure re-employment is not possible without due consideration.

2. In 1984, a Crime Prevention Education Consultancy Group was set up under the auspices of the Victoria Police. The group comprises professionals who work in the area of child maltreatment and other interested people. One of its major aims has been to establish a community based anti-victim training program in Victoria.

Anti-victim training programs teach skills aimed at assisting in the prevention of physical or psychological abuse and violence. The Crime Prevention Education Consultancy Group has selected "Protective Behaviours" as the most appropriate for development within the community.

"Protective Behaviours" is a commercial program which was created by Ms Peg Flandean West, a Wisconsin social worker. It has been trialled in Victoria at Oakleigh South Primary School.

It is one of several anti-victim training programs, teaching children techniques for coping with a wide range of situations, including domestic violence and abuse, through a non-sensational approach.

Guidelines for consideration of this issue are currently being developed and schools will be advised of such guidelines at the earliest possible time.

The decision to introduce the program will be a matter for individual schools and school councils. Should schools initiate the program they will be asked to consider at least the following:

- Child abuse is a sensitive issue in the community. Any anti-victim training program requires thoughtful planning.
- A requirement of the "Protective Behaviours" program is that teachers should have undergone training prior to its introduction.
- Anti-victim training is most appropriately placed within a broader context such as in comprehensive health education, pastoral care or welfare programs.

LAND TAX

(Question No. 922)

Mr TANNER (Caulfield) asked the Treasurer:

How many properties were assessed for land tax in the City of Caulfield in each of the years ended 31 December 1980 to 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

(Question No. 923)

Mr COOPER (Mornington) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of each of the shires of Mornington and Hastings, how many properties were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1981 to 1984, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year for each of the shires?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested in not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

NURSING HOMES

(Question No. 924)

Mr HOCKLEY (Bentleigh) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

Whether the Health Department Victoria has compiled a list of sub-standard nursing homes based on complaints of unsatisfactory practices; if so—(*a*) how many nursing homes are involved; and (*b*) what are the names and addresses of the homes?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

The Health Department Victoria has not compiled a list of sub-standard nursing homes. The department responds to complaints about individual nursing homes and visits each of the 375 private hospitals and nursing homes in Victoria at least annually. Only about 10 per cent of these require follow-up investigations of non-compliance with the regulations.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT FEMALE EMPLOYEES

(Question No. 926)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each department, authority or agency within his administration, how many females were employed at 31 January 1986 within the following categories—(*a*) permanent; (*b*) non-permanent; (*c*) temporary; (*d*) casual; or (*e*) on contract, indicating the number of persons restricted to performing light duties due to claims of repetitive strain injury for each category?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

	Authority	*MOT*	*RTA*	*RCA*	*STA*	*MTA*	*GEB*	*P&H*	*Marine Board*	*PPA*	*PMA*	*PGA*
(*a*)	Permanent	41	688	477	221	723	53	7	3	5	107	8
	Number of Females on light duties to RSI	5	15	16	17	6	1	—	—	—	1	—

	Authority	*MOT*	*RTA*	*RCA*	*STA*	*MTA*	*GEB*	*P&H*	*Marine Board*	*PPA*	*PMA*	*PGA*
(*b*)	Non Permanent	—	2	14	608	259	—	—	—	—	—	—
	RSI light duties	—	—	—	29	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
(*c*)	Temporary	13	—	18	38	33	—	7	2	—	11	—
	RSI light duties	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(*d*)	Casual	1	93	7	96	31	142	—	—	1	8	—
	RSI light duties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(*e*)	On Contract	1	18	—	44	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	RSI light duties	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

LIQUOR CONTROL ACT

(Question No. 928)

Mr TANNER (Caulfield) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

What was the cost of the review of the Liquor Control Act 1968, indicating—(*a*) the initial anticipated cost of the review; and (*b*) the anticipated and final costs of the various categories of expenditure?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

(*a*) the initial anticipated cost of the review was $680 000;

(*b*) the costs as at 30 June 1986 were as follows:

	$
Salaries	314 802
Pay-roll tax	16 655
Expenses	81 407
Consultants	147 188
	560 052

No further costs are anticipated.

(Question No. 930)

Mr TANNER (Caulfield) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. What were the remuneration and expenses paid to Dr Nieuwenhuysen for the review of the Liquor Control Act 1968, detailing the form and categories of payment?

2. Whether Dr Nieuwenhuysen is to receive any remuneration and/or expenses subsequent to the presentation of his report to the Government?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

1. Payments made to Dr Nieuwenhuysen are as follows:

	$
Fees	30 000
Expenses	1 200

This covers the period 12 October 1984 to 31 January 1986.

In addition, the University of Melbourne was reimbursed Dr Nieuwenhuysen's salary during the period of the review.

2. No payments have been made to Dr Nieuwenhuysen for any services and/or expenses subsequent to the presentation of his report.

DRUG SQUAD

(Question No. 931)

Mr COLEMAN (Syndal) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In relation to the undertaking to lift the strength of the Drug Squad to 191 members:

1. What is the current strength of the squad and what rank does each officer hold?
2. Will additional members be recruited or are they to be transferred from other positions in the Police Force?
3. What is the anticipated increase in strength in each of the next three years?
4. Whether any of the new positions are being funded through the "Drug Offensive"?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

1. The current strength at the Drug Squad and rank structures are as follows:

Superintendent	1
Chief Inspector	1
Inspector	4
Senior Sergeant	4
Sergeant	13
Senior Constable/Constable	33
	56

Also included in work concerning drugs are:

(*a*) BCI (Surveillance—Drugs)

Senior Sergeant	1
Sergeant	4
Senior Constable/Constable	16
	21

(*b*) BCI (Analyst—Drugs) 1

(*c*) Four positions which are currently vacant.

2. Additional recruiting to the Drug Squad will be provided by members transferring from other positions in the force.

3. Anticipated increases in strength according to the force projections are:

1986-87—Drug Squad		37
	BCI (Surveillance—Drugs)	16
	BCI (Analyst—Drugs)	1
	Total	54
1987-88—Drug Squad		37
	BCI (Surveillance—Drugs)	16
	BCI (Analyst—Drugs)	1
	Total	54

1988-89—Nil

4. Increases in strength will be funded by proposed budgetary increases and no funding will be provided through the "Drug Offensive".

CURRICULUM RESOURCE CENTRES

(Question No. 933)

Mr HANN (Rodney) asked the Minister for Education:

1. How many curriculum resource centres dedicated to a single subject of study exist within the Ministry of Education?

2. What is the current policy of the Curriculum Branch Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Education towards the establishment of further single subject curriculum resource centres within the Ministry?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. Following a report on the rationalization of education library resources prepared by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr L. Dale (1982), the Ministry of Education has moved to incorporate a number of single subject resource centres which previously existed, in the one comprehensive resource collection.

There are still a small number of specific purpose resource centres which exist within the Ministry of Education as the outcome of Government initiatives in particular areas of education. They are:

Victorian Music Library
Equal Opportunity Resource Centre
Computer Education Centre
Ethnic Education Resource Centre
PEP Exchange

Within the Ministry of Education (Schools Division) Library there are a number of subjects of study identified. These are seen as an integral part of the collection and are located physically within the library at the Rialto building.

The only separate resource collection relating to a subject commonly taught in schools is the Victorian Music Library currently located at Camberwell High School. The other collections listed above do not relate to school subjects, but to issues or themes which cut across subject boundaries.

The resources of the Ministry of Education library are available to schools and the wider educational community through the network of education support centres located in regions. Some of the education support centres hold specialist collections of material related to single subjects of study, but these are seen as an integral part of these centres' resources.

2. The Curriculum Branch Advisory Committee has resolved to support the approach adopted by the Ministry of Education in respect of resource centres, for example, that resource collections in specific areas of learning should be incorporated as a subset of a comprehensive educational resource collection which would be made available to schools and the wider educational community through the network of educational support centres.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

(Question No. 934)

Mr HANN (Rodney) asked the Premier:

Why responsibility for the International Year of Peace activities in Victoria has been placed with the Minister for Education?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

Victoria's support for the International Year of Peace involves three elements: staging a youth peace conference; implementing key recommendations of the Peace Education Task Force; and providing grants to community groups and organizations.

The quest for peace is of great concern to young people, and Victoria's support for IYP involves implementation of the key recommendations of a task force of the Victorian Ministry of Education. It was therefore considered appropriate for the Minister for Education to assume responsibility for Victoria's IYP activities.

YOUTH PEACE CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

(Question No. 935)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

In relation to the position of Youth Peace Conference Organizer with the Victorian International Year of Peace Secretariat:

1. Whether the position was advertised in newspapers on or about 22 February 1986; if so, in what newspapers, magazines or other media outlets did the advertisements appear?
2. Whether the position was advertised in the Victorian Public Service notices; if so, when; if not, why not?
3. How many applications for appointment to the position were received?
4. What guidelines and criteria were established for selecting the conference organizer?
5. Who established the guidelines and criteria?

6. Whether a conference organizer has been appointed; if so—(*a*) who appointed the conference organizer, and who was involved in selecting the conference organizer; (*b*) what is the person's name; (*c*) what are the person's qualifications for appointment; (*d*) what previous positions with the Victorian Government, community groups, or other employers has the appointee held; (*e*) what commitment to youth and peace issues was the appointee able to demonstrate; (*f*) for what period was the conference organizer appointed; (*g*) whether the period of appointment of the conference organizer can be extended; if so, by whom and under what conditions; (*h*) what are the other terms and conditions of employment of the conference organizer; and (*i*) to whom the conference organizer will be responsible?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. The position was advertised in both the *Sun* and the *Age* on 22 and 26 February 1986.

2. The Victorian consultative committee decided that advertisement for the position should be external to the Public Service, due to the need for urgency in making an appointment.

3. Thirty-two applications were received.

4. Selection criteria for the conference organizer were:

demonstrated organizational, administrative and financial skills;

demonstrated commitment to youth and peace issues;

ability to work effectively without close supervision;

ability to liaise effectively with non-Government and Government agencies;

sound oral and written communication skills;

tertiary qualifications preferred.

5. The selection criteria were established by a sub-committee of the Victorian IYP Consultative Committee charged with selecting a conference organizer, in consultation with the IYP Secretariat.

6. A conference organizer has been appointed:

(*a*) The consultative committee, on the advice of the Selection Committee consisting of three members of the consultative committee and one member of the IYP Secretariat.

(*b*) Ms Lynette Thorstensen.

(*c*) The conference organizer holds the tertiary qualification of Bachelor of Arts. She has worked, primarily with young people, in Government and in a community arts centre, co-ordinating arts activities and youth projects.

(*d*) In 1984 she worked as personal assistant to the Cultural Attache, Embassy of France, Wellington, New Zealand.

1984–85—Coordinator of 'Another Planet Posters', Community Access Screenprinting Project Incorporated. Also a committee member of St Kilda Youth Festival in 1985.

(*e*) Long-time association with broadly based peace movements in both Australia and New Zealand. Work experience with young people as described.

(*f*) Six months, with a possibility of a further two months.

(*g*) The consultative committee may extend the period of appointment if considered necessary.

(*h*) The conference organizer is paid $25 988 per annum pro rata for six months. Other terms and conditions are in accordance with her employment as an exempt employee.

(*i*) The conference organizer is responsible to the consultative committee on all policy matters and to the Co-ordinator of the Secretariat for all operational matters.

PROPOSED YOUTH PEACE CONFERENCE

(Question No. 936)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Victorian Consultative Committee for the International Year of Peace:

1. Whether the committee has a term of reference to organize a youth peace conference in 1986; if so, what are the specific details of such term of reference?

2. Whether the committee has an option not to proceed with a youth peace conference; if not, why?

3. What funding has the Victorian Government made available to the committee to assist in staging a youth peace conference?

4. What funding has been made available to the committee from sources other than the Victorian Government to assist in running the youth peace conference?

5. What is the current anticipated total cost of staging the youth peace conference?

6. What guidelines has the Government given to the committee to ensure any youth peace conference which may be held is broadly representative of Victorian youth, and a balanced contribution to the International Year of Peace?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

1. One function of the committee is to advise the Minister for Education on IYP activities. An IYP Secretariat assists the committee and carries out necessary administrative tasks, for example, in organizing the proposed youth peace conference.

