

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th March, 1993

Mr Speaker (The Hon. Kevin Richard Rozzoli) took the chair at 2.15 p.m.

Mr Speaker offered the Prayer.

COMMONWEALTH DAY

Mr Speaker informed the House that yesterday Commonwealth Day 1993 was celebrated and that the following message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth had been issued through the Chairman of the Joint Commonwealth Societies' Council and received from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association headquarters secretariat:

COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE 1993

FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH

This year on Commonwealth Day, I am asking you all to think about human values. I know from the many letters I receive from young people that their generation cares deeply about the rights of the individual, about the sufferings of others and about making a better world for us all to live in. I believe the youth of the Commonwealth is well placed to give a lead in showing how human values can be improved.

We share the same world but we do not share the same opportunities. Everyone wants to be free from poverty and hunger, disease and discrimination, to have access to education and to live in a safe environment. People everywhere want to be able to play a full part in the democratic government of their countries and to live in freedom, protected by just laws. These aspirations were endorsed by all the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth when they met in Harare in 1991, and much has been achieved since then in fulfilling them.

In societies where constitutional rights are assured, co-operation between all citizens becomes more natural and more fruitful in tackling the major problems we face. The achievement of one human value can help to achieve others. We should all aspire to raise the standards of life in our countries, to achieve a more prosperous and equitable society and to exercise a powerful influence for peace within and between nations.

None of this is easy to bring about because the establishment of human values implies duties as well as rights. If we want to exercise and enlarge our rights and opportunities, we have to safeguard the rights and opportunities of others. We should look for chances to give service just as eagerly as we look for benefits for ourselves.

The young people of the Commonwealth have the future in their hands. May they keep their vision of human values alive and their determination to achieve them undiminished. And may our fifty nations, sharing our experience and working together to enhance the quality of life, send an example to the rest of the world.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CLEAN WATERWAYS PROGRAM

Mr CARR: My question without notice is directed to the Premier and Treasurer. Why is the Government planning to cut the Sydney Water Board's clean waterways program by \$1.65 billion, or nearly 60 per cent, over the next 10 years? Has the board warned that this means massive increases in pollution? Does it mean that the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system will not be swimmable or fishable?

Mr FAHEY: As all honourable members would know, last week the Government created the Hawkesbury-Nepean Trust to ensure that the deleterious substances which are seeping into the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system will at last be stopped. Mr Speaker has been endeavouring to get something put together with respect to the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system for about 24 years; he has been lobbying, along with many other interest groups. That trust was announced in some detail last week by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management and me. It has proved that the Government can get things done on issues which have been around for some considerable time.

It ought to be obvious to the Leader of the Opposition that the Government has a strong commitment to the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system and to the cleaning up of that system. It should also be obvious to anyone who wants to do research or take note of documents which are available for all to see that \$1.6 billion will be spent over a five-year period - at a time when only \$454 million is being raised by the special environmental levy - for cleaning up waterways and dealing with the environmental aspects of waterways.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr FAHEY: Obviously, members of the Opposition are not the slightest bit interested in the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system. They demonstrated that for 12 years, during which time they did nothing to get that important river system into some order. There are many river systems throughout the State, but the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system is the most important system in New South Wales as it affects the lives of so many people. With respect to the cleaning up of waterways, the Water Board will contribute \$1.65 billion over a five-year period and the special environmental levy has contributed only \$454 million of that. It is clear that the Government is vitally interested in the Hawkesbury-Nepean system. I have no doubt that the consultative approach which brought about the establishment of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Trust will ensure that it has power to enable it to stand over various agencies which may or may not have contributed to the degradation of the river in the past.

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In the future there will be no way that those agencies can avoid the environmental laws; the trust will guarantee that they are strictly adhered to.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION FUNDING

Mr FRASER: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Health. Is the Minister aware that the Keating Government has cut funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs in New South Wales?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Liverpool to order.

Mr FRASER: What effect will those cuts have on people needing such assistance?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Coogee to order.

Mr PHILLIPS: I acknowledge the continuing interest shown by the honourable member for Coffs Harbour in the development of hospitals and the full range of health care services that are so vital. One wonders, with the pork-barrelling that is going on during the current Federal election campaign, why the Keating Government has pulled the plug on drug and alcohol programs. The Federal Government, at the very time it is trying to buy the votes of every group in the community, is taking money from those who really need it, drug and alcohol dependent people in the Illawarra and other areas.

The outgoing Federal Government has cut the funding of the national campaign against drug abuse by 7.5 per cent. That adds up to half a million dollars which will not be available this year in New South Wales to be spent on the vital drug and alcohol services of this State. To add insult to injury, the New South Wales drug and alcohol directorate has been obliged by the Commonwealth to preserve funding which was previously supplied to drug and alcohol services for projects outside the management of the Department of Health. The directorate has been required to try to maintain drug and alcohol services though about \$800,000 has been removed from its funding pool by the Federal Government. To add further insult to injury, the dishonesty of the outgoing Keating Government was highlighted in a recent article in the *Illawarra Mercury*:

A spokesman for Federal Health Minister Peter Staples said no Commonwealth funding had been cut and they had only recently discovered the officers would not be re-employed.

Mr Staples' spokesman claimed: "They are lying, let me tell you straight up".

"They are turning around and blaming us."

New South Wales does not blame the Federal Government for any reason other than that is where the blame should lay. For the benefit of concerned organisations and honourable members in the Illawarra and other areas, I quote from a letter from the Hon. Peter Staples, M.P., under the heading "National Drug Strategy - Cost Shared Funds For 1992/93". The letter states, "I have determined that funding for the States and Territories be reduced by a proportionally lesser amount, resulting in a reduction of 7.5%". One would have to wonder about the priorities of the Federal Government when it cuts funding while pork-barrelling.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr PHILLIPS: If funding is short, why has the Federal Government spent \$5 million on an advertising campaign to promote Medicare in the months leading up to the election?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Hurstville to order.

Mr PHILLIPS: During recent weeks a quite expensive package has been mailed out to people in the community. The information kit is described on its front cover as "A Commonwealth health initiative in partnership with State and Territory Governments". I assure honourable members there is no partnership at present between the Federal Government and this State in the way health care is being funded.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Hurstville to order for the second time. I call the honourable member for St Marys to order.

Mr PHILLIPS: The material being mailed out by the Federal Government contains a couple of jokes. The very first page of the kit commences with these words: "What is Medicare? Medicare finances health care for Australians". Health care for people in this State is funded by the Federal Government, through Medicare, for only 16 weeks of the year. That is outrageous!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Kiama to order.

Mr PHILLIPS: The New South Wales Government is preventing the health system collapsing in this

State. The kit further poses the question: "What does it mean if I'm put on a waiting list?" The answer to that question states, in part: "Waiting lists are a normal part of efficient hospital management". That is the attitude of the Federal Government to waiting lists. The Commonwealth Government also mailed out - for what reason I do not know - copies of a large poster, on which is printed: "You'll get the best possible care and your every need met."

Mr Whelan: On a point of order. The number of times on which the Chair has previously ruled against certain documents that honourable members on the Opposition benches have attempted to use in the Chamber for illustration purposes is significant. The Minister for Health is trifling with the House by engaging in some sort of stunt.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members should remain silent while the point of order is taken.

Mr Whelan: My second point is that the Minister has been speaking for some time and should be asked to return to answering the question asked by

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the honourable member for Coffs Harbour

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I uphold the point of order to the extent that I have consistently ruled that visual material which cannot be incorporated in *Hansard* should not be used excessively in the House. The Minister quoted from printed material on the poster and to that extent he was in order. However, I ask him to refrain from further reference to the poster and to complete his answer.