2. The committee has accepted, as part of its charter, the organization and conduct of a youth peace conference.

3. Funding of the conference is from the over-all IYP allocation of $450 000 provided by the Victorian Government.

4. None.

5. A notional allocation of $90 000 has been made.

6. The Government has not given the committee any guidelines.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN V/LINE

(Question No. 937)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of the period 1950 to date:

1. What major disruptions have occurred to the rail system, indicating, in each case—(*a*) the date of the disruption; (*b*) the duration; and (*c*) the trade union(s) involved?

2. How many times has the rail system, or a significant section of it, closed for a period of one day or longer because of industrial action, indicating, in each case—(*a*) the date of the closure; (*b*) the duration; and (*c*) the trade union(s) involved?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The Ministry of Transport is not in a position to provide academic research facilities at this time. All resources are currently occupied in updating and developing a positive transport system after years of neglect by the Liberal Government.

Should Mr Brown have a question about a specific dispute, I would be happy to supply details.

TAXI FARES FOR RAIL COMMUTERS

(Question No. 940)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each of the years 1982 to 1985 and for 1986 to date, how much money has been spent by the Ministry on the payment of taxi fares for rail commuters who use the Geelong–Melbourne and Geelong–Ballarat routes, respectively, and who were unable to catch a connecting bus or other transport due to train delays?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

Prior to 1 July 1985, the records of taxi expenditure showed only the total amount spent on taxis. The system employed did not provide a summary of the reasons for each trip.

With the advent of regionalization, it is now possible to provide this information beginning with the 1985–86 financial year.

An amount of $618.40 has been spent so far this year in the payment of taxi fares for rail commuters on the Geelong–Melbourne line and $404.60 for those on the Geelong–Ballarat line. These commuters were unable to catch a connecting bus or other transport due to train delays or cancellations.

LAND TAX

(Question No. 941)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Treasurer:

In respect of the cities of Croydon, Doncaster and Templestowe, Mordialloc and Ballarat, the shires of Lilydale, Sherbrooke, Diamond Valley, Eltham, Healesville, Yea, Pyalong, Kilmore, Seymour, Broadford, Alexandra, Whittlesea, Corio, Bungaree, Daylesford and Glenlyon, Ballan, Buninyong, Bannockburn, Grenville, Leigh, Maldon, Newstead, Tullaroop, Korong, and Bet Bet, and the Borough of Sebastopol, how many properties were assessed for land tax for the years ended 31 December 1981 to 1985, respectively, indicating the amount of land tax collected in each year for each municipality?

Mr JOLLY (Treasurer)—The answer is:

The information requested is not currently available in the form requested and it would take substantial computer resources to collate. If the information does become available I will provide it to the honourable member.

METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD

(Question No. 943)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

What are the boundaries of the area serviced by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board within the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, indicating—(*a*) when the boundaries were last reviewed; and (*b*) when the next review is intended?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

1. The boundary of the area serviced by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and which is part of the City of Doncaster and Templestowe is—

from the intersection of the Yarra River and Fitzsimons Lane;

southerly by that lane to Porter Street;

easterly by that street to Church Road;

southerly by that road to Serpells Road;

generally easterly by the road to Tuckers Road;

southerly by that road to King Street;

easterly by that street to Blackburn Road;

southerly by that road to Anderson Creek Road;

north-easterly by that road to Landscape Drive;

easterly by that drive to Taurus Road, right and southerly by that road to Canopus Drive;

easterly by that drive to Polaris Drive;

south-westerly by that drive to Telopea Avenue;

southerly by that avenue to Bellevue Avenue;

north-easterly by that avenue to Hunt Street;

southerly by that street to Woodhouse Road;

easterly by that road to Old Warrandyte Road;

north-easterly by that road to Springvale Road;

southerly by that road to Mitcham Road;

south-easterly by that road to the municipal boundary;

generally westerly by that boundary to the Yarra River;

generally north easterly by that river to Fitzsimons Lane; and

commencing at the intersection of Ringwood–Warrandyte Road and Milne Road; thence westerly by Milne Road and a line to the intersection of Drayton Crescent and Park Road; thence generally northerly and north-easterly by that road to Aviemore Avenue—now Granard Avenue; thence northerly by that avenue to a point in line with the rear of allotments fronting the north side of Arundel Avenue; thence easterly by that line to Berringa Road, thence southerly by that road to Milne Road, thence easterly to the point of commencement.

2. The boundaries of the metropolitan fire district are constantly under review. The last specific review of this area was during 1985.

3. The boundaries in this area are intended to be specifically reviewed again during 1986–87. These reviews are conducted in consultation with the Country Fire Authority.

POLICE PURSUIT OF SUSPECTED STOLEN VEHICLES

(Question No. 945)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of each of the years 1982 to 1985 inclusive:

1. How many incidents of police chasing stolen cars at speeds exceeding the legal speed limit occurred, indicating in each case—(*a*) the names of the drivers involved; (*b*) whether any arrests were made and charges laid; if so, what convictions resulted; and (*c*) whether the police vehicle and/or the stolen car was involved in an accident during the chase; if so—(i) how many people were killed; (ii) how many people were injured; (iii) what was the damage to property; and (iv) what was the cost of damage to property?

2. What is the policy of the Victoria Police regarding pursuit at high speed of suspected stolen vehicles?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

1. Particulars of police vehicular pursuits are not readily available to the extent requested in the question. Details provided in Attachment A relate to incidents, for the period 1982–1985, where a police vehicle was involved in an accident in the course of pursuing a stolen vehicle. The names of persons involved in these accidents have not been disclosed as this would be an unreasonable infringement on the privacy of those concerned. Details of the cost of damage to property, other than police vehicles, is not available.

2. The Victoria Police Force's policy relating to high speed pursuits of suspected stolen vehicles is set out in the Victoria Police Manual, paragraphs 41.156 and 41.157. An extract of these paragraphs is included as Attachment B.

ATTACHMENT "A"

POLICE INVOLVED IN PURSUITS OF STOLEN VEHICLES AT SPEEDS EXCEEDING SPEED LIMITS

Year	*Police Accident No.*	*No.*	*Convictions Resulting Details # denotes imprisonment*	*Damage to Police Vehicles*
				$
1982	46	5	Fraudulent use plates $40 Fail to obey oral instructions $80 Manner dangerous #5 months Drive whilst disqualified #3 months Assault with instrument #5 months	1114.73
	114	3	Shoot with intent to prevent arrest #7 years Shoot with intent to murder #5 years minimum Murder Sergeant HENRY—Life Imprisonment	1200.00
	123	3	Theft motor car $1000 or #20 days Manner dangerous $250 or #5 days Unlicensed driving $250 or #5 days	197.00
	152	2	Unlicensed driving $250 or #5 days Manner dangerous #one month	911.99
	249	Not apprehended		1200.00
	255	3	Unlicensed driving Theft motor car Manner dangerous Penalty Unknown	265.65
	317	4	Theft motor car Manner dangerous Careless driving Drive under influence of alcohol #9 months	573.83

Year	Police Accident No.	Convictions Resulting No.	Details # denotes imprisonment		Damage to Police Vehicles
					$
	564	4	Theft motor car $300 or #14 days Unlicensed driver $250 or #5 days Exceeding .05 per cent $100 or #20 days Drive under influence $100 or #2 days		982.55
	670	3	Manner dangerous #2 months		347.13
	and 671		Unlicensed driver #7 days Fail to exchange name and address $50 or #1 day		607.59
TOTALS—Killed 1982: Police—1 (murder) Civilians—Nil					
Injuries 1982: Police—1 (minor) Civilians—Nil					
1983	42	7	Manner dangerous Fail to give way Disobey traffic control signal False name and address Exceed 100 kph Careless driving Careless driving	4 months youth training centre $50 or #1 day All licences cancelled—6 months	1215.31
	114	11	Theft motor car Exceed .05 per cent Drive under influence Manner dangerous Speed dangerous 5 minor traffic offences	#3 months	1006.54
	154	4	Theft of motor car #1 month Drive under influence #1 month Disqualified 6 months Drive whilst disqualified #1 month		938.48
	186	3	Reckless driving $300 or 15 days youth training centre Exceed 60 kph $50 or 3 days youth training centre Excessive speed through intersection $50 or 3 days youth training centre		1200.00
	203		Unlawful possession of motor car #9 months Drive whilst disqualified #1 month Manner dangerous #1 month Exceed .05 per cent #1 month		1200.00
	266		Theft motor car Theft $150 or # 8 days Manner dangerous $250 or #13 days Unlicensed $100 or #5 days		935.00
	301	Not apprehended			181.60
	379	5	Burglary Theft Theft motor car Theft of motor used in felony Unlicensed driving	Returned to care-Social Welfare Department	1140.57
	596	15	Theft of motor car (7 counts) #3 months on each count Drive whilst disqualified #3 months Reckless driving (2 counts) #3 months on each count Fail to stop after accident (2 counts) $280 or #4 days Reverse when unsafe $50 or #7 days Theft of motor car (2 counts) #3 months on each count.		1882.11
	721	2	Unlicensed driving $300 Manner dangerous $700	Disqualified 12 months	683.44

Year	*Police Accident No.*	*No.*	*Convictions Resulting Details # denotes imprisonment*	*Damage to Police Vehicles*
				$
	782	Not apprehended		
TOTALS—Killed 1983: Police–Nil				2689.00
	Injured 1983: Police–3			
		Civilians–1		
1984	108	Not apprehended		558.61
	109	1	Theft of motor car Adjourned	628.21
	130	3	Exceed .05 per cent $200 or #8 days. Manner dangerous $400 or #16 days Exceed 60 kph $100 or #4 days	1200.00
	227	Not apprehended		620.10
	391	8	*Driver One*: Theft of motor car #3 months Unlicensed #1 month Exceed .05 per cent $150 Manner dangerous #2 months Overtake when unsafe $100 *Driver Two*: Theft of motor car #12 months Probationary Unlicensed $500 Wilful damage $250	285.15
	612	Not apprehended		457.34
	773	6	Theft of motor car	820.00
and	774		Theft of number plate Burglary 52 weeks Probation Theft Manner dangerous Unlicensed	906.62
TOTALS—Killed 1984: Police–Nil				
		Civilians–Nil		
	Injured 1984: Police–1			
		Civilians–Nil		
1985	612	Not apprehended		457.34
				3 vehicles
	43	6	Theft of motor car Unlicensed Manner dangerous 18 months youth training centre Criminal damage disqualified 3 years Wilful damage Fail to stop after accident	1415.00 453.93 583.10
	67	7	Theft of motor car Failed to appear at Manner dangerous Melbourne Police station Disobey traffic control signal on 26-8-85 Warrant issued Fail to have prescribed lights Fail to give signals Unlicensed	1574.62
	72	Not apprehended		1200.00
	83	4	Theft of motor car #6 months Drive whilst disqualified #1 month Exceed .05 per cent $50 and disqualified 6 months Manner dangerous $200	679.79

Year	*Police Accident No.*	*No.*	*Convictions Resulting Details # denotes imprisonment*	*Damage to Police Vehicles*
				$
	211	Not apprehended		1200.00

TOTALS—Killed 1985: Police–Nil
Civilians–Nil

Injured 1985: Police–2 (minor)
Civilians–1 (minor)

ATTACHMENT "B"

Use as Emergency Vehicles

41.156 (1) As drivers are legally responsible for all their actions, they must bear in mind that no call is so urgent as to cause a vehicle to be driven in a manner or at a speed whereby life or limb is endangered or damage to the vehicle is likely; consequently they must exercise every care for the safety of passengers and public. Traffic rules, regulations and by-laws must be obeyed by the Police drivers, and only in cases of real emergency (for example, immediate pursuit of an offender) should they be broken.

(2) Divisional vans must not be used as pursuit vehicles except in extreme emergencies.

(3) Sirens fitted to Police mobile units shall be operated by the driver only in cases of emergency or when attending urgent calls. Members should keep the use of sirens to a minimum in the vicinity of hospitals.

(4) Police flashing/rotating lamps fitted to mobile units shall be illuminated at the direction of the senior member in the unit.

(5) Regulation 204 of the Road Traffic Regulations provides for Emergency Vehicles, and drivers of Police vehicles, when on urgent Police duty must strictly comply with these provisions. In particular, when entering a controlled intersection against the light or sign, drivers must comply with three conditions—

(*a*) it must be expedient and safe;

(*b*) the speed of the Police vehicle must be reduced; and

(*c*) the siren must be sounded.

(6) In all cases where drivers of Police vehicles invoke the "Emergency Vehicle" provisions of the Road Traffic Regulations (Regulations 102 (1) and 204), and use the siren in attending urgent Police duties, pursuing or intercepting vehicles, &c., such drivers shall—

(*a*) record the fact on the "Duty Return—Mobile Patrols" Form No. 501—(In those instances where such record is not maintained in the vehicle the incident should be the subject of a written report); and

(*b*) notify D.24 of this fact as soon as circumstances permit.

41.157 Officers in Charge of Districts shall—

(*a*) closely examine details of such instances recorded on Forms No. 501 or brought to their notice by report or otherwise to determine the reasonableness of the use of those provisions having due regard to the circumstances of the particular case; and

(*b*) take any appropriate action and make such recommendations as considered necessary where instances of misuse of the provisions occur.

SMALL BUSINESS

(Question No. 948)

Mr LIEBERMAN (Benambra) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

Whether any department, agency or authority under his administration monitors the "on costs" on wages incurred by small business in Victoria; if so, in respect of the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985—(*a*) what were the "on costs" on wages; and (*b*) whether he will make available all records compiled by any department, agency or authority relating to "on costs"?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The Department of Industry, Technology and Resources, as part of its general role of monitoring the performance and costs associated with Victorian business does monitor the "on costs" issue. However, no estimates are compiled by the department itself.

In relation to the following information provided to me by the department, it should be noted that the figures do not relate specifically to "on costs" incurred by small business. The Australian Bureau of Statistics does not collect cost data that relates specifically to small business, and the surveys of "on costs" undertaken by most private sector organizations relate only to large companies.

However, a recent survey undertaken by the Confederation of Australian Industry (CAI) does cover small and medium sized firms, as well as large companies. The preliminary survey results support overseas evidence which suggests that small business tends to have a lower level of "on costs" than large companies. On this basis, the estimates presented below might be regarded as a limit to the "on costs" paid by smaller companies.

The broadest measure of labour costs is provided in the national accounts prepared by the Australian Statistician. These estimates, however, are not available on a State basis or for industry categories. They also do not include a breakdown between direct labour—wages and salaries—and "on costs".

Table 1 shows that the rate of increase in over-all labour costs as measured by the national accounts—including most "on costs"—has slowed considerably since 1981–82.

Table 1—Increase in Total Labour Costs, Australia, 1981–82 to 1984–85

Year	*Wages, salaries and supplements*	*Employment*	*Labour costs per worker*	*Increase in labour costs per worker*
	$m	'000	$/worker	%
1981–82	85 327	6340	13 459	16·3
1982–83	94 498	6330	14 929	10·9
1983–84	100 044	6388	15 661	4·9
1984–85	109 899	6577	16 710	6·7

The Australian Bureau of Statistics had planned to undertake a survey of "on costs" in 1980, but abandoned the plan because of technical difficulties in defining "on costs" and also because of strong opposition at that time from employer groups to such a burdensome inquiry. I understand that the ABS is planning to undertake a modified survey of "on costs" for the 1986–87 financial year, with results to be available in 1988. The cooperation of employers will be necessary for the success of this survey.

Employer groups themselves (for example, the Business Council of Australia) have undertaken surveys of "on costs", but these relate almost wholly to larger employers and the methodology adopted in these surveys has been strongly criticized (see, for example, the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations supplementary submission to the Committee of Review into Australian Industrial Relations).

In the light of these criticisms, the Business Council has since reviewed its survey questionnaire and methodology, and recently undertook a survey which relates to level of "on costs" in 1983–84 and 1984–85. This survey still has a number of methodological defects that reduce the reliance that can be placed on the absolute levels of "on costs" indicated in the survey results—including the method of collection, the time period covered, which requires respondents to provide data up to two years old, and the inclusion of several items which, on international statistical standards, should not be included as "on costs". Nevertheless, the data indicate that "on costs" have tended to fall as a percentage of total labour costs over the period under consideration.

The Victorian Government also monitors specific elements of labour "on costs" which are relevant to its own responsibilities, and has, over the past three years, introduced measures aimed at making major reductions in these business costs.

Specific measures include pay-roll tax. The Government has significantly increased the payroll tax exemption levels. These levels over the past four financial years are shown in Table 2.

Table 2—Pay-roll Tax Exemption Levels, Victoria, 1981–82 to 1985–86

Year	*Complete exemption level (no pay-roll tax paid on pay-rolls below this level)*	*Maximum exemption (full pay-roll tax is paid on pay-rolls above this level)*
	$	$
1981–82	125 000	255 800
1982–83	140 000	293 300
1983–84	200 000	443 300
1984–85	215 000	480 800
1985–86	230 000	518 300

All firms with pay-rolls below $518 300 per annum now benefit from some pay-roll tax exemption. Firms with pay-rolls below $230 000 per annum now pay no pay-roll tax. The Government has also increased the threshold at which companies pay the higher rate of pay-roll tax (6 per cent of gross wages, as opposed to the standard rate of 5 per cent) from $1·1 million to $1·2 million in the 1985–86 Budget. In effect, most small businesses are not now liable for this tax.

Workers compensation: The Government's reform of the workers compensation system has led to major reductions in premiums for all firms, and, in particular, small businesses, which, unlike large companies, were unable to negotiate reduced premiums under the old system. Department of Management and Budget estimates indicate that the average workers compensation premium has been reduced from 4·8 per cent of direct labour costs to approximately 2·4 per cent under WorkCare.

These measures have significantly reduced the level of "on costs" paid by all Victorian firms, and, in particular, small business.

(Question No. 949)

Mr LIEBERMAN (Benambra) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. Whether the average "on costs"—costs of public holidays, sick leave, annual leave and so on—on wages for small business employment in Victoria in 1985 was 52 cents for every one dollar of wages paid; if not, what was the average?

2. Whether an approximate increase of 20 per cent has occurred in "on costs" since 1982 taking "on costs" from 42 cents for each one dollar of wages in 1982 to approximately 52 cents for each one dollar of wages in 1985; if not, what were the actual and percentage increases, respectively?

3. Whether the rate of "on costs" increases over the past two financial years has exceeded the official rate of inflation for those years?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

1. I am not aware of the exact basis for the honourable member's reference to "on costs" of 52 cents per one dollar of wages paid by small business in Victoria. The Business Council of Australia recently released the results of a survey of its members—see the Business Council Bulletin No. 19, December 1985/January 1986—which indicated that "on costs" were 53 cents per one dollar of wages in 1984–85.

However, these results relate to an Australia-wide survey—not Victorian—and the sample was drawn from large companies, not small business. Furthermore, as noted in my answer to question No. 948, the survey methodology is open to question.

I do not have precise estimates of the "on costs" faced by small business in Victoria, but it should be noted that such costs are likely to be substantially lower than the figure quoted by the honourable member because—

- as indicated in my answer to question No. 948, small businesses the world over on average face lower "on costs" than large companies; and
- the survey results do not take into account the effect of major Victorian Government initiatives, including the introduction of WorkCare and reductions in pay-roll tax thresholds introduced in the 1985–86 State Budget, which have helped significantly to contain small business "on costs" in Victoria.

2. Again, I am not aware of the exact basis for the honourable member's figures. A survey undertaken by the Australian Industries Development Association indicated that, in 1981, "on costs" represented 43 cents for every one dollar of wages paid. The preliminary findings of the recent CAI survey of small, medium and large firms suggests that the figure is marginally less. As noted above, the Business Council of Australia's 1985 survey of "on costs" suggested that 53 cents were paid in "on costs" for every one dollar of wages. However, this relates to large companies Australia wide, not small Victorian businesses.

As noted in my answer to question No. 948, the BCA surveys have technical quirks which make them likely to have substantially overstated the level of "on costs". Independent analysis undertaken by O. E. Covick of the University of New South Wales—see "Wages as a Component of Total Remuneration", a paper presented to the Australian Wage Determination Conference in 1983—indicated that, in 1981, "on costs" were 28·1 per cent of the total direct cost of employing labour, calculated to internationally accepted definitions. This level of "on costs" is relatively low by international standards; for example, for the same year, "on costs" in the United Kingdom were estimated to represent 38·5 per cent of the direct costs of employing labour.

I also refer the honourable member to Table 1 in my answer to question No. 948, which indicates the marked slow down in the rate of increase in total labour costs in the past few years.

3. As noted above, there are no official estimates of the level of "on costs" over the past two financial years.

The Business Council of Australia's own survey for 1984–85 indicates that "on costs" have actually fallen as a component of total labour costs. The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates referred to in Table 1 of my answer to question No. 948 indicate that total labour costs per employed worker have increased by 4·9 per cent and 6·7 per cent in 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively. This compares to an increase in the consumer price index over the same period of 7·9 per cent and 6·0 per cent—excluding the effects of the introduction of Medicare. This indicates that total labour costs per worker, measured this way, have declined by 2·14 per cent in real terms over these two years.

Over the past two years the Government has also introduced its WorkCare reforms and substantially increased pay-roll tax exemption levels. Both these initiatives have helped to reduce the level of "on costs" faced by small businesses.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

(Question No. 950)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

1. What was the total cost of constructing the road adjacent to the Swan Hill to Melbourne railway line between St Albans and Swan Hill?

2. What was the reason for the road being constructed and what benefits have resulted?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

1. $340 000.

2. The primary reason for the construction of the road was to provide an adequate firebreak between the railway line and the adjoining properties in accordance with V/Line's fire prevention policy.

Firebreaks substantially reduce the risk of operationally started fires spreading and the CFA regions have endorsed their value to municipalities as a whole.

A secondary benefit is that the construction of firebreak/access roads allows vehicles to reach previously inaccessible places for maintenance work and in emergency situations.

Firebreak/access roads also provide a rubble free, flat surface which can be maintained be very cheap methods such as slashing, and are also easier to treat with herbicide.

OTWAY RANGES

(Question No. 952)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Minister for Education, for the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands:

In respect of the Otway Ranges, whether the Minister will advise what area is—(*a*) forest not available for logging; (*b*) forest available for logging; (*c*) Crown land not being part of either (*a*) or (*b*); and (*d*) Crown land available for forest planting?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands is:

The total area of public land in the Otway Ranges is 163 400 hectares. Hardwood timber production is permitted on 88 300 hectares. Softwood timber production areas include 4800 hectares. Timber production is not permitted on 70 300 hectares.

The area available for hardwood timber production (88 300) includes 11 400 hectares which is devoid of eucalypt forest cover due to land clearing for agriculture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as well as steep slopes and stream buffers which are exempted from harvesting by prescription and areas that are unsuitable for sawlog production. The net area available for hardwood timber harvesting is about 39 000 hectares or a little less that one quarter of the public land.

An additional 2000 hectares of land presently managed by the Rural Finance Commission in the parish of Heytesbury are also available for plantation establishment.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The following answers to questions on notice were circulated—

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS EXPENDITURE BY COMMUNITY SERVICES VICTORIA

(Question No. 275)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs, for the Minister for Community Services:

1. What was the expenditure by departments, agencies and authorities within her administration in the 1984–85 financial year on matters directly related to Aboriginal affairs?

2. What is the estimated expenditure for the 1985–86 financial year in this area?

3. How many staff are employed in each organization, indicating whether full-time or part-time, and in relation to part-time employees the number of hours devoted per week to work associated with Aboriginal affairs?

4. What are the costs of all overheads in each organisation in connection with employment of staff in the area of Aboriginal affairs?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Community Services is:

1. Expenditure by the Department of Community Services Victoria on matters directly relating to Aboriginal affairs for the 1984–85 financial year was $1 011 582. This total includes Commonwealth funding of $410 338 directly related to Aboriginal affairs, which is administered by my department.

2. Estimated expenditure in this area for the 1985–86 financial year is $1 572 652. This total includes $731 807 from Commonwealth funding, which is administered by my department.

3. 58 full-time employees directly associated with Aboriginal affairs, including 33 pre-school assistants transferred to my department from Health Department Victoria. Support from a range of other employees in operational, program development, policy and corporate services areas is not possible to quantify in full or part-time staff equivalents.

4. The costs of all overheads associated with the employment of staff in the area of Aboriginal affairs cannot be separated from the normal administrative costs of my department.