Mr PHILLIPS: Members opposite obviously do not like what I am telling them. The Federal Government has wasted \$5 million on this advertising campaign, in a stunt similar to that attempted by former Premier Barry Unsworth in the run-up to the 1988 State election. If the Federal Government had given that \$5 million to New South Wales, 500 heart operations or 700 hip replacements could have been performed, or the trauma and difficulties suffered by those with drug and alcohol problems, who are now assisted by programs that the Keating Government proposes to cut, could have been alleviated.

POLICE COMMISSIONER LAUER

Mr ANDERSON: My question is directed to the Premier and Treasurer. Does Police Commissioner Tony Lauer now enjoy his full confidence?

Mr FAHEY: I would refer the honourable member to the statement I made in the House last week in relation to the -

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order. I call the honourable member for Ashfield to order.

Mr FAHEY: - restructuring of the police force. However, I will add one thing: the restructuring of the police force has nothing to do with individuals; it is about a very important service in this State.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Drummoyne to order.

Mr FAHEY: I look forward to the support of the honourable member for Liverpool for that restructuring when the matter comes to the Chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Smithfield to order.

MEDICARE AGREEMENT

Mr BLACKMORE: I address my question to the Minister for Health. What improvement has the State Government achieved through negotiations with the Federal Government on the Medicare agreement? How would the deal proposed by the State Opposition have affected patients and hospitals in New South Wales?

Mr PHILLIPS: I am impressed by the question asked by the honourable member for Maitland. The previous Government had been promising a hospital for his area for years and he is delivering through this Government.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Londonderry to order.

Mr PHILLIPS: Anyone who is up on the question of Medicare understands the problem confronting the States, particularly New South Wales. The State is caught in a vice between reduced funding from the Federal Government - as I said before, the Federal Government funds the State system for only 16 weeks of the year; it used to be half the year, it is falling and will continue to fall - and hundreds of people bailing out of private health insurance and becoming public patients.

More and more people are coming to hospitals as public patients. That means reduced incomes from insurance companies and extra costs for the State in paying visiting medical officer fees and other doctor's fees. That is the squeeze which the Federal Government refuses to face up to. The coalition policy would at least try to put more money into the public health system by stopping people bailing out of the private insurance system - by giving incentives to people who can afford to be privately insured. Those people will then be able to take on a greater share of the funding of their hospital treatment in public or private hospitals. This will make a dramatic difference to services.

We are after equity of access. At present there is not equity of access. A pensioner or someone who cannot afford private health care has one option: to go into the public system and wait in turn. But a well-off aged citizen or any other person who is well off has the option of buying services from a private hospital. That is not equity in my book. That is outrageous. The Federal Government, whatever party is in office, should address this issue to ensure equity of access to health care. I notice that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is sitting head down, absolutely quiet.

Back in October during the Medicare negotiations I stated clearly that I would not sign the Medicare agreement because \$100 million was being taken from New South Wales taxpayers by way of the increased levy from 1st July and not a penny of it was coming back. Not one cent was coming back to our hospitals system. Yet the Opposition's health spokesman said in his press release of 8th October, "The Federal Government's waiting list incentive package would give New South Wales an extra \$20 million as soon as the Medicare agreement is signed". He was wrong: the waiting list money was \$16 million. He wanted me to take the drachma from the Federal Government and to sign a five-year agreement which would severely damage the health system in New South Wales. I continued to refuse to sign.

At the Premiers Conference a few weeks later the Premier got the \$16 million with no strings attached and without signing the Medicare agreement. We dealt with the matter very quickly without the support of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. On

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27th January on the Frank Crook show on 2BL, 12 days before the Federal Government finally relented and gave us what we were after and we signed the Medicare agreement, talking to Steve Chase - who I think was talking from the lawns of the Golf Ball Lodge in Moss Vale on his way through; I am not exactly sure - Andrew Refshauge said, "I think he should accept. It is a generous offer". Frank Crook said, "Mr Phillips says that he does not have to sign until July. Do you think he will hold out and try to get more money out of the Commonwealth?" Andrew Refshauge went on to say, "Well, he has been holding out now for six months. No more money has been forthcoming". He was wrong.

Twelve days later, on the day on which the writs were issued for the election, the Federal Government

collapsed just before 6 o'clock and said, "Yes, we will give you what you want under the Medicare agreement". It also agreed to give Victoria what it wanted. New South Wales got an extra \$78 million a year. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition wanted us to sign up four months earlier and to sell out this State to the Federal Government. The people of New South Wales should be thankful that he was not the Minister for Health at that time. Not only did we get the current Federal Government to sign; the coalition has agreed that if there is a change of government, which I presume there will be, the interests of New South Wales hospitals will be clearly protected.

PUBLIC HOUSING WATER CHARGES

Mrs GRUSOVIN: My question is directed to the Premier and Treasurer. Is your Government proposing to charge disadvantaged public housing tenants for water use? Will this charge also attract the goods and services tax if Dr Hewson is elected Prime Minister?

Mr FAHEY: I am not aware of any proposals for the Government to charge disadvantaged public housing tenants for water. I will make inquiries of the appropriate Minister and inform the honourable member of the response.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Coogee to order for the second time.

SYDNEY CITY COUNCIL FINANCES

Mr PETCH: I address my question to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Cooperatives. What information has the Minister received on the financial position of Sydney City Council? What action is he taking on behalf of ratepayers of Sydney to ensure that the Council operates as efficiently as possible?

Mr PEACOCKE: At the beginning of 1992 Sydney City Council was in a worrying financial situation. It had cash back reserves of \$38.6 million -

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Ermington to order.

Mr PEACOCKE: - and a working funds deficit of \$4.5 million, which was audited.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Smithfield to order for the second time.

Mr PEACOCKE: On information received today it appears that those audited figures may be incorrect. In October-November last year, Sydney council applied for a rate increase of 5 per cent but I required an independent assessment of its financial position. The assessment found that its position was seriously depleted and that corrective action had to be implemented immediately. Reluctantly I approved that increase of 5 per cent subject to certain conditions which included monthly reports being forwarded to me in an approved format and my being satisfied that recovery of its financial position was under way. The January monthly return was supplied late and was inaccurate and incomplete. I sent Alderman Sartor a blunt letter, and when I saw him last Thursday, 4th March, I was presented with a set of unaudited figures, which I immediately referred to the Department of Local Government for analysis.

Yesterday, 8th March, I wrote to the council expressing my extreme concern at its financial situation and informing the council that I required further information by today. The figures supplied on 4th March showed, in short, that somewhere council had spent \$23 million in cash reserves - and that represents an increase in the working funds deficit of \$17.4 million - and had expenditure of \$6 million somewhere else, which has not yet been revealed to me. If the 1991 audited figures are correct - and there is some doubt about that - the council's current position is that it had, at 31st December, 1992, an accumulated working funds deficit of \$21.9 million - an increase of \$17.4 million in 1992 - and had run down reserves to \$31.4 million of which \$16 million is cash

back. I am still not confident that the figures I have been supplied with are accurate.

To begin with, I want accurate figures. I want to know where the money was spent, how the financial position of the council will be recovered, and I want an assurance of a permanent response so that the council's activities in controlling and managing its finances will prevent a recurrence of this situation. I am reluctant to interfere in the process of a duly elected council, but I do have a responsibility to the ratepayers of the Sydney City Council, who are going through hell at the moment because of the recession, to ensure that the problems of the council are dealt with promptly and quickly. I do not want the council to dump on its ratepayers next year as a result of its financial inefficiency. If I am not satisfied by the actions of the council, I will be left with no alternative but to call for a full public inquiry, which may lead to the appointment of an administrator and the removal of the council.

AUSTRALIAN MOTOR CYCLE GRAND PRIX

Mr KNIGHT: I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing. Is it a fact that the contract for the 1993 Motor Cycle Grand Prix - to be held in two weeks - had not been signed as at 5 p.m. last Friday? Has the Minister's dispute with the autocycle union over insurance cover jeopardised the running of the event?