BUDGET ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES VICTORIA

(Question No. 284)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs, for the Minister for Community Services:

1. Whether any moneys were allocated by departments, agencies and authorities within her administration in the State Budget delivered on 18 September 1984 which would be available for distribution at her discretion; if so, what is the amount allocated?

2. Whether such discretionary funds were available within the 1983–84 State Budget; if so, what amount?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Community Services is:

1. Yes. Moneys allocated by my department under the family and community services program are subject to my discretion. In the 1984–85 State Budget, funds allocated totalled $4 388 000.

2. Yes. Discretionary funds under the family and community services program in 1983–84 totalled $3 758 767.

OVERSEAS PROJECTS CORPORATION OF VICTORIA LTD

(Question No. 433)

Mr GUDE (Hawthorn) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

1. How many staff are employed by the Overseas Projects Corporation of Victoria Ltd?

2. What is the budget for the financial year 1984–85?

3. What projects have been undertaken to date and what is the value of each project in Victoria?

4. When a managing director or equivalent person will be permanently employed?

5. Whether the corporation will be reporting to the Parliament; if so, when?

6. Whether the corporation will be subject to audit by the Auditor-General; if not, why, and in that event, who will conduct the audit?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

1. As at 30 June 1986 the total number of staff employed by the Overseas Projects Corporation of Victoria was 6 (six).

2. The budget for the financial year 1984–85 was $127 300 and for financial year 1985–86 $486 800.

3. (*a*) Since its incorporation on 13 March 1985 the OPCV has been involved in the following projects:

(i) BAHRAIN—Commercial Plant Nursery (Joint venture OPCV/Bahrain Municipality)—Provision of nursery manager from Australia to manage nursery, including the marketing of plants.

(ii) BAHRAIN—Supply Management Training Program (Bahrain Government)—Training in Australia of officer from Bahrain Stores Director in supply management, including placements.

(iii) BURMA—Mandalay Dairy Project (Funded by Australian Development Assistance Bureau)—Provision of Department of Agriculture officer to undertake study of Burma's dairy industry and study of Mandalay dairy project.

(iv) PACIFIC ISLANDS—Water Resources Training Course (Australian Development Assistance Bureau)—Training in Australia of eighteen representatives from Pacific Island countries (Tuvalu, Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Western Samoa, Nuie and Vanuata) in water distribution.

(v) ASIAN/PACIFIC—Water Resources Training Course (ADAB/UNESCO Funded)—Training in Australia of eight participants from Papua New Guinea, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia in water quality and treatment by low-cost treatment methods (August 1986).

(vi) PAKISTAN—Karachi—Sewerage Farm Design (United Nations/World Bank)—Provision of officer from Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to conduct pre-feasibility study.

(vii) PAKISTAN—Baluchistan—Trickle Irrigation Project (FAO)—Facilitated the provision of Department of Agriculture officer to undertake technical assistance phase of project.

(viii) CHINA—Shanghai Liquid Waste Project (ADAB)—Facilitated training in Australia of visiting delegation using the resources of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

(ix) SRI LANKA—Water Supply Rehabilitation Project (ADB)—Provision of Rural Water Commission officer to undertake feasibility study in Sri Lanka.

(x) TONGA—Drafting of Minerals Legislation (ADAB)—Facilitated the participation of two DITR officers to visit Tonga to assess situation and draft minerals development legislation for Tonga.

(xi) THAILAND—Water Supply Systems for Three Provincial Towns (ADB)—Provision of officer from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to undertake feasibility study.

(xii) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IRAQ—Export Facilitation—Confirmation of order for irrigation equipment for Australis Irrigation Pty Ltd.

(xiii) WESTERN SAMOA—Evaluation of Research Programs (ADAB)—Provision of biometrician from Department of Agriculuture to evaluate agricultural research program.

(*b*) The projects that have been undertaken have involved the provision of expertise from both the public and private sectors in Victoria, exposing recipient countries to manufacturing goods of Australia and, more particularly, Victoria.

It is this value-added component of the projects which will have a long-term benefit to the economic development of the State.

4. A managing director of the OPCV has been appointed.

5. There is no statutory obligation for the OPCV to report to Parliament. However, the corporation will report to me each year following its annual general meeting, and that report will be made available to members of Parliament.

6. There is no obligation under the Companies Code for the Auditor-General to audit the OPCV. However, the Auditor-General has been approached on this matter and has agreed to carry out an annual audit of the corporation's books.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING RENTALS

(Question No. 435)

Mr DELZOPPO (Narracan) asked the Minister for Housing:

What amounts were owing to the Ministry of Housing as arrears of rent for departmental dwellings as at 30 June 1981 to 1985, inclusive?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

June 1981	$4 027 755
1982	5 188 265
1983	6 809 276
1984	6 495 000
1985	8 560 000

These figures include tenants' responsibility maintenance.

MR G. CHAPLIN

(Question No. 438)

Mr HEFFERNAN (Ivanhoe) asked the Premier:

1. In respect of an article in the *Age* of 27 September 1984 referring to the appointment of Mr G. Chaplin as "private marketing manager to revamp publicity services and boost promotion of the Government's corporate image", whether Mr Chaplin has been appointed to a Government position; if so—(*a*) what are the details of the position; (*b*) how many full-time and part-time staff he has; and (*c*) what is the expected expenditure for financial year 1985–86 in connection with the operation of this group?

2. If he will ascertain and advise the cost of publicity staff in the Gas and Fuel Corporation and the Metropolitan Transit Authority mentioned in the above article in respect of financial year 1984–85 and in financial year 1985–86 to date?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

1. (*a*) Mr Chaplin was employed on a consultancy basis to assist the Publicity Unit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Mr Chaplin's brief was to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of existing arrangements for the coordination and delivery of public information and publicity services, and to advise on the communication of the Government's programs to the community.

(*b*) Mr Chaplin had one full-time stenographer.

(*c*) The expenditure for 1985–86 was in payments to Mr Chaplin of $27 201.20, and to the stenographer of $4049.95.

2. (*a*) For the Metropolitan Transit Authority the cost of salaries is as follows:

1984–85	1985–86
$59 000	$103 000
(1 full-time and 2 part-time staff)	(3 full-time staff)

(*b*) The Gas and Fuel Corporation's publicity staff are employed within the Public Affairs Department and the Marketing Department and the costs are as follows:

	1984–85	1985–86
Public Affairs Department	$164 680	$205 170
	(7 staff)	(estimate for 8 staff)
Marketing Department	$68 000	$71 354
	(3 staff)	(estimate for 3 staff)

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 532)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organisations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

1. The definition of "senior public servant" has been taken to apply to officers of SES Level 1 or equivalent.

Authority	*No. (a) Overseas*	*No. (b) Domestic*
Ministry of Transport	7	94
Road Construction Authority	4	30
Grain Elevators Board	5	6
Port of Melbourne Authority	10	18
Marine Board of Victoria	Nil	1
Port of Portland Authority	Nil	1
Port of Geelong Authority	1	1
State Transport Authority	6	281
Ports and Harbors Division	Nil	1
Road Traffic Authority	4	48
Metropolitan Transit Authority	8	50

2. The guidelines and procedures applied are those set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. As this part of the question has not been made clear by the honourable member, total flight expenses have been given from 3 April 1982 to 15 October 1985 and have been separated into domestic travel and overseas travel.

Authority	*Overseas Air Travel* *(a) Expenses Incurred*	*(b) Reimbursed*	*Domestic Air Travel* *(a) Expenses Incurred*	*(b) Reimbursed*
	$	$	$	$
MOT	49 610.80	Nil	33 231.50	Nil
RCA	17 940.75	8 903	37 533.50	Nil
GEB	23 404.00	21 911	10 734.00	Nil
PMA	105 468.00	Nil	29 521.00	Nil
MBV	Nil	Nil	4 229.00	Nil
PPA	Nil	Nil	813.00	Nil
PGA	12 672.00	Nil	6 348.20	Nil
STA	12 327.00	Nil	69 997.00	Nil
P & H	Nil	Nil	200.00	Nil
RTA	11 840.00	Nil	13 152.36	Nil
MTA	34 197.63	Nil	27 838.60	Nil

4. The MOT, RCA, GEB, MBV, P & H, and RTA arrange all overseas and domestic flight travel through the Victorian Tourism Commission, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The PPA and PGA are not able to use the Victorian Tourism Commission as their agent due to their location and time constraints. The PPA uses various local tourist and shipping agents. The PGA uses Roundabout Travel Pty Ltd.

The PMA arranges travel through the Victorian Tourism Commission; however, prior to revised Government policy in Circular 84/4, it was not required to purchase tickets from the commission and travel agents were used to purchase the tickets.

The STA and MTA use the Victorian Tourism Commission and, for convenience, V/Line Travel for domestic travel.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 535)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Ethnic Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What number of senior public servants have used—(*a*) overseas; and (*b*) domestic air travel since April 1982?

2. What various travel guidelines and procedures applied during the period in respect of the relevant ticketing arrangements?

3. What flight expenses were—(*a*) incurred; and (*b*) reimbursed?

4. Which individuals and/or organizations acted as—(*a*) agents; or (*b*) were consulted in connection with overseas and domestic flight travel, respectively, indicating why?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)—The answer is:

1. Since April 1982: (*a*) one senior public servant of SES level or equivalent or above has used overseas air travel; (*b*) four senior public servants of SES level or equivalent or above have used domestic air travel.

2. The guidelines and procedures used were those established by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee.

3. An amount of $9259 was incurred for domestic air flights for senior public servants for the period April 1982 to July 1986 and $4695 for overseas air flights for the same period.

No flight expenses were reimbursed.

4. The Victorian Tourism Commission acted as the agent in all cases.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE

(Question No. 583)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the annual cost in 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively, and the Budget estimate for 1985–86, for each of the following types of payments and allowances—(*a*) personal and travelling—(i) domestic travel; (ii) overseas travel; and (iii) removal and relocation expenses; (*b*) car mileage; (*c*) tea money; (*d*) expense of office; (*e*) entertainment; and (*f*) any other allowances paid to employees?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The information requested is supplied in the attached table.

		Personal and Travelling Allowances							
Year	*Authority*	*Domestic Travel*	*Overseas Travel*	*Removal and Relocation Expenses*	*Car Mileage Allowances*	*Tea Money Allowances*	*Expense of Office Allowances*	*Entertainment Expenses*	*Other Allowances Paid to Employees*
		$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1982–83	Ministry of Transport (MoT)	10 818	Nil	Nil	*	*	*	*	*
	Road Construction Authority (RCA)	428 000	1 000	80 000	203 000	15 000	9 000	9 000	1 691 000[a]
	Grain Elevators Board (GEB)	209 800[b]	1 400[c]	8 600	[b]	41 400	10 000	[c]	Nil
	Port of Melbourne Authority (PMA)	33 600	80 000	2 300	156 700	87 800	11 200	5 400	450 100[d]
	Marine Board of Victoria (MBV)	94 155	Nil	Nil	312	Nil	1 860	140	Nil
	Port of Portland Authority (PPA)	*	*	*	*	12 427	749	*	*
	Port of Geelong Authority (PGA)	7 691	2 683	Nil	2 486	31 956	11 869	Nil	9 284
	State Transport Authority (STA)	53 418	8 165	11 459[e]	*	*	*	31 143	*
	Ports and Harbors Division (P & H)	143 000	Nil	Nil	4 500	900	Nil	120	*
	Road Traffic Authority (RTA)	213 410[g]	[g]	*	[g]	50 401	3 375	*	836[h]
	Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

		Personal and Travelling Allowances							
Year	*Authority*	*Domestic Travel*	*Overseas Travel*	*Removal and Relocation Expenses*	*Car Mileage Allowances*	*Tea Money Allowances*	*Expense of Office Allowances*	*Entertainment Expenses*	*Other Allowances Paid to Employees*
		$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1983–84	Ministry of Transport (MoT)	8 246	11 515	Nil	344	786	30 101	4 857	116
	Road Construction Authority (RCA)	400 000	4 000	71 800	258 000	22 000	39 000	9 000	2 178 000[a]
	Grain Elevators Board (GEB)	251 200[b]	7 800[c]	800	[b]	163 600	8 300	[c]	Nil
	Port of Melbourne Authority (PMA)	27 600	58 000	1 900	116 400	93 300	9 300	11 000	474 000[a]
	Marine Board of Victoria (MBV)	110 183	Nil	Nil	251	Nil	1 860	78	Nil
	Port of Portland Authority (PPA)	*	*	*	*	17 462	562	*	*
	Port of Geelong Authority (PGA)	9 984	9 989	Nil	2 633	34 736	12 894	Nil	7 871
	State Transport Authority (STA)	66 172	4 307	64 399	*	*	*	20 308	*
	Ports and Harbors Division (P & H)	158 000	*	7 250	2 770	75	Nil	Nil	*
	Road Traffic Authority (RTA)	228 438[i]	19 471	34 743	[i]	81 743	33 380	19 981	886[j]
	Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)	43 632	[j]	[j]	[j]	[j]	27 562	*	*