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Mr SCHIPP: I have a message for the honourable member for Campbelltown: come and face up to the Labor people in Blacktown council and explain the reason for the damage that you have tried to cause to an event that provides a significant boost to the economy of the western suburbs of Sydney. That message comes from the chairman of the promotion and development committee. He said to lay it right on the honourable member for Campbelltown, who has been invited out to the area a number of times but has not accepted the invitation.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much interjection from both sides of the House.

Mr SCHIPP: I invite the honourable member to discuss the matter with the honourable member for Heffron.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Kogarah to order.

Mr SCHIPP: The honourable member for Heffron attended the event last year. She will confirm what a feature event it is. I am sure, if she wanted to attend this year, a place could be found for her in the VIP box.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Penrith to order. I call the honourable member for Londonderry to order for the second time.

Mr SCHIPP: It is a fact that the contract has not been signed. However, there is only one outstanding issue and that amounts to the public risk for the entire operation at Eastern Creek. At 4.00 p.m. today we expect to have that matter resolved with the Eastern Creek insurers. It has come down to a matter of whether clear premiums are being charged against the event as distinct -

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Campbelltown to order.

Mr SCHIPP: - from the totality of the operation of Eastern Creek on a year-round basis. I expect that with the full co-operation of the autocycle union and the management of Eastern Creek the matter will be finalised within 24 hours. The grand prix has not been jeopardised. The event is shaping up as an outstanding bonanza for the State. The attendance bookings for Eastern Creek are triple what they were last year. The grand prix teams will be coming to Sydney 10 days ahead of the actual event and they will provide a huge boost

to the local economy. Thirty-six teams are coming to Australia. The event will have worldwide coverage. Young Australians such as Maladin are right up there with the likes of Mick Doohan and the now retired Wayne Gardner. They will do us proud. I hope many honourable members will join the honourable member for Heffron in attending the spectacle.

ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIME

Mr HAZZARD: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Police. What action is the Government taking to improve the training of police dealing with alcohol-related crime?

Mr GRIFFITHS: I thank the honourable member for Wakehurst for his continuing and active interest in policing in New South Wales. There can be little doubt that the link between alcohol abuse and crime is well established and recognised around the world. Anyone who lives or works close to licensed premises would instinctively have known that, without the aid of any expert advice. So too would the local police, who are called upon to react to incidents relating to alcohol-affected people. Research shows that alcohol is a factor in more than 60 per cent of the incidents police are required to attend. Of those incidents, 60 per cent take place in or near licensed premises.

The Government has now moved decisively and in a co-ordinated manner to bring a more proactive approach to this important area of law enforcement. Together with my colleagues the Minister for Health and the Chief Secretary, today I launched an intensive training strategy to ensure that police at all levels are fully aware not merely of the need to address alcohol-related crime in the community but, more importantly, they will be guided in establishing the best way to achieve that in the community.

As I said publicly when launching the strategy today, it is a fine example of the Fahey Government's commitment to finding real solutions to real problems by effective teamwork across all agencies. The centre-piece of the police training package is a video designed to graphically show police the problem and some of the possible solutions. That video will be one of the means by which the police on the beat will realise that crime prevention is preferable to trying to find a cure. In other words, local police will become proactive in relation to alcohol-related crime, rather than simply being reactive.

The video is supported by written material, which is designed for use in workshops. Regional commanders will present the workshop to their district commanders; district commanders will then hold workshops for their patrol commanders; and patrol commanders will take ownership of the issue at a local level. By June these workshops will be completed and patrol commanders will be working with their teams and their communities to prepare individual patrol action plans.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Blacktown to order.

Mr GRIFFITHS: The major impacts of alcohol abuse are in areas in which this Government has shown continuing leadership, namely, domestic violence and street offences such as hooliganism. This is the sort of behaviour which disrupts the day-to-day harmony of neighbourhoods and is, therefore, of prime concern to the Government. The way Opposition members are behaving clearly demonstrates that it is not important to them.

The

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Government has adopted a cross-portfolio approach and the responsible Ministers - the Hon. Ron Phillips, Minister for Health, and the Chief Secretary, the Hon. Anne Cohen - must share the credit for getting together in a practical and positive way to address this problem. After all, we are focusing on the cause of criminal behaviour, rather than merely taking the soft option of attacking the symptom.

The reason such an approach is becoming more and more feasible is that the Police Service's commitment to community based policing has forged strong bonds between individual officers and the various agencies which operate within the community. I am pleased to say that this type of lateral approach to community problem solving will in time become the norm rather than the exception. I conclude by saying that the Police

Service and, particularly, those members who developed this initiative, deserve to be commended by all members of this House for their continuing commitment to improving the safety of our community.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL BED LICENCES

Dr REFSHAUGE: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Health. Was the Minister aware of allegations of insurance fraud and patient bounty hunting against National Medical Enterprises when his department gave its Australian subsidiary private bed licences in July last year? Why were licences granted by the Department of Health before it had completed its investigations into these allegations?

Mr PHILLIPS: It is good that, after a few weeks of Parliament, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is finally game to ask a question about health matters, about which he has totally lost credibility, particularly in relation to what he tried to deliver on Medicare. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows, as most members of this House know, that under an Act of this Parliament the director-general of health is responsible for the issuing of private bed licences. The Opposition may like to change it, but that is the way it has to be. If politicians were allowed to participate in the issuing of private bed licences, the process would be open to corruption.

At the time the licence was issued, Markalinga, an Australian organisation, operated a number of hospitals in New South Wales. National Medical Enterprises put some capital backing into that organisation, and at that time the current licences were transferred to the new organisation. The Markalinga-National Medical Enterprises group has applied to develop private hospitals on the sites of St George Hospital and Nepean Hospital.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Penrith to order for the second time.

Mr PHILLIPS: Those licences have not been issued. The director-general has advised me that he is undertaking a full inquiry into the allegations against subsidiaries of NME in America. I should emphasise finally that New South Wales has high standards for the issuing of private bed licences, much higher than those in the United States of America and Singapore. I expect the director-general to ensure that whoever is issued with a private hospital licence has a high reputation and meets the high standards that are required in New South Wales. The director-general will make the appropriate investigation and decision, as the Act requires.

GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES

Mr CRUICKSHANK: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Finance and Assistant Treasurer. Is the Minister aware of criticisms of the Government's requirement of its trading enterprises to return dividends to the public of New South Wales? Is there any substance to this criticism?

Mr SOURIS: When the Government came to office in 1988 it inherited a public sector which was in a complete shambles. Government trading enterprises were grossly inefficient; they were characterised by massive overstaffing, inefficient work practices and poor levels of customer service. Many were effectively bankrupt and reliant on support from the taxpayer.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Murrumbidgee to order.

Mr SOURIS: Everyone must realise that the Government's ability to employ people in health, education and law enforcement requires dividends from government trading enterprises. Honourable members opposite may like to know exactly what \$100 million in dividends buys nowadays. They can then write to me individually and let me know exactly what they would like cut in lieu of the taking of dividends.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Wallsend to order.

Mr SOURIS: Should the Government cut 2,500 nurses, 2,500 teachers, 2,500 police or halve the financial support provided for the ageing, disabled and disadvantaged?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Parramatta to order.

Mr SOURIS: The money has to come from somewhere. There is not any longer the socialist notion of money coming from heaven; some sort of funding source that is unexplained. All money that the Government uses has to be earned by somebody - earned genuinely and spent responsibly.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Hurstville to order for the third time.

Mr SOURIS: The Government's key microeconomic reform aim since 1988 has been to improve the efficiency of the GTEs. As a result, the dividend proceeds from the GTEs have increased from \$129 million in the last year of the Labor Government to approximately \$1 billion. The dividends have been the single most positive element impacting on the

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Budget - particularly so in the face of Paul Keating's cutbacks over the five years of the New South Wales Government. They are wholly due to the success of the Government's program of reform, which has lifted productivity by more than 50 per cent in the past five years.