Year	Authority	Personal and Travelling Allowances: Domestic Travel	Overseas Travel	Removal and Relocation Expenses	Car Mileage Allowances	Tea Money Allowances	Expense of Office Allowances	Entertainment Expenses	Other Allowances Paid to Employees
		$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1984–85	Ministry of Transport (MoT)	37 223	37 898	Nil	4 894	1 369	61 627	14 423	1 700
	Road Construction Authority (RCA)	433 000	21 000	104 000	344 000	18 000	82 000	10 000	2 155 000[d]
	Grain Elevators Board (GEB)	362 600[b]	11 300[c]	1 400	[b]	186 100	13 500	[c]	Nil
	Port of Melbourne Authority (PMA)	31 900	51 200	6 500	362 500	105 300	19 700	9 400	882 400[d]
	Marine Board of Victoria (MBV)	105 061	Nil	Nil	350	Nil	1 583	76	Nil
	Port of Portland Authority (PPA)	*	*	*	*	18 460	2 605	*	*
	Port of Geelong Authority (PGA)	11 752	Nil	Nil	6 709	44 278	15 237	Nil	8 408
	State Transport Authority (STA)	72 284	5 588	128 143	*	*	*	31 742	22 800[d]
	Ports and Harbors Division (P & H)	169 300	*	100	2 900	Nil	Nil	55	*
	Road Traffic Authority (RTA)	517 589	29 434	19 354	8 590	139 865	62 037	14 070	468[d]
	Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)	1 818 052	[j]	[j]	[j]	[j]	83 536	*	*

Year	Authority	Personal and Travelling Allowances: Domestic Travel	Overseas Travel	Removal and Relocation Expenses	Car Mileage Allowances	Tea Money Allowances	Expense of Office Allowances	Entertainment Expenses	Other Allowances Paid to Employees
		$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1985–86 (estimate)	Ministry of Transport (MoT)	21 475	24 000	Nil	5 000	1 530	65 000	5 150	1 700
	Road Construction Authority (RCA)	466 000	40 000	130 000	345 000	19 000	107 000	10 000	2 212 000[d]
	Grain Elevators Board (GEB)	490 700[b]	10 000[c]	1 200	[b]	202 900	14 300	[c]	Nil
	Port of Melbourne Authority (PMA)	34 000	55 000	8 000	170 000	105 000	85 000	10 000	780 000[d]
	Marine Board of Victoria (MBV)	112 000	Nil	Nil	300	Nil	2 715	100	Nil
	Port of Portland Authority (PPA)	*	*	*	*	20 000	3 530	*	*
	Port of Geelong Authority (PGA)	10 000	4 500	Nil	5 640	47 000	19 358	Nil	8 700
	State Transport Authority (STA)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Ports and Harbors Division (P & H)	186 000	Nil	300	2 700	Nil	Nil	Nil	*
	Road Traffic Authority (RTA)	528 000	5 000	50 000	212 000	292 000	79 000	19 000	Nil
	Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)	1 604 837	[j]	[j]	[j]	[j]	90 621	*	*

NOTES:

* The time and resources necessary to collect the information to answer this part of the question cannot be justified.

(*a*) Includes taxable allowances for travelling and fares, camping, laundry, etc.

(*b*) Includes domestic travel, car mileage allowances and entertainment expenses on domestic business.

(*c*) Includes both overseas travel and entertainment expenses on overseas business.

(*d*) Includes allowances paid to employees under various awards, for example shift allowance, fares and other special allowances.

(*e*) Period from 31.3.83 to 30.5.83 only.

(*f*) Period from 27.11.84 to 30.6.85 only.

(*g*) Includes domestic and overseas travel and car mileage allowances.

(*h*) Clothing allowance.

(*i*) Includes domestic travel and car mileage allowances.

(*j*) Includes domestic and overseas travel, removal and relocation expenses, car mileage and tea money allowances. The MTA was established on 1 July 1983.

GEB Financial Year Periods: 1982–83—November 1982 to October 1983
1983–84—November 1983 to September 1984
1984–85—October 1984 to September 1985

PGA figures are for calendar years, not financial years.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION EXPENDITURE

(Question No. 587)

Mr STOCKDALE (Brighton) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the annual cost in 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively, and the Budget estimate for 1985–86, for each of the following types of payments and allowances—(*a*) personal and travelling—(i) domestic travel; (ii) overseas travel; and (iii) removal and relocation expenses; (*b*) car mileage; (*c*) tea money; (*d*) expense of office; (*e*) entertainment; and (*f*) any other allowances paid to employees?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

	1982–83	*1983–84*	*1984–85*	*1985–86*
Department of Sport and Recreation	$	$	$	$
(*a*) Personal and travelling				
(i) Domestic travel	52 029	54 151	55 700	55 000
(ii) Overseas travel	..	..	..	28 300
(iii) Removal and relocation	125	364	13 314	20 000
(*b*) Car mileage	28 146	36 170	35 065	23 000
(*c*) Tea money	10 086	6 854	12 038	9 400
(*d*) Expense of office	3 283	3 429	5 881	6 850
(*e*) Entertainment	4 751	2 998	7 687	6 000
(*f*) Other	..	..	..	..
Greyhound Racing Control Board				
(*a*) Personal and travelling				
(i) Domestic travel	..	..	..	..
(ii) Overseas travel	..	..	..	..
(iii) Removal and relocation	..	..	..	..
(*b*) Car mileage } (*c*) Tea money }	35 094	38 201	36 718	40 000
(*d*) Expense of office	7 675	8 999	8 663	10 900
(*e*) Entertainment	932	1 655	837	1 300
(*f*) Other	..	..	..	..
Totalizator Agency Board				
(*a*) Personal and travelling				
(i) Domestic travel	10 935	9 747	4 286	5 270
(ii) Overseas travel	..	4 441	5 507	2 795
(iii) Removal and relocation	2 531	..	..	2 641
(*b*) Car mileage	42 875	38 555	39 693	41 439
(*c*) Tea money	16 081	13 901	13 376	16 828
(*d*) Expense of office	12 667	11 676	15 510	24 014
(*e*) Entertainment	24 452	18 706	11 793	14 717
(*f*) Other	..	..	..	..
Harness Racing Board				
(*a*) Personal and travelling				
(i) Domestic travel	28 300	31 600	36 000	42 000
(ii) Overseas travel	..	4 200	1 100	..
(iii) Removal and relocation	..	3 400	..	2 000
(*b*) Car mileage	30 400	36 000	32 700	30 000
(*c*) Tea money	2 900	2 700	3 200	3 000
(*d*) Expense of office	..	..	..	..
(*e*) Entertainment	..	..	..	..
(*f*) Other	2 000	2 500	2 800	3 000

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 613)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Transport:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organisations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular No. 84/4, issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2. and 3. The information requested is supplied in the attached table.

Host	*Recipient*	*Authority*	*Air Tickets*	*Accommodation and Expenses*	*Surface Travel*	*Gifts*	*Reason*
				$	$		
Port and Harbour Bureau, City of Osaka—Japan	Mr K. Isaacs	PMA	..	1 200	..	..	Reciprocal staff exchanges and technical support programs with sister ports of Port of Melbourne Authority
	Mr G. Healey	PMA	..	1 200	..	..	
Port of Tianjin Authority—China	Mr R. Bennett	PMA	..	700	..	..	
Federal/State Governments	Mr R. Underwood	RCA	..	12 450[a] (3 trips to Europe)	..	..	Permanent International Association Road Congresses Technical Committee on Urban Roads
G.E.C. Traction Ltd	Mr G Swift	STA	..	4 200[b]	..	..	Fact finding visit to assess service reliability and maintenance procedures for GEC electrical equipment with other transport authorities
Railways of Australia Committee	Mr K. Fitzmaurice	STA	..	6 866	..	..	Chairman of ROANZ Committee at IRCA/UIC Congress
MSD DEK/ Polaroid	Mr G. J. Kelly	RTA	..	40	40	..	Fact finding visit to assess administration of driver licence systems relating to photographic driver licences

(*a*) Figure includes air tickets, accommodation and expenses and surface travel
(*b*) Estimate only—figure includes air tickets, accommodation and expenses and surface travel

COMMUNITY SERVICES VICTORIA PROGRAM BUDGETS

(Question No. 626)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs, for the Minister for Community Services:

1. Whether all departments, agencies and authorities within her administration have reported to Parliament full details of expenditure in accordance with their program budgets.

2. Whether each program budget is on schedule; if not, which budgets are not on schedule, indicating why?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Community Services is:

The Treasurer will furnish an answer on my behalf.

VICTORIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

(Question No. 653)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

Does the Victorian Tourism Commission employ an internal auditor; if not, why?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The Victorian Tourism Commission retains a firm of chartered accountants for internal audit purposes. The commission's accounts are audited by the Auditor-General in accordance with section 27 (3) of the Victorian Tourism Commission Act.

COMMUNITY SERVICES VICTORIA MIDDLE MANAGERS COURSES

(Question No. 657)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs, for the Minister for Community Services:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within her administration, how many women have attended potential middle managers courses for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, and what is the estimate for 1986?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Community Services is:

1983

Until December 1984, the Community Welfare Training Institute provided both certificate and short course training for Community Services Victoria staff. As a result of a review, the institute ceased operations in December 1983 and a smaller training unit was established centrally. Records of participants at short courses, including management courses, were discarded.

1984

In 1984 the Staff Development and Training Unit was established. It delivers some "formal" courses but also offers consultation, coaching, co-ordination and delivery of short courses, obtains specialist consultants for specific needs and assists managers of work units to provide for the training needs of their staff. No formal management courses were offered in 1984.

Promotion courses for child care and youth officer courses were also conducted by the department. Eleven women attended child care and four women attended youth work promotion courses.

Operations Division also conducted five one-day workshops for its managers, five of whom were women.

1985

My department conducted seven supervision courses and 48 women participated in them.

1986

My department has conducted three supervision courses to date and 32 women participated in them.

The department, together with the Public Service Board, is providing a twenty-day middle management training course. Of the 30 places available, women have been allotted fifteen.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

(Question No. 707)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. How many women are—(*a*) first division officers or officers of comparable status; and (*b*) second division officers?

2. What total percentage of first and second division officers are women?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer is:

The information requested is readily available from the Public Service Board's annual report and deals with the period up until 30 June 1985.

FEDERATED SHIP PAINTERS AND DOCKERS UNION

(Question No. 728)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Premier:

Whether the confidential sections of the reports of the Royal Commission into the Ship Painters and Dockers Union will be tabled in Parliament; if so, when?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

The confidential sections of the report cannot be released as law enforcement and prosecution activity would be prejudiced. In addition, release of confidential material would have an adverse impact on the personal privacy of some of those named, and this Government endorses the view that individuals should not be named publicly unless duly convicted in courts of law.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION CONSULTANTS

(Question No. 730)

Mr COOPER (Mornington) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what are the names of each consultant employed since March 1985, indicating:

1. For what purpose they were employed?
2. What working plan they were given?
3. What was the cost of their services?
4. What was the duration of their contract?
5. Were any additional payments made in excess of the contract price, if so, what were the amounts paid?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

1. The following consultants have been employed by the department since March 1985.

Name of Consultant	*Purpose*	*Work Plan*	*Cost*	*Duration of Contract*	*Additional Payments*
(1) Eric Howard (2) Clive Custance	Computer seminar	To provide basic information and instruction on use of personal computer for regional staff	$100 $60	One day	Nil
Slade Consulting Group	Work planning	Review of work planning procedures of Regional Services Division	$2000	Six weeks	Nil
Australian Institute of Management	Management development	To provide management development in leadership skills for departmental middle management staff	$1600	Two days	Nil
Moorabbin TAFE	Letter writing course	To provide instruction in developing letter writing skills for departmental staff	$658	One day	Nil
Augustine Centre	Staff training	To train volunteer staff for the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership Certificate Course	$800	Two days	Nil
Holmesglen TAFE	Report writing course	To provide instruction in report writing skills for departmental staff	$350	One day	Nil
Street Ryan and Associates Pty Ltd	Economic impact study of sport and recreation	To assess the economic impact of sport and recreation events in a Victorian rural area	$1990	Six weeks	Contract not yet complete, no additional payment contemplated
C J Bellamy and Associates	To undertake a cost benefit analysis to assist in planning a future strategy for on-course totalizator operations in Victoria	Provided with details of four options identified by a working party convened by the Minister	$5400	Eight weeks	Nil
C J Bellamy and Associates	To provide an ongoing consultancy service in respect of the development of the Gippsland Regional Totalizator System	Resolution of problems identified in the operating system, implementation of a second mobile computer totalizator and submission of quarterly status reports	Retainer of $4000 per annum plus $80 an hour for time spent in excess of 4 hours a month. Total cost of $13 315 to 30 June 1986	Ongoing as from 24 May 1986	Nil

Name of Consultant	*Purpose*	*Work Plan*	*Cost*	*Duration of Contract*	*Additional Payments*
Wearing-Smith and Gloury	To inspect and report on the structural safety of stewards stands at five Western District racecourses	Structural design specifications	$1800	Ten days	Nil
Wearing-Smith and Gloury	To advise on the structural condition of the grandstand roof at the Sandown Racecourse	Inspect and report	$540	Twelve weeks	Nil
O'Connor Brophy and Treloar	To advise on options for renewal of the grandstand roof at the Sandown Racecourse	Inspect and report	$1395	Twelve weeks	Nil
Dimet Coatings	To provide a metallurgy report in respect of the grandstand roof at the Sandown Racecourse	Inspect and report	$336	Four weeks	Nil
Jola Engineering	Employed to advise on the structural steelwork of the grandstand roof at the Sandown Racecourse	Inspect and report	$1265	Four weeks	Nil

2. The following consultants have been employed by the Totalizator Agency Board since March 1985.

Name of Consultant	*Purpose*	*Work Plan*	*Cost*	*Duration of Contract*	*Additional Payments*
Mr Worlidge Chandler and McLeod Management Consultants	Management conference	To assist in the preparation of and running of a TAB management conference	$3000	Three weeks	Nil
Mr G Hawker Metrotel (UK) Pty Ltd Electronic Publishing Consultant	Electronic publishing	To advise on overseas usage of electronic publishing	$1000	One week	Nil
Spectrum Research Pty Ltd Market Researchers	Research	To conduct initial research and preliminary work in respect of an application for a special radio broadcasting licence	$75 000	Approximately one year commencing May 1986	Nil
Tom O'Donohue and Associates Radio Broadcasting Consultants	Radio broadcasting	Advising on broadcast coverage of races	$75 000	Extended period	Nil
Mr Trevor Barr Media Consultant	Radio broadcasting	Advising on specialised areas regarding broadcast coverage of races	$2800	November 1985 to June 1986	Nil
Clark Hummerston Pty Ltd Consultant Psychologists	Management structure	Review of effectiveness of changes to organisational structure upon morale	$10 200	April 1986 to May 1986	Nil
R. V. Goode Management Consultants Pty Ltd Management Consultants	Management structure	Review of organisational arrangements for the Computer Systems Business Group	$36 000	Commencing July 1986—continuing	Nil

The ongoing use of firms and individuals in respect of day to day business activities has been excluded from the list. Into this category fall marketing, advertising and public relations agencies, personnel recruitment agencies (including the Public Service Board) insurance brokers, computer software contractors, solicitors, barristers, real estate agents, and valuers and other providers of day-to-day and ongoing services.

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 754)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983–84, 1984–85 and 1985–86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organisation FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organisation; (*i*) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr TREZISE (Minister for Sport and Recreation)—The answer is:

1. 1983–84 (*a*) The Victorian Association of Peace Studies received an International Youth Year grant of $2000 to make a film titled "Do you think they'd listen" which provided young people with a forum to put their own views of the future.

(*b*) The Young Women's Housing Collective received a youth grant of $500 to produce a booklet on women's housing.

(*c*) None of the other groups received funding.

2. 1984–85 None of these groups received funding.

3. 1985–86 None of these groups received funding.

GEELONG HOSPITAL

(Question No. 820)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

1. Whether the Minister will advise what steps are being taken to install the first linear accelerator in the radiotherapy department in Geelong Hospital?

2. Whether provision will be made for this equipment in the 1986–87 State Budget?

3. Whether the Minister is aware of the growing population of aged people in the Geelong area and the transportation and accommodation problems encountered by cancer patients and their families because cancer patients currently have to seek treatment in Melbourne; if so, will he take immediate action to hasten plans for the installation of radiotherapy equipment and facilities in Geelong Hospital in the 1986–87 financial year?

4. Whether the Minister will give every support to the medical profession in Geelong to take a more active interest in radiotherapy and the treatment of cancer generally?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

1. The report of the Lovell Committee on the provision of services to persons suffering from cancer recommended a decentralized provision and included reference to an extension of services provided through the Geelong Hospital. The report was made available for public discussion and submissions were invited. The time for making submissions has now expired and they are presently being evaluated by the department prior to reporting to me. The decisions relating to the Geelong Hospital will be subject to this process.

2. Provision cannot be made for this equipment until the costs of operating it can be assured and it is certain that the necessary radiotherapy staff can be recruited.

3. Despite the growing population in Geelong, the severe budgetary constraints which are expected in 1986–87 make it unlikely that additional operating funds will be provided. The existing resources of the Barwon and South-Western Region will be examined with the aim of reallocating resources towards the establishment of the unit. This will however take time to accomplish. As well, there is a universal shortage of trained radiotherapy staff. Additional trainees have been appointed to the Peter MacCallum Hospital, but they will not graduate for another two to four years.

4. I am confident that the medical profession in Geelong is most diligent in its treatment of cancer patients.

PROPOSED NEW BRIDGES AT ECHUCA

(Question No. 848)

Mr HANN (Rodney) asked the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources:

Whether he will lay on the table of the Library all files, memoranda and reports on the proposed new road and rail bridges over the River Murray at Echuca?

Mr FORDHAM (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources)—The answer is:

The Victorian Tourism Commission holds a number of documents relating to the construction of bridges over the River Murray at Echuca. The documents are part of an active commission file which also includes other matters. As such, it would be impracticable to have the file laid on the table of the Parliamentary Library.

Should the honourable member wish to examine any specific papers held by the Victorian Tourism Commission, I would be pleased to give the matter further consideration.

HELICOPTER SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

(Question No. 894)

Mr A. T. EVANS (Ballarat North) asked the Premier:

1. Which Government departments use the helicopter services of the National Safety Council?

2. What was the amount of money paid to the National Safety Council from these Government departments in the year ended 30 June 1985 and from July to December 1985, respectively?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—I am informed that:

1. The Government departments which use the National Safety Council's helicopter services are Conservation, Forests and Lands and Police and Emergency Services.

2. Amounts paid are as follows:

	Year Ending 30.6.85	*July–December* 1985
	$	$
CFL	1 077 903	25 187
Police	1 756	14 694

PROPOSED NEW BRIDGES AT ECHUCA

(Question No. 850)

Mr HANN (Rodney) asked the Minister for Housing, for the Minister for Planning and Environment:

Whether he will lay on the table of the Library all files, memoranda and reports on the proposed construction of new road and rail bridges over the River Murray at Echuca?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Planning and Environment is:

No. Access to the information contained in these files, which are active, can be gained under freedom of information.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE FUND

(Question No. 899)

Mr HANN (Rodney) asked the Minister for Education:

What is the total amount of grants announced by him so far as grants to community organisations from the International Year of Peace Fund, indicating—(*a*) the grants to be received by each organisation; (*b*) the purpose for which the grant is to be used; and (*c*) whether funds have been approved for purposes other than community organisations; if so, what amounts have been allocated and for what purposes?

Mr CATHIE (Minister for Education)—The answer is:

(*a*) and (*b*)

Organisation	*Purpose of Grant*	*Amount*
		$
Maroondah Youth Theatre Company	Company will be performing the play *Peace Child* in October. Towards costs of performances.	2500.00
Kew Peace Project Group	Group is conducting a series of activities involving Kew residents including: a community survey, public meeting, a nuclear issues course, Peace Festival, Youth Art Exhibition and a representation to Kew council.	7873.00
Friends of the Earth	Production of an extremely comprehensive resource directory detailing the availability and suitability of a range of peace education literature. Copies of the directory will be distributed to Victorian schools.	12 000.00
Castlemaine People for Nuclear Disarmament	The staging of a public debate on peace and disarmament as part of their community education program.	1000.00
No Grant Theatre	Theatre will be performing the play *A Flash of Light*. The play focuses on individual responsibility in relation to the issues of peace and nuclear disarmament and will be performed at schools throughout the year. No Grant has also prepared an accompanying study kit.	5000.00
Selby Community House	To conduct an eight-week peace education course for women focusing on peace, development and justice. The course will begin in June.	973.00
The Geelong International Year of Peace Project Committee	Committee is staging a public debate on the question of "Peace Through Pacifism or Peace Through Strength" to be held in November at Deakin University, and is organising displays in local shopping centres.	1600.00
The Eltham Living and Learning Centre	Through a series of ten weekly workshops, commencing in April, centre is producing a banner promoting international peace. The banner will be available for use throughout IYP and beyond.	400.00
The Movement Against Uranium Mining	Production display of materials which will be available for use in libraries and schools.	850.00
The League of Women Voters of Victoria	To compile a resource kit featuring the contributions female politicians have made to peace and international understanding. The kit aims to encourage participation in the political process. The kit will be released on United Nations Day, October 24.	5000.00
St Kilda People for Nuclear Disarmament	Towards cost of a display which was featured in the St Kilda municipal library. The display is available for use throughout IYP.	80.00
The Community Education Publications Associated	The association, in conjunction with Open Channel, is producing a 20-minute video on the nuclear fuel cycle entitled "Because We Had No Knowledge". The video which will be suitable for use in the classroom and by community groups is expected to be completed by midyear.	5000.00
Young People for Nuclear Disarmament	Staging a concern at RMIT. At the concert guest speakers, displays and distributed literature will encourage youth involvement in peace issues.	1400.00

Organisation	*Purpose of Grant*	*Amount*
		$
The Peace Education Task Force	Task Force is conducting a peace education conference on September 25–27 at Lorne for both primary and post-primary teachers.	7200.00
Human Rights—First The Child	Completed a walk for peace from Bairnsdale to Frankston. During the walk activities highlighted the need for a reallocation of world resources to prevent massive amounts being spent on armaments whilst thousands of children die of starvation.	2000.00
Combined Peace Resources Group and Melbourne University Student Representative Council	A committee representing some 40 peace and development organisations in Victoria and Melbourne University Student Representative Council have been funded jointly to establish the foundation of a centrally located (publicly accessible) community resource centre. This would house all existing peace materials and coordinate the production of new materials.	9518.40
Northcote Community Education for Peace Co-operative	Co-operative will establish a shop front in Northcote incorporating a bookshop library, reading room, meeting space, cafe and performance space. The group also hopes to run courses on peace issues at the centre.	10 000.00
Central Victorian Peace and Environment Resource Centre Coalition	The coalition is a Bendigo group comprising local peace, environment and church agencies. They will be establishing a regional resource centre for the general community, schools and peace and environment groups.	7000.00
Orana—The Peace Memorial Homes for Children	Group has been funded to establish an ecumenical centre for peace in Burwood. The centre will promote peace issues through access to seminars, workshops displays and by housing resources.	1000.00
Combined Peace Groups, Ballarat	Groups will establish a shop front to act as a focus for peace and justice materials and activity in their local community. The shop will serve as a meeting place and resource centre.	2500.00
Upper Yarra People for Nuclear Disarmament	Organising a week-end peace arts festival in their local area, including a film festival and art exhibition.	500.00
Castlemaine Women's Support Group	Group is staging a one day workshop for women on their role, past, present and future, in peacemaking at a local and family level.	200.00
Carlton Contact Neighbourhood House	Conducting a ten-week workshop series using different drama techniques to explore conflict and violence at a personal and global level. This project is aimed largely at low-income women, many of whom live in violent domestic situations.	2255.00
Wodonga Continuing Education Centre	Conducting a one day workshop focusing on negotiation and conflict resolution skills.	410.00
Sale Peace Group	Running three training courses and a larger one day workshop on conflict resolution. The courses and workshop are aimed at members of the group and a broad cross section of the local community. The organisers are also planning to run ongoing courses in conjunction with the Sale Centre for Continuing Education.	1807.00