The dividends are essential for funding the Government's core responsibilities in health, education and law enforcement, and are a direct outcome of the increases in efficiency. They represent the difference between New South Wales with a triple-A credit rating and the financial disasters left by Labor governments in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Dividends are also essential to maintaining the proper financial disciplines on GTEs. All the taxpayers of New South Wales are shareholders of the government trading enterprises, not any particular water or electricity user of any particular region. All of the shareholders are represented by all of the taxpayers.

Dividends represent a return to the Government, acting as a shareholder in the GTEs on behalf of the people of New South Wales. They are a recognition that, ultimately, the risk of a GTE failing is borne by all taxpayers and the taxpayer is entitled to a rate of return for bearing that risk and investing the capital. The GTE model advocated by the Opposition, and its lackey Professor Bob Walker, is essentially the model whereby a government business is run like a traditional government department.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Drummoyne to order for the second time.

Mr SOURIS: Under the old model, equity capital is free, according to Professor Walker. GTEs are not expected to pay a dividend on such capital. That encourages the GTE to waste capital by over-investing in plant, machinery, dams, or power stations, usually to the detriment of the environment.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Port Stephens to order. I call the honourable member for Fairfield to order.

Mr SOURIS: It seems that some Opposition members endorse Professor Walker's views. I would not rely on Professor Walker's reports. We have seen the first report.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Granville to order. I call the honourable member for Swansea to order. I call the honourable member for Illawarra to order.

Mr SOURIS: There is a ringing endorsement for Professor Walker from the Opposition backbenches. Professor Walker wrote the report on the GIO.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Granville to order for the second time.

Mr SOURIS: In fact, Professor Walker wrote the supplementary report on the GIO because the first report was not good enough. In a letter written to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Carr, the Auditor-General, Mr Harris, said: "In short, I think that Professor Walker's approach could be regarded as being simplistic, and thus his analysis could be regarded as being flawed".

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Ermington to order for the second time.

Mr SOURIS: The Opposition can continue to rely on reports by Professor Walker. The GTE model advocated by Professor Walker is essentially the old model of running a public service department on zero equity, where capital is free and the GTEs are not expected to pay a dividend on such capital. That encourages the GTE to waste capital by over-investing in plant, machinery and so on. Professor Walker appears to be the last of the die-hard socialists who believe that government businesses should not be run on commercial lines where they must be efficient and pay for their cost of capital. He would prefer a model where capital is free and does not have to generate a return to cover its cost.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Granville to order for the third time.

Mr SOURIS: Professor Walker also believes that, from an owner's perspective, assets of a GTE should be valued at their original or historical cost, rather than current replacement value. That, too, is an outdated practice which ignores the effect of inflation and, hence, understates the true replacement cost of assets. It also leads to prices being set too low. The result is an environmental disaster: the wasteful over-consumption of water or electricity, or whatever, and excess investment in capacity. As Deputy Chairman of the Australian Shareholders Association, I doubt whether Professor Walker would value his own share portfolio at its historical cost rather than its replacement value. Professor Walker likes to measure profitability as a simple ratio of earnings per employee - an outdated notion. These businesses are highly capital intensive and employ very few people relative to the value of assets and earnings.

The Government has undertaken the biggest structural reform of its business enterprise sector of any government in Australia. New South Wales is the acknowledged market leader in microeconomic reform in this country and the Government intends to maintain that lead. The Government makes no apology for its dividend policy, which is essential for funding the core service of government and ensuring the proper management of GTEs. History has demonstrated that the old-fashioned model for operating government business, as Professor Walker and the Australian Labor Party Opposition are extolling, inevitably leads to bankrupt organisations being unable to meet even basic public needs, let alone provide a clean environment.

PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Ms MOORE: My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Arts, representing the Minister for Housing. What action has been taken to create linkages between the Department of Housing and the Department of Community Services at a regional level to co-ordinate

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provision of community support services to Department of Housing tenants?

Mr COLLINS: I will take up the matters raised by the honourable member and provide an answer.

TAXICAB DRIVER SAFETY

Mr HUMPHERSON: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Transport. Is the Minister aware of a protest today by taxi drivers over issues of safety and working conditions? Will he advise the House whether there is any substance to claims made by the taxi drivers?

Mr BAIRD: Obviously the protest was of great interest to the honourable member for Kogarah, who went out to address the meeting without checking what group he was talking to. The protest was meant to be a road block that would tie up all traffic in Macquarie Street. The honourable member sought to address the rally at lunch time.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time.

Mr BAIRD: From a total of 4,000 taxis only 16 were parked in Macquarie Street.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to order. I call the honourable member for Ashfield to order for the second time.

Mr BAIRD: From a total of 20,000 drivers only 30 attended the protest.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Oxley to order.

Mr BAIRD: At last the honourable member for Kogarah had found himself an audience.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Ermington to order for the third time. I call the honourable member for Mount Druitt to order.

Mr BAIRD: It is of interest to note the driving record of the person who organised this demonstration that the honourable member for Kogarah so willingly endorsed. This is the man who said that he was so concerned about safety for taxi drivers. The organiser is currently disqualified from driving until May 1994.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Londonderry to order for the third time.

Mr BAIRD: His driver's licence and taxi authority were disqualified for three years after he was convicted of drink driving.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much interjection from both sides of the House.

Mr BAIRD: This man was caught with a blood alcohol level above 0.15; so much for his concern about driver safety. Despite his accusations, this Government and the New South Wales Taxi Council are doing much for driver safety. All of us regret the current incidents that have occurred among taxi drivers. This week a meeting was held of members of the New South Wales Police Service, the New South Wales Taxi Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority to investigate improvements in driver safety.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Broken Hill to order. I call the honourable member for Broken Hill to order for the second time.

Mr BAIRD: The honourable member for Kogarah should be asked about that. He was the one who ran out to support his mates.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Ashfield to order for the third time. The Minister will be heard in silence. The standing orders do not permit free debate across the Chamber by way of interjection.

Mr BAIRD: All taxis are required to install a radio alarm system, which alerts the radio network of an emergency, and an internal boot lock release device that enables the boot of the taxi to be opened from within. Operators also have the option of installing driver protection screens. Both the industry and the New South Wales Police Service strongly support the use of safety devices that are less likely to aggravate an offender into a physical attack. Visual and audible alarms and external distress lights have also been proposed. The introduction of Metro-cabs in Sydney has been a great boost to driver safety, and we should see more

Metro-cabs on the road. It was agreed that driver protection screens should remain an option. Taxi drivers are able to install these screens if they so wish. It is also proposed to look at transponder systems, which enable taxis to be checked and followed. Other methods that are being considered include satellite technology to track a vehicle and thus pinpoint its exact location in cases of emergency.

Mr Whelan: On a point of order. The Minister has raised the private, and what should be confidential, driving record of an individual. Clearly, the Minister has breached a statute by having that information. It is not public information. It is not accessible. Only the Commissioner of Police and the Minister's office can obtain that information. Clearly the Minister has breached -

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ashfield will wind up his point of order. He is not able to debate the matter.

Mr Whelan: If members, Ministers or backbenchers have a matter of concern about a member of the public, they should raise it by way of substantive motion. It is not proper for the Minister to slur people -

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ashfield well knows that his point of order is without substance. Only allegations made against other members of Parliament may be raised by way of substantive motion. The traditional attitude of this Parliament, as it is in all parliaments of the

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Westminster system, is that members who cast aspersions on people outside the House are responsible for their actions. The wrath or otherwise of the community will determine whether or not their actions are appropriate. Certainly there is no substance in the point of order that allegations made against people outside this Parliament must be made by way of substantive motion; and there are many precedents for this in this House.

Mr BAIRD: I might point out that no names were provided.

[Interruption]

The honourable member is prepared to run with any rabble group that protests outside this Parliament without considering what group he is involved with.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Broken Hill to order for the third time.

Mr Whelan: On a point of order. This is an important matter about the liberty of people in this State when the Minister says, "the man who led the demonstration" -

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ashfield is trifling with my previous ruling. It may well be, as I have already said, that the practice of casting aspersions may be abhorrent to other members of Parliament or members of the community. Those who have been members of this House for a number of years, and that includes the honourable member for Ashfield, would well remember similar attacks having been made by both Labor and coalition Ministers. It ill behoves the honourable member for Ashfield to pursue his point of order.

Mr BAIRD: The Government is considering a number of programs in relation to driver safety. The taxi driver safety program is well under way. Also the Taxi Council is considering a program whereby when an emergency call is activated, the normal car radio is disabled, enabling the network radio operator to clearly hear the driver in distress. The Taxi Council will also ensure that all radio networks maintain accurate and consistent records of M13 calls and instances of violence. This will aid in the monitoring of trends in safety. The Government is looking at the question of driver safety in taxis in New South Wales. The program is in force. If the honourable member for Kogarah wants to talk to the Government I am sure we could progress in an appropriate way.

PETITIONS

Fame Cove Preservation

Petition praying that Fame Cove, Port Stephens, be preserved in perpetuity for the people of New South Wales, received from **Mr Martin**.

Incarceration of Juvenile Aborigines

Petition praying that Aboriginal juvenile offenders cease to be incarcerated in gaols and be sent to centres operated by Aboriginal elders, received from **Mr Markham**.

F6 Freeway Emergency Telephones

Petition praying that the House will consider the installation of emergency telephones on the F6 Freeway from Yallah to the north of Wollongong, received from **Mr Rumble**.

Eastern Distributor

Petition praying that the House, because of the impending opening of the Sydney Harbour Tunnel, implement stages 2 and 3 of the Eastern Distributor, received from **Ms Moore**.

Rose Bay-Circular Quay Ferry Service

Petition praying that the Rose Bay-Circular Quay ferry service be extended to include a service to the Fingerwharf and a link to Manly and Balmain, received from **Ms Moore**.

Newcastle Rail Services

Petition praying that the rail line between Civic railway station and Newcastle railway station not be closed, received from **Mr Gaudry**.

State Rail Authority Heritage Buildings

Petition praying that heritage buildings in the Newcastle region be allowed to be used by arts and crafts people and that Newcastle Contemporary Artists Incorporated be given approval to occupy a building on the Honeysuckle land for use as a gallery of contemporary art and cultural workshop, received from **Mr Gaudry**.

Stanwell Park Rail Service

Petition praying that rail services be restored to Stanwell Park, received from **Mr McManus**.

Prospect County Council

Petition praying that the Government take no action to change the status of Prospect County Council, received from **Mr Morris**.

Serious Traffic Offence Penalties

Petition praying that laws relating to road accident fatality or injury be re-evaluated, received from **Mr Newman**.

Brothels

Petition praying that the Government will not take steps to legalise brothels but will close all existing brothels by enforcing the Disorderly Houses Act, received from **Mr Kerr**.

Fern Bay Urban Development Rezoning

Petition praying that the House oppose the rezoning of coastal land at Fern Bay for urban development, received from **Mr Gaudry**.

Port Macquarie Hospital

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Petition praying that the Government will reverse its decision to privatise Port Macquarie hospital and build a new public hospital at Port Macquarie, received from **Mr Gaudry**.

Western Suburbs Hospital

Petition praying that the House and the Government reject any proposals to close Western Suburbs Hospital, received from **Mr Whelan**.

Balmain Hospital

Petition praying that Balmain Hospital not be downgraded or closed, received from **Ms Nori**.

Ingleburn and Macquarie Fields Police Stations

Petition praying that the House provide, as a matter of urgency, a permanent police station at Ingleburn and upgrade the existing police station at Macquarie Fields, received from **Mr Knowles**.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Notice of Motion: Suspension of Standing Orders

Mr WHELAN (Ashfield) [3.17]: I seek the leave of the House to move, That so much of the standing orders be suspended so that the House may consider the notice of motion of the honourable member for Kogarah, namely, that this House views with grave concern the unauthorised disclosure by the Minister for Transport of a person's private driving details.

Leave not granted.

REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report

Mr CRUICKSHANK (Murrumbidgee) [3.19]: I bring up and lay upon the table of the House the seventeenth report of the Regulation Review Committee upon the Nurses Act 1991 Regulation (Nurses Regulation 1992); Factories, Shops and Industries Act 1962 Regulation relating to fees; Legal Profession Act; Legal Profession (Solicitor Corporations) Regulation 1991; and Partnership Act 1982, Partnership Regulation 1992.

Ordered to be printed.

I ask that the report be noted. This report concerns the operation of the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989 as it applies to the regulations set out in the report. This examination shows the strength of the requirements of the Subordinate Legislation Act and the detailed consideration that the committee gives to each regulation tabled in this Parliament. The first regulation examined is the Nurses Regulation 1992. The regulation provided for fees, qualifications exemptions and remuneration with respect to nurses. This is a case where the regulation required the preparation of a regulatory impact statement setting out the costs and benefits of the regulation, as compared with alternative options for achieving the objectives of that regulation.

The committee found that the regulatory impact statement prepared by the Department of Health was defective, in that the statements related not only to the Nurses Regulation 1992 but to two other regulations: the Nurses (Election) Regulation and the Nurses (Last Board Examination) Regulation. The committee considered that these three regulations should have been the subject of separate regulatory impact statements. The committee was not alone in its criticism of the regulatory impact statement. The regulatory reform unit of the Department of State Development had been consulted by the Department of Health in preparing these three regulations. The unit had criticised the lack of consideration of the "do nothing" option. This is an option which must always be considered when preparing a regulatory impact statement. The Minister must demonstrate in the statement that it is desirable that the regulation be made, as opposed to taking no action and leaving the subject-matter unregulated.

The second regulation the committee raised in its report concerned the fees for inspection of boilers and pressure vessels under the Factories, Shops and Industries Act 1962. As this was an amendment, and not a principal statutory rule, it did not require the formal process of a regulatory impact statement that I referred to in the case of the nurses regulation. However, amending regulations must still be assessed in accordance with the less formal requirements of schedule 1 of the Subordinate Legislation Act. That schedule requires the Minister to be satisfied that the alternative options to the regulation have been considered, and that the costs and benefits to industry and the community have been assessed.

In this case, the Attorney General and Minister for Industrial Relations was able to provide the committee with evidence that the new fee structure had been discussed with relevant industry groups and that they had no objections to the increases. In addition, he provided the committee with a schedule setting out the objectives of the regulation, alternative options to it, the consultation process undertaken and a cost-benefit assessment. This is only a one-page document and, although no precise details of costings are contained in the document, there has been a reasonable compliance with the Act. The other two regulations referred to in the report involve a common problem which the committee has encountered in its examination of regulatory impact statements. The Minister has argued in both cases that the provisions of the enabling Act prohibit the consideration of alternative options to the regulation itself. If correct, this would exclude the operation of the Subordinate Legislation Act from a large number of regulations.

The committee examined the actual enabling provisions of the Act in each case and found that a wide discretion was in fact given to the Minister in framing the regulations or adopting alternatives to them. A major concern of the committee was that the Minister, in believing himself confined by the provisions of the Act to making the regulations as drafted, had not adequately informed the public in the regulatory impact statement of the alternatives available to him. The effect of the Minister's

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argument was that, where a regulation was foreshadowed in the second reading speech of the enabling bill, the Subordinate Legislation Act would, in so far as the regulatory impact statement requirements were concerned, effectively be excluded from applying to that regulation.

The Minister adopted a similar approach in the fourth regulation referred to in this report: the Partnership Regulation 1992. This regulation prescribes certain additional matters for registration of limited partnerships consequent on the Partnership (Limited Partnership) Amendment Act 1991. In that case the Minister also excluded consideration of alternative options to the regulation, even though these were clearly contemplated by the empowering provisions of the Limited Partnerships Amendment Act. As a result the regulatory impact

statement for the partnership regulation departs from the Subordinate Legislation Act in that the following requirements of schedule 2 have not been carried out.