Organisation	*Purpose of Grant*	*Amount*
		$
The Australian-Turkish Friendship Society	The society is publishing a booklet titled *Before and After Gallipoli—A Collection of Australian and Turkish Writings,* which attempts to highlight the friendship between peoples who once made war. The booklet will be launched at a public meeting, addressing the relevance of Gallipoli to the development of modern Turkey and the Turkish migrant experience.	1500.00
The Victorian Peace and Development Youth Network	Network is producing three broadsheets on peace and development issues and activities. The broadsheets will be distributed to youth organisations throughout Victoria and will include practical suggestions on how young people can play a part in ensuring a peaceful and just world.	1785.00
The Australian Council of Churches	Council of Churches have recently held a public "hearing" in Melbourne on the topic of "How Australians can most effectively contribute to global peace". The Melbourne hearing is one of ten taking place throughout Australia during 1986.	1200.00
Arts Action for Peace	Staging a weekend peace arts conference (partially sponsored by the Victorian Ministry for the Arts); and a peace arts festival in Melbourne. The conference is for artists and, among other things, will be considering the establishment of a Peace Arts Foundation to enable artists to contribute to peace in future years.	2500.00
Albury Community Peace Committee and Albury/Wodonga Continuing Education Centre	Groups are jointly staging a public meeting on the topic "Peace Through Strength?" Speakers will represent the opposing sides in this debate.	100.00
Women Who Want To Be Women	Towards costs of a forum on the issue of peace studies in schools.	250.00
West Gippsland Regional Libary	Library is holding a one-day seminar involving guest speakers, panel discussions and workshops. The seminar aims to define local community action which promotes peace and to encourage such action in Warragul. The seminar is entitled "Peace: Whose Responsibility?"	500.00
The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	League is publicising and promoting a board and dice peace game devised by two Victorian students.	300.00
The Brunswick Unemployment Group	Group is producing an anti-nuclear play by young people, to be performed at the town hall, in local schools and community centres. Discussions with guest speakers will take place at the end of each performance.	5000.00
Lincoln Institute Student Union	Union is employing a researcher to document nuclear research being undertaken in Victorian tertiary institutions. The aim of the project is to increase awareness of this aspect of the nuclear cycle and the inherent dangers. The union will produce a report on the research and use other educational aids to promote alternative energy technologies available.	2850.00
Melbourne Moomba Festival/Building Workers Industrial Union and Painters Decorators Union of Australia	Production of peace posters to be displayed on large billboards. The billboards will be located on building sites around Melbourne.	2500.00

Organisation	*Purpose of Grant*	*Amount*
		$
The Institute for Peace Research at La Trobe University	To provide a peace research scholarship to a student during 1986-87. The institute was officially opened on 10 June 1986.	5000.00
St Joseph's Technical School	School will be conducting a range of activities including drama, dance, guest speakers, excursions, films and videos aimed at promoting peace within the school community. The grant will also be used to purchase peace resources for the school.	1500.00
Preston East Technical School	School is producing a play performed by students. The play will advance a global perspective in relation to peace and disarmament issues.	2100.00
Monash High School	School is suspending formal curricula for one week to allow students to attend films, perform in plays and hear guest speakers on peace issues.	750.00
The Australia-Polish Friendship Club	Club is sponsoring visit to Australia by Prof. Dobrosielski who is the vice-president of the Polish Peace Committee. Prof. Dobrosielski will participate in a national speaking tour focusing on Warsaw Pact-NATO relations.	2000.00
Greek Progressive Youth of Australia	Group is producing a series of radio programs. The programs, which will be in Greek, will focus on peace and disarmament issues and be played on 3CR, 3EA, at schools and for community groups.	2500.00
Australian Teachers of Media	The staging of a workshop for teachers aimed at promoting the use of video in relation to peace studies.	1500.00
The Kiwanis Club of Doncaster/ Templestowe	Towards costs of staging a musical festival which included 1000 primary school children in a choir, singing peace songs at Dallas Brooks Hall.	500.00
Community Radio Federation Ltd	Towards costs of production of five radio programs-exploring ways in which individuals, when confronted with violence and conflict, have chosen non-violent means to resolve the situation. The programs will take a case study approach.	3040.00
Public Radio News Service	Towards costs of producing thirteen radio documentaries examining Australia's involvement in nuclear politics and outlining the roles of State and Federal Governments, international bodies, and local communities in working towards peace.	7500.00
Moonee Valley Regional Library Service	Service is conducting a comprehensive peace program in seven library branches during August. The program includes mid-week film nights, speakers and debates; after school activities for young people; displays, book readings and a literary competition.	1460.00
Huntingdale Technical School	School is conducting an integrated learning project for years 7-10 on aspects of peace. The program involves contributions from all subject areas and work will be displayed at a school peace day.	1500.00
The Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Trust	Trust is producing educational material on aspects of Aboriginal culture and rights and the role of the trust.	5000.00

Organisation	*Purpose of Grant*	*Amount*
		$
Williamstown High School	School is staging a week long series of activities, including the production of a ceramic mural for display in the school. The school also hopes to promote the concept of STOP (Students and Teachers Organising for Peace) to other Victorian schools through their activities.	500.00
Council of Adult Education	CAE are conducting a two day workshop and seminar series for adults. The series includes a curriculum development component or CAE staff aimed at promoting continuing education on peace issues.	3800.00
Northcote Youth and Community Services Inc.	Group is staging a wide range of peace activities in the local community involving the support and participation of some eleven community organisations. The program will culminate in a peace festival in late October.	5000.00
The North West One Stop Welfare Centre	Group is staging a week long exhibition of young people's artwork (visual and performing) from a variety of cultures. The exhibition culminates in a multi-cultural feast and concert and aims to foster understanding and tolerance among a culturally diverse community.	4000.00
Another Planet Posters Inc.	Group is producing billboard posters to locate in outer metropolitan areas and producing a poster facsimile for distribution to schools and community groups.	5220.00
The Medical Association for the Prevention of War	Association is producing eight display posters, focusing on disarmament and development issues within the Australian/Pacific context. The posters will cover the medical psychological, economic, social and environmental consequences of the arms race and propose some "solutions".	640.00
The Portland Fibre Group	Group is producing a six foot tapestry on the theme "Women and Peace", which will be hung in the Civic Hall.	1000.00
The Campaign For International Co-operation and Disarmament	Towards cost of organising a Youth Art for Peace project, in which secondary students are encouraged to submit artwork for exhibition. The exhibition will be held in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall and will later travel to country regions.	2450.00
The Peace Education Publication Group	Group is producing a booklet on the nature of conflict for distribution to junior secondary students.	6000.00
Total		169 511.40

(*c*) A contribution of $1269.13 was made towards a public meeting "Save the Future" at Camberwell Town Hall on 20 March, organised by Psychologists for the Prevention of War. The meeting featured Dr Helen Caldicott and Premier John Cain.

$6000 has been made available to the Museum of Victoria towards the staging of the museum exhibition "Peace—an exhibition".

$2000 has been made available to the UN International Day of Peace Committee in order to organise publicity for events and activities on that day.

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS PROGRAM

(Question No. 920)

Mr WEIDEMAN (Frankston South) asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs, for the Minister for Community Services:

Whether the Government will take up and fund the Protective Behaviours Program, being introduced across the State by the Community Policing Squads and through the community-based Crime Prevention and Education Consultative Group to ensure that trained, paid personnel can implement, coordinate and promote the program and make it accessible to every child and adult?

Mr SPYKER (Minister for Consumer Affairs)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Community Services is:

The Government has established a Child Protective Services Program through the Department of Community Services Victoria.

A major focus of the Government's Child Protective Services Program is community education regarding child maltreatment. Personnel are employed centrally and regionally in the department to develop and implement community education programs. The department is represented on the Crime Prevention Education Consultancy Group and personnel have participated in training courses for the Protective Behaviours Program.

The Protective Behaviours Program is seen as a very worthwhile program and is being considered as one of the many community education approaches in the area of child management.

The Hewitt's report on child sexual assault has been released recently for public discussion. Promotion and funding of community education programs such as protective behaviours will be considered as part of the consultation on the report.

DRUG REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH FUND

(Question No. 932)

Mr COLEMAN (Syndal) asked the Minister for Transport, for the Minister for Health:

In relation to the Drug Rehabilitation and Research Fund:

1. What amounts were paid into the fund in the financial years 1981–82, 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85, respectively?

2. What amounts were paid into the fund during each month in the current financial year?

3. What was the source of the amounts credited in each of the years 1981–82, 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85 and in each month in the current financial year?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer supplied by the Minister for Health is:

1. The Drug Rehabilitation and Research Fund is a part of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981, which was assented to on 12 January 1982 and came into operation on 18 December 1983.

Amounts paid into the fund in the respective financial years were:

1982–83	Fund not in operation
1983–84	$204.00
1984–85	$132 103.30
1985–86	$301 129.35 as at 12 May 1986

2. Amounts paid into the fund during each month in the current financial year (1985–86) are:

July	$42 034.60
August	$46 000.96
September	$33 950.50
October	$44 322.90
November	$35 822.00
December	$25 976.00
January	$19 482.39
February	$11 867.00
March	$14 591.00
April	$20 430.00
May	$6 652.00 to 12 May 1986
TOTAL 85–86	$301 129.35
B/FORWARD	$132 307.30
BALANCE	$433 436.65 as at 12 May 1986

3. The source of the amounts paid into the fund during each of the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 and in each month in the current financial year are those moneys arising from fines, penalties and forfeitures received or recovered by the Crown pursuant to section 86 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981.

Section 86 relates to a person charged by the courts of a drug related offence who is convicted, charged and found guilty but has no conviction recorded; and charged and found guilty and who absconds before or during the trial or hearing.

Under this section the court may make an order that the person pay a pecuniary penalty. The amount ordered to be paid is to be an amount which the court is satisfied would be equal to the value of the benefits derived by the person from the commission of the drug related offence.

PUBLIC HOUSING

(Question No. 939)

Mr LEIGH (Malvern) asked the Minister for Housing:

In respect of each of the electorates of Mentone, Clayton, Albert Park, St Kilda, Oakleigh and Malvern:

1. What public housing is available?
2. What is the address of each house?
3. What is the latest valuation or cost of each house?
4. What is the Ministry's upper limit for purchasing spot housing?

Mr WILKES (Minister for Housing)—The answer is:

1, 2 and 3. Housing stock controlled by the Ministry in local government areas (LGAs) which fall wholly or partly within the above electorates is as follows:

LGA Name	*Property Type*	*No.*	*Average Valuation (As At* 30.6.86)
			$
Moorabbin	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	284	28 000
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	46	38 500
	Medium density—cluster	72	54 800
	Separate house	963	66 100
	Semidetached	67	57 400
		1432	

LGA Name	*Property Type*	*No.*	*Average Valuation (As At* 30.6.86)
			$
Mordialloc	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	26	38 300
	Bedsitter	62	25 100
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	8	44 550
	Medium density—cluster	9	53 500
	Separate house	45	62 700
		150	
Caulfield	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	17	58 500
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	28	45 500
	Medium density—town house	15	66 500
	Separate house	13	63 800
	Terrace/row house	10	33 400
		83	
Brighton	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	116	27 600
	Bedsitter	25	15 900
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	12	71 500
	Separate house	131	87 700
	Semidetached	20	54 000
		304	
Waverley	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	129	26 300
	Bedsitter	8	17 300
	Separate house	1874	59 100
	Semidetached	44	48 200
	Terrace/row house	24	47 500
		2083	
Oakleigh	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	1	36 000
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	6	41 800
	Medium density—cluster	10	55 200
	Dual Occupancy	3	14 400
	Medium density—town house	37	79 600
	Medium density—villa house	11	39 700
	Separate house	186	64 400
	Terrace/row house	3	61 200
		257	
Port Melbourne	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	337	32 700
	Bedsitter	24	18 000
	House and shop	2	95 100
	Medium density—cluster	45	32 300
	Medium density—villa unit	125	51 400
	Separate house	5	69 000
	Semidetached	422	86 200
		960	
South Melbourne	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	188	55 900
	Bedsitter	132	13 400
	High-rise flat (five storeys or more)	478	18 400
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	1	48 400
	Medium density—cluster	48	30 100
	Medium density—villa unit	141	32 800
	Separate house	87	82 100
	Semidetached	2	46 200
	Terrace/row house	2	120 400
		1079	

LGA Name	*Property Type*	*No.*	*Average Valuation (As At* 30.6.86)
			$
St Kilda	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	80	26 200
	Bedsitter	228	14 900
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	75	38 100
	Rooming house	1	57 300
	Separate house	13	99 400
		397	
Malvern	Walk-up flat (four storeys or less)	14	58 400
	Flats (other than walk-up or high-rise)	25	66 800
	Separate house	16	60 000
		55	

Note: 1. These figures do not include movable units (granny flats) or commercial properties controlled by the Ministry.