There is no assessment of the costs and benefits of the proposed statutory rule, including the costs and benefits relating to resource allocation, administration and compliance. There is no similar assessment of the costs and benefits of each alternative option to the making of the statutory rule, including the option of not proceeding with any action. There is no assessment as to which of the alternative options involves the greatest net benefit or the least net cost to the community; and there is no statement of the consultation program to be undertaken.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members should conduct their tactical discussions beyond the bar of the House.

Mr CRUICKSHANK: The committee remains of the view that proper regulatory impact statements should be prepared in both cases. In far too many cases the committee has had to supplement the inadequate information contained in regulatory impact statements with that obtained by its own research. In many cases the department appeared to be simply incapable of bringing forward adequate details of the costs and benefits of the very regulations they proposed to administer. If this fundamental exercise cannot be carried out for instruments constituting the legislative framework of a department, how much worse must it be for the policies and administrative procedures administered by the departments and for those people in the community and industry affected by them.

The committee is requiring no greater detail to be provided in the regulatory impact statement than the department would itself need in order to assess the effectiveness of its own administration. The regulatory impact statement was, in part, based on Treasury guidelines for appraisal of assets by departments. The sad fact of the matter is that at present the departments are not discharging the onus of proof that the former Premier indicated should be placed upon them. When addressing the Regulation Review Bill of 1987, which constituted my committee and led to the Subordinate Legislation Act, the then leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Nick Greiner, M.P., said:

The onus should shift to those who wished to perpetuate the existence of a particular regulation, those who argue that a particular form of government intervention is either necessary or desirable. The onus should shift to the regulators to ascertain why a particular regulation should exist rather than those who wish to rid themselves of the regulation.

In far too many cases, departments have shifted the onus to the community or Parliament itself to disprove the need for the regulation. My committee will address this more fully in the next report.

Report noted.

SYDNEY HELIPORT

Consideration of Urgent Matter

Ms NORI (Port Jackson) [3.28]: I move:

That this House:

(1) Directs the Minister for Transport to give the directors of the Maritime Services Board a written direction pursuant to section 11(1) of the Maritime Administration Act 1989 to refrain from approving under Part V of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the proposal to construct a heliport on MSB land at Pyrmont;

(2) Directs the Minister for Planning to establish a Commission of Inquiry appointed under section 119 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 with respect to the environmental aspects of the heliport proposal;

(3) Directs the Minister for Planning to nominate the Environment Protection Authority as the determining authority for the proposal under section 110A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to remove the actual conflict of interest which the MSB suffers as determining authority for this proposal.

The Government's whole approach to the establishment of a central business district heliport has been shrouded in controversy. But the final straw was the Government's refusal to hold an open independent commission of inquiry as provided for in the Environmental Protection and Assessment Act. Over 200 requests from residents were received by the Maritime Services Board calling for a commission of inquiry. I believe that is quite unprecedented. The Cabinet was so determined to get a CBD heliport that it literally went shopping around for a noise standard that would permit a heliport in the Pyrmont area that it could guarantee would be commercially viable.

This point is crucial because it explains the moral corruption of the Government over this issue. It explains why the Government has refused to accept Environment Protection Authority guidelines on helicopter noise because EPA guidelines would not allow the heliport to be commercially viable. About two years ago Standards Australia came up with a new standard in relation to helicopter noise. I shall refer to it as AS2363. This standard allows for many more helicopter movements. Naturally, the Cabinet jumped on it and adopted it. Tenders were called for a heliport in Pyrmont on the basis of this standard. In mid-1992 I wrote to Standards Australia asking for an explanation as to how the standard was arrived at, who was on the committee, and so on. My reason for

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doing so was that I had it on good advice that the committee had been extremely top heavy with pro-helicopter and aircraft industry persons and that the standard was very much biased in favour of the helicopter industry. I received a very interesting reply from Standards Australia. Paragraph 4 of that letter clearly states:

Standards Australia would not suggest that Appendix A had any relevance to the Pyrmont proposal.

Paragraph 6 says in part :

It has recently become clear that the important and controversial nature of aircraft and helicopter warrants a separate committee of stake holders in this issue to be responsible for developing future editions of AS2363 and related standards.

Clearly my suspicions were well founded. I immediately pointed all this out to the Premier and asked that the environmental impact statement process be called off because an environmental impact statement based on AS2363 was fundamentally flawed. However, he refused to do so. That was in July last year. Standards Australia has also written to the Maritime Services Board in relation to the environmental impact statement making it clear that AS2363 should not be relied upon for the Pyrmont proposal. So the Government is hoist with its own petard but still it clings to this discredited standard. Standards Australia has a principle that standards are meant to be drawn up by consensus. It is usual practice that if a major collective interest - in this case the Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council, ANZECC - votes against a standard, it will not get published. Yet this standard was published.

ANZECC operates a ministerial council with representatives from all States and Federal EPA authorities. It is a major collective interest. Its chairperson is Dr Shepherd, the head of the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority. So let us be very clear: the organisation representing the major collective interest and indeed representing the EPA on the subcommittee of Standards Australia voted against the standard. This is the very standard that the New South Wales Cabinet has embraced. I also understand that standards are meant to go before the board of Standards Australia for approval prior to being published. At the time Standards Australia was being restructured and did not have a board. Yet the standards were still published. There is ample precedent for a standard not to be published when the major collective interest votes against it. For example, I refer to the committee looking into air blast noise. On that committee the ANZECC representatives voted against the standard and it was not published. So why did the heliport standard get published?

I understand that there were attempts to have the helicopter standard reballoted at a meeting of the board of

Standards Australia late last year. It is interesting to note that the Helicopter Australia representatives threatened legal action. I wonder what they have to worry about. I also know that ANZECC is concerned about organisations such as Standards Australia venturing into the area of setting what they refer to as environmental criteria. ANZECC has written to Standards Australia expressing its concern. Given the concerns of the EPA and ANZECC, why does the Government persist in adopting a noise standard and sticking by this standard when it has not been approved by the Government's own environmental authorities and peak councils? It is fair to say that the EPA got done over at Standards Australia and then got done over by the Cabinet, which adopted AS2363 and called for tenders on that basis. It is clear to me from my discussions with various people, who will not go on the public record, that the EPA was spitting chips about this matter. And why would it not?

Since when has the New South Wales Cabinet had so many noise experts and geniuses within its ranks as to be able to tell the EPA, the State's Environment Protection Authority, which noise standard to adopt? I thought the EPA had the experts, but unluckily for the EPA its noise guidelines as set out at page 165 of its noise control manual would permit only about 20 movements a day at the heliport. That was not good enough for Cabinet or the helicopter association. They want more than 60 movements a day. Never mind that the noise standard is shrouded in scientific controversy and considered a scientific disgrace. Never mind that Standards Australia is so embarrassed by this standard that I have no doubt it will be withdrawn in the future. In fact, it is being reballoted at present, though the status of that ballot is not known. I guess if the heliport goes ahead under AS2363, the Standards Australia standard will have served its purpose, even if it is eventually withdrawn.

The EPA is bound to assess the heliport environmental impact statement in terms of AS2363. It cannot use its own guidelines. It cannot use its own judgment. It has been bound, gagged and done over by the New South Wales Cabinet. This factor alone leaves the environmental impact statement wide open to challenge in the Land and Environment Court. Other interesting bits and pieces have come to light. For example, I would like to know who from the Premier's Department visited Standards Australia and for what purpose. Was it just for lobbying or was it to make sure that the Cabinet could get the result it wanted? Was it to make sure that Standards Australia would back Cabinet on this controversial issue? Another question that needs to be answered is: who were the people from the Cabinet Office who put pressure on the EPA over its refusal to adopt similar principles to those expressed in the discredited Standards Australia standard? Why was the Cabinet Office involved at all?

I would also like to know what happened to the draft recommendations of the working group set up by ANZECC on heliport noise. Why did Cabinet bury them? What happened to them after they went to Cabinet? Why were the New South Wales representatives on that working group withdrawn from ANZECC in early 1992? Why does the New South

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Wales Cabinet not want to hear what the EPA and ANZECC have to say? Why does Cabinet have to muzzle them? What has Cabinet got to hide? Why does Cabinet continually ignore the advice and expertise of the experts in the field in favour of the Standards Australia standard? I would love to see a commission of inquiry in which the key players from Standards Australia and the EPA are given an opportunity to tell us exactly what went on, to speak their mind. I would love to give the EPA an opportunity, free of reprisal, to tell the public how it was done over and how the public's interests were ignored by a Cabinet so intent on getting a heliport at any price.

The MSB, midway through an environmental impact statement process, has hired a noise consultant. I am not allowed to know his name though journalists know his name. I have been given the name by journalists. I am not allowed to see a copy of the brief given to the consultant. This noise consultant, in conjunction with the MSB, supposedly will come up with an acceptable standard. Where will that leave the public? What about public input? I know the Minister will deny that they will come up with a new standard but that is precisely what they will do de facto - come up with a standard midway through an environmental impact statement. I have never heard anything more absurd and inappropriate.

I also believe the MSB should not be the consent authority. It is judge and jury. It stands to benefit financially from this arrangement. I do not believe that an organisation that stands to benefit commercially can juggle its responsibility to protect the environment and the public interest to fulfil its private aim, to maximise its profits. The MSB should not be the consent authority. The Government should stop trying to make authorities wear the odium for its own ruthless imperatives. If the Government wants a heliport so badly, why does it not legislate for one? Why does it choose to ride roughshod over the EPA and ignore it? Why does it try to get Standards Australia to come up with the answers for it? Why does it make the MSB the consent authority? If the Government wants the heliport, it should have the guts to battle it out here in the Chamber instead of trying to make everyone else the bunny.

We need a commission of inquiry. There are many aspects of this story that even I am not prepared to divulge in this Chamber. The only proper course of action should be within the context of a commission of inquiry to which witnesses could come with privileges and protection without fear of reprisal in relation to their jobs. Then this whole story may be unravelled bit by bit, exposed and discussed by the public. In my detective work, if you like, over this heliport I have uncovered what I believe is a shameless practice in the way standards are set. Leaving aside the heliport issue, the whole community would be very interested to know that some of our scientific standards are not as scientific as we may think.

Mr BAIRD (Northcott - Minister for Transport, and Minister for Tourism) [3.38]: As was indicated to the honourable member for Port Jackson, we have not objected in principle. We have had discussions with the Premier. In fact, last Tuesday the Premier discussed the matter with me and said that it was his preference that we undertake an independent commission of inquiry. Subsequently, discussions were held with the Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing, who said that he would review and consider this matter. So there has been no problem in relation to our position.

The honourable member has gone on as if there has been a conspiracy. It is easy to develop conspiracy theories. The Maritime Services Board operates the ports. The heliport is in the margin of its activities. The MSB is not - I repeat not - about to make any large profits from the heliport. I am sure the board does not have a preference about whether there is a heliport or not. We are dealing with the question of having a heliport in the city and any benefits from that. As we all know, the matter has been the subject of ongoing debate for many years. It was the Leader of the Opposition when he was planning Minister several years ago who authorised take-offs and landings in a similar area to that being considered.

It is not as if this whole debate is new. Today the Government made it clear that the independent commission of inquiry was already under way. The Government is not trying to hide anything. The Government does not object to parts 1 and 2 of the motion. However, part 3, which refers to the Minister for Planning nominating the Environment Protection Authority as the determining authority for the proposal under section 110 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, will remove the actual conflict of interest which the Maritime Services Board suffers as the determining authority for this proposal.

I am advised by Gabrielle Kibble, the Director of the Department of Planning, that this is not possible legally. Section 110A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act allows the Minister for Planning to nominate a determining authority to have the responsibility for undertaking all the administrative matters relating to the exhibition of an environmental impact statement. Such a nomination will be made where there is more than one determining authority. Even when such nomination is made this does not remove the responsibility to make its own determination in relation to the proposal. It does not mean that there is only one determining authority. Therefore, in this matter, simply making the EPA the nominating determining authority will not remove the responsibility of the Maritime Services Board to make its determination.

Clearly the independent commission will make it clear what the determination should be. I am sure all honourable members would agree that the major thrust of the proposal is to conduct an independent commission of inquiry. As recently as last Tuesday the Premier foreshadowed that this should not present

aired. The Government is of the view that the city will benefit by the provision of a heliport. There is no cover up. The MSB is simply trying to do its job by allowing the commission of inquiry to uncover what it will and find out what is involved.

Mr KNOWLES (Moorebank) [3.41]: This matter seems to be coming down to an argument about the process. The Opposition wishes to restrict the role of the Maritime Services Board to that of the proponent of an activity - that is, the construction, development and operation of a heliport - and remove from the MSB the power of consent to that project by nominating another party. The Minister for Transport has outlined that although the Government is willing to agree to a commission of inquiry into that process, it is not willing to go the last mile - that is, to establish a separate determining authority. With regard to the history of this matter - the separation of consent and proponent activities - a lot has been said on the record in recent times by Government members about the need to do just that, to separate the joint role of bodies such as the MSB under part 5. The Deputy Premier, when he introduced the natural resources package into Parliament on 30th June, 1992, said:

Under the present scheme established by part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, State Government agencies such as the Forestry Commission and the Roads and Traffic Authority must take into account the likely environmental impact of their proposed activities before proceeding. Ultimately, however, the decision as to whether or not an activity is to proceed rests with the agency. Even where an activity is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and the agency must therefore prepare or obtain an environmental impact statement, the agency itself nevertheless makes the decision about whether to go ahead with the activity. It is argued that the agency is unlikely to be perceived as sufficiently objective in making that decision. There is a lack of public confidence that the agency will give sufficient weight to environmental considerations in arriving at that decision.

It is as plain as the nose on one's face. The honourable member for Port Jackson has referred to the large volume of public concern about this matter and the accurate position that has been taken - that is, the perception that the MSB, acting as judge and jury, will not form an objective opinion. When the honourable member for Port Jackson said that, the Minister for Transport had a bit of a chuckle because he is the only one on the Government side that seems to be marching in step. When the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Bill was introduced the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Conservation and Land Management also endorsed the need for the separation. The Minister actually had the will in that case to amend the legislation to separate the consent and proponent activities of the Forestry Commission. The Forestry Commission is one of those old-style bureaucratic agencies that for generations have controlled the process of forestry in this State. The Minister for Conservation and Land Management took the enlightened step of changing legislation to separate the proponent. I wonder what this Minister has to hide?

It seems to me that everybody is out of step with the Minister for Transport. The Minister for Conservation and Land Management said, "We will move to end the practice of Forestry regulating itself and transfer that role to the Department of Conservation and Land Management, for separation of power". The Government set up a legislation committee, a natural resources package containing five bills, one of which was to amend part 5 of the Act. If the Government is now conceding that this issue is significant enough to warrant a commission of inquiry, it is also significant enough for the Minister for Transport to stop protecting his fife, get off his high horse and concede there is an opportunity to separate that consent role from the activities of the MSB as the proponent. If that is done, that will complete the assessment process and allow the public to have faith in the process and endorse the principles the Government espouses. If the Deputy Premier can do it - the man from Moree, the fellow that protects government interests more than any one else in this Chamber - I suspect the enlightened Minister for Transport can do the same thing.