2. I do not consider it appropriate to provide the full address of Ministry properties.

4. To enable the Ministry to negotiate effectively in the open market it is not considered desirable to answer this question through the Parliament.

SOCIAL JUSTICE POLICY

(Question No. 951)

Mr I. W. SMITH (Polwarth) asked the Premier:

Whether the Government has a social justice policy as indicated by the former Governor, Sir Brian Murray, in his opening address to this Parliament; if so—(*a*) will he provide details to all honourable members; (*b*) what role and responsibility will local government have in the implementation of such policy; (*c*) will local government be required to participate in the delivery of social justice services; and (*d*) who will pay for the costs incurred by local government if it assists in the delivery of social justice services?

Mr CAIN (Premier)—The answer is:

(*a*) The Government's social justice policy was elaborated in the 1985 document: *Social Justice: the next* 4 *years.* This publication made it clear that the Government would prepare a social justice strategy which would guide the future social development of the State. The policy also indicated that the Government would develop services in line with a set of principles, which will embrace issues as diverse as access, civil rights and cultural relevance.

(*b*) and (*c*) Local government already plays an important role in the delivery of physical and human services, and this participation will continue in the future. The Department of Community Services Victoria has recognized the important role of local government in the human services area and has established a joint committee with the Municipal Association of Victoria and local government interest groups to examine the functions and resourcing requirements of both CSV and local government in family and children's services. In addition, the local government sector is also represented on committees and task forces concerned with particular programs including, for example, the Local Government Home and Community Care Finance Advisory Task Group.

(*d*) The State Government already contributes in a significant way to the financial needs of local government. In 1984–85 State Government payments and subsidies to or for local government—from State sources—totalled $186 million. The Local Government Department has prepared a detailed analysis of these payments, by both department and municipality. In addition, the Government is committed to revised funding arrangements for local government so as to provide more general funds, with fewer conditions and regulations attached. In March of this year the Minister for Community Services wrote to all municipalities in relation to the local planning strategy project and the issue of service contracts between the State and local government. The local plans—being developed as part of the project—are regarded as essential precursors to the development of service contracts between the State and municipalities.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The following answers to questions on notice were circulated—

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

(Question No. 434)

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) asked the Minister for Transport:

What number of buses were operating from the Metropolitan Transit Authority depot at Doncaster as at 30 June 1981 to 1985 inclusive, indicating their capital costs and the routes on which these buses were used?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

As at 30/6/81, 86 buses were required to run the routes serviced by Doncaster depot as listed below:

260	East Doncaster (via George St)	— City (via Freeway)
261	Templestowe (via Thompsons Rd)	— City (via Freeway)
262	Newmans Rd or Templestowe (via High St)	— City (via Freeway)
264	Donvale–Park Orchards	— City (via Freeway)
265	Warrandyte (via Templestowe–High St)	— City (via Freeway)
266	East Doncaster (via Doncaster Rd)	— City (via Freeway)
268	East Doncaster	— Shoppingtown (via George St)
269	Greensborough (via East Templestowe)	— Shoppingtown (via Williamsons Rd)
270	East Kew	— Shoppingtown (via Elgar Rd)
271	Templestowe–Lower Templestowe	— Shoppingtown (via Bulleen–Thompsons Rd)
276	Warrandyte (via Templestowe and Doncaster Junction)	— City (via Kew)
277	Warrandyte (via East Doncaster)	— City (via Kew)
278	Warrandyte (via Templestowe–High St)	— City (via Kew)
279	Newmans Rd or Templestowe (via High St)	— City (via Kew)
280	East Doncaster or East Doncaster Junction	— City (via Kew)
281	Donvale	— City (via Kew)
284	Templestowe–Doncaster North–Box Hill	— East Kew
286	East Doncaster or East Doncaster Junction	— Box Hill (via Blackburn)
287	Mitcham	— Box Hill (via Donvale and Blackburn)
289	Templestowe	— Box Hill (via Bulleen–Thompsons Rd)
290	Blackburn North	— Box Hill (via Dorking Rd)
291	Heidelberg or Repatriation Hospital	— Box Hill
292	East Doncaster or East Doncaster Junction	— Box Hill (via Station St)
293	Shoppingtown or Doncaster Junction	— Box Hill (via Station St)
296	Newmans Rd or Templestowe (via High St)	— Box Hill
297	Templestowe (via East Doncaster. *Serpells Rd)	— Box Hill (via Station St)
302	Mitcham	— East Doncaster Junction
303	Mitcham	— Ringwood
313	Ringwood	— Warrandyte (via Warrandyte Rd)
314	Ringwood	— Warrandyte (via Wonga Rd)
315	Ringwood	— Park Orchards

316 Ringwood — Park Orchards (via Wonga Rd)

317 Ringwood — Warrandyte (via Wonga and Oban Roads)

By 30/6/85, 99 buses were required to run these routes, as well as a number of alterations which were initiated after June 1981.

These alterations and additions to routes are—

303 Ringwood-Mitcham via Park Orchards (new off peak service)

284 Doncaster North-Box Hill-East Kew-City/via Freeway (new service)

269 Greensborough-Shoppingtown (revised peak services)

Additional school trips for Warrandyte High School, Whitefriars, Parkwood High School, St Anne's and Catholic Ladies College (Eltham)

The Ringwood Neighbourhood Review brought about new services, namely—

366 Ringwood-Croydon (via East Ringwood)

367 Ringwood-Croydon (via Warranwood)

and an extension of the Park Orchards-Ringwood service (315) to operate via Tortice Drive.

In June 1985 the value of buses required to run the services at Doncaster depot was $8·851 million. In June 1981 it is estimated that the value of buses was approximately $7·688 million, assuming the same dollar values as for 1985.

MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAVEL GUIDELINES

(Question No. 603)

Mr WILLIAMS (Doncaster) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In view of the answer given on 21 November 1985 by the Minister for Local Government to question No. 533, with respect to each department, agency and authority within his administration:

1. What travel guidelines and procedures set by the Protocol Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Overseas Visits Committee have applied since April 1982 with regard to air tickets, accommodation and any other gifts or hospitality provided by hosts of SES level public servants and above?

2. What were the names of the organisations and/or persons involved as—(*a*) hosts; and (*b*) recipients of such benefits?

3. What was the approximate value of the benefits provided in each case, for—(*a*) air tickets; (*b*) accommodation; (*c*) entertainment; (*d*) surface travel; and (*e*) gifts?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

1. The guidelines are detailed in Department of Premier and Cabinet circular No. 84/4, issued in March 1984. Details of these guidelines will be provided by the Premier in answer to question No. 597.

2 and 3. In relation to the host, recipient and costs of any sponsorship, the Victoria Police Force is the only agency which has received such benefits. These are detailed below:

Year	*Host Organisation*	*Recipient Officer*	*Cost Involved*	
				$
1983	Department of Special Minister of State	Mr E. T. Millar Deputy Commissioner	Not known	
1983	Federal Government	Mr R. J. Hall Deputy Commissioner	Air Tickets	6362.00
			Accommodation	702.60
			Surface Travel	15.62
1984	Australian Police College	Mr E. T. Millar Deputy Commissioner	Air Tickets	272.00
1985	Australian Institute of Criminology	Mr E. A. Mudge Deputy Commissioner	Air Tickets	267.80
1985	Federal Government	Mr K. P. Thompson Assistant Commissioner	Air Tickets	499.60

Year	*Host Organisation*	*Recipient Officer*	*Cost Involved*	
				$
1983	Australian Institute of Criminology	Dr J Hendtlass	Air Tickets	1094.20
1983	Commonwealth Department of Transport	Dr J. Hendtlass		

MINISTRY FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES GROUP FUNDING

(Question No. 759)

Mr DICKINSON (South Barwon) asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In respect of each department, agency and authority within his administration, what was the level of funding given to the following groups in each of the financial years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 to date—(*a*) Radio 3CR; (*b*) Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament; (*c*) Pacific People's Support Group; (*d*) Latin-America Information Centre; (*e*) Latrobe Valley Art Resource Collective; (*f*) Italian Communist Organisation FILEF; (*g*) Victorian Association of Peace Studies; (*h*) Pax Christi Organisation; (i) Gay Publication Collective; (*j*) Collective Line Graphics; (*k*) Friends of the Earth; and (*l*) Young Women's Housing Collective?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)—The answer is:

A check of financial records of each department, agency and authority within my administration has disclosed that no payments are recorded for the financial years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 as being made to the organisations listed.

TRANSPORT AUTHORITIES' FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

(Question No. 834)

Mr BROWN (Gippsland West) asked the Minister for Transport:

In respect of each of the financial years 1981-82 to 1984-85, inclusive, what was the actual amount of money lost on foreign exchange transactions regarding moneys borrowed overseas, indicating how much was lost by the State Transport Authority, the Road Traffic Authority, the Road Construction Authority, the Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Port of Melbourne Authority, or their successor bodies, respectively?

Mr ROPER (Minister for Transport)—The answer is:

The actual amount of money lost on foreign exchange transactions regarding moneys borrowed overseas in respect of each year between 1981-82 and 1984-85 is as follows:

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
	$	$	$	$
State Transport Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	148 185
Port of Melbourne Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Provision is made in the accounts for notional foreign exchange losses in accordance with normal accounting practices.

It should be clearly understood that the interest rates on the funds borrowed from overseas are some 50 per cent to 60 per cent, on average, lower than domestic interest rates.

Despite the deterioration of the Australian dollar since the loans were taken out, it should be appreciated that over the life of the loans—some of which still have ten years to run—the interest savings in total will compensate for the devaluation losses, if the Australian dollar and local and overseas interest remain at about the current levels.

It is therefore unrealistic to consider only potential foreign exchange losses without also taking into account the very significant interest savings. On this basis, transport, in total, has managed its overseas borrowings very well in the present circumstances and, had the dollar deterioration not occurred, the interest savings would have been a "profit" to the State. Instead, it will now be a "break even" position after taking into account the Australian dollar devaluation.

The Road Construction Authority, the Road Traffic Authority and the Metropolitan Transit Authority do not have any foreign exchange exposure.

TRUSTEES EXECUTORS & AGENCY CO. LTD

(Question No. 954)

Mr STEGGALL (Swan Hill) asked the Minister for the Arts, for the Attorney-General:

In respect of the Trustees Executors & Agency Co. Ltd:

1. Whether the Minister will advise if charges are to be laid against the company; if so—(*a*) against whom are charges to be laid; (*b*) has counsel been briefed to prepare the necessary case; (*c*) what is the likely date the matter will be heard in the Magistrates Court by way of committal proceedings; and (*d*) when is the report of the inspector of the National Companies and Securities Commission, Mr Beasley, to be made public and laid before Parliament in accordance with the undertaking give when the matter was first raised in 1983 by the Premier and Attorney-General?

2. Whether he will ascertain and inform the House if any specific direction has been given by the Attorney-General of the State of Queensland to prosecute H. E. Petersen for breach of fiduciary duty to the company?

Mr MATHEWS (Minister for the Arts)—The answer supplied by the Attorney-General is:

1. (*a*) Several persons connected with the affairs of the Trustees Executors & Agency Co. Ltd have been charged with offences under one or more of the following statutes:

Crimes Act 1958

Securities Industry (Victoria) Code

Companies (Victoria) Code

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matters have been listed for 8 October 1986.

(*d*) The report is not to be made public at this time.

2. This question should be directed to the Queensland Attorney-General.