Mr PHOTIOS (Ermington) [3.46]: I welcome the two initiatives we have heard in the Chamber today: first, the apparent unanimous support for the concept of a heliport within Sydney - support inherent in the motion of the honourable member for Port Jackson. There was no opposition per se to a heliport; the motion merely deals with the way in which we can facilitate it. I congratulate the honourable member for making that process somewhat easier. Second, I place on record my support, to add to that no doubt of all members of this House, for the concept of a heliport within Sydney. Any major international centre would and ought to necessarily have this facility within its central business district. In a further sense it is important to our

Olympic bid, just as it is to our industry and business. In that regard I join with my colleague the Minister for Transport in welcoming the endorsement, as opposed to the initiative, that the Premier and Minister have been working on, to have an independent commission of inquiry appointed under section 119 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act in order that the decks can be cleared to get this initiative off and running. In that sense the honourable member for Port Jackson, to her credit, is assisting and facilitating the early advancement of this project. In that regard I endorse the motion.

It is clear that although points 1 and 2 of the motion are welcomed - that is, a direction to the Maritime Services Board to refrain from approving the proposal until such time as the commission of inquiry, which the Premier and Minister have been discussing for some time, is initiated - I doubt that item 3 is appropriate, even if it has merit, and I reserve judgment in that regard. I speak specifically to the illegality of the issue with regard to the separation of the determining role. In this instance, whether we like it or not, it cannot be done; the Act does not provide that facility.

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Ms Nori: Change the Act.

Mr PHOTIOS: I suggest the honourable member should propose amendments to the Act. I note that under her breath the honourable member is suggesting that very thing. One needs to change the Act. One cannot take advantage of an Act in a way which does not provide a facility to proceed down this path. It is clearly ultra vires to the Act, whether or not there is a capacity at least for the director of planning to ask another authority to participate in that process. The facility does not exist, and the determining authority can only come from those groups that have a role in a determining sense.

I want to conclude by making some remarks in relation to the approach of Standards Australia, which the Government has decided to endorse. I note first that the Government and its agencies have prepared and submitted an environmental impact statement which supports the heliport; that is, an environmental impact statement is complete, it has been tabled, made public and exhibited. Submissions have been received from the public. The Government is now in an ideal position to proceed with its initiative to hold a commission of inquiry, an initiative which is now endorsed by the honourable member for Port Jackson, and I hope will be endorsed by all members of this House when the motion is voted upon.

So far as I and most honourable members are concerned, the waterfront location should be as far from any major residential area as possible. What better place to locate a heliport than where the Opposition suggests a gambling house should be sited? The Opposition has argued that gaming houses should be located away from residential areas. It wants to take the big gamble and put the casino at Darling Harbour. Of course, the Government's proposal is to put the heliport in a location which is equally as justified as the one now approved of, and supported by, the environmental impact statement concluded today.

When measuring the effect of noise, it is important to comply with Australian and New South Wales test procedures. I am assured that this particular environmental impact statement demonstrates that Standards Australia AS2363 of 1990, to which the honourable member for Port Jackson has referred as a guideline to limit noise, does just that. That standard assessed noise from helicopter landing sites and was tabled in May of 1990. Contrary to what the honourable member for Port Jackson says, that particular assessment is the subject of national agreement. I endorse the first two parts of the motion and oppose the third.

Mr HATTON (South Coast) [3.51]: It is great that the Government has agreed with parts one and two of the motion. I am somewhat concerned about part three because the Government claims, ostensibly on the advice of Ms Kibble, the Director of the Department of Planning, that what the third part of the motion seeks to do is illegal. It is claimed that if the Maritime Services Board is not to be the determining authority, that can only be achieved by legislation, as was the case with the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act. However, the Opposition maintains that the Minister can facilitate a request by the Maritime Services Board that the Environment Protection Authority be the determining authority.

It is difficult to know what the legal situation is. It has been put to me that the Government decided that the Maritime Services Board would be the determining authority and could therefore simply undecide, as it were, that the Maritime Services Board would be the determining authority. As I do not know what the situation is and I do not have a legal opinion available, the bottom line for me is that if the three parts of the motion are supported and if, as the honourable member for Ermington says, part 3 is contrary to law, the motion will simply have no effect. I ask the Government to consider whether it can intervene and arrange for the Maritime Services Board to nominate the Environment Protection Authority as the determining authority for the proposal under section 110A.

Ms NORI (Port Jackson) [3.53], in reply: First let me make it clear to the House that I do not support a heliport at Pyrmont. I reject the comments that have been made so far that imply that the motion is an endorsement of a heliport; it clearly is not. However, I am in favour of ensuring that proper procedures are adopted. That is all the motion is about. It is designed to ensure that a proper environmental impact statement process is undertaken and that opportunity is available through a commission of inquiry to understand the varying noise standards, and to find out why Cabinet chose a discredited noise standard instead of adopting the guidelines of its own Environment Protection Authority.

I regard the agreement by the Government to hold a commission of inquiry as a backdown, although a welcome one. I am amazed that less than a month or so ago the Minister for Planning specifically announced, even trumpeted, that there would be no commission of inquiry. I am pleased that the Government has changed its mind. However, that has not resulted from compassion or proper motives. The Government has been forced into changing its mind, and I want to take some credit for that. When the request for a commission of inquiry was knocked back, I wrote the Premier the filthiest letter I have ever written to a member of Parliament. After all the requests for the heliport, the controversy, and the unanswered questions, I could not believe the Government could refuse to hold a commission of inquiry. A commission of inquiry is a quick and fairly inexpensive process and would not unduly delay the heliport, but the Government did not want to hold one.

The Government finally realised that it had backed itself into a corner, it could not get out of it and the only decent thing to do was to hold a commission of inquiry. If the heliport is in connection with the Olympics Games, one of my erstwhile constituents has said his backyard can be used for the six weeks or so in connection with the Olympics Games. If the heliport is really to be used for the Olympics Games, the people of Balmain will not mind where helicopters land for six weeks. But,

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of course, that is rubbish. The heliport is for people who want to fly around in their big brand new toys. Self-important people no longer ride around in red open-top MGs; if one wants to be self-important, one has to fly around in a helicopter. These are the sorts of people who say that the traffic problems in Sydney are so bad they cannot move around quickly, and so on.

If an elitist way out is provided for these people, Sydney's real transport issues will not be addressed. If Sydney's public transport systems are inadequate, let us solve them for the majority, not merely for a handful of people who can afford helicopters and who want to swan around and look important. I do not blame the Maritime Services Board for any conspiracy. It has been made the bunny, the scapegoat. However, I do blame Cabinet. As I said earlier, I would love to know who is putting pressure on the Environment Protection Authority to change its mind. That is the type of issue I want examined in a commission of inquiry.

Clearly, the Environment Protection Authority should be the consent authority. It follows environmental guidelines in relation to noise that take account of the public interest. The Maritime Services Board and Standards Australia do not. The Standards Australia standard does not incorporate what is generally accepted in scientific circles as an important factor, that is, the community noise factor: if 10 per cent of the public is likely to be highly annoyed by the noise involved in a particular project, it should not go ahead. That concept of noise intrusion is not part of the standard from Standards Australia. The whole of the environment movement throughout Australia and delegates of the Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council all support the idea that environmental criteria have to be used when determining standards - but

Standards Australia and apparently the New South Wales Cabinet do not hold that view.

No wonder I believe there is a conspiracy! Why will it cost me \$1,200 to obtain documents on this heliport under the Freedom of Information Act from the Premier's Department, quite apart from the Maritime Services Board or the Environment Protection Authority? Why did the Minister send me a letter today saying that I could not telephone the Maritime Services Board and talk about the heliport?

Mr Baird: Because the normal process -

Ms NORI: What a joke! It is not a normal process at all. I am a member of Parliament. Members of the public telephoned the same officers I spoke to at the Maritime Services Board. Is the Minister telling me that as the member for Port Jackson I do not have the same rights as one of my constituents when I represent 38,000 of them? I am trying to do a job and the Minister tries to thwart me at every corner, except today when he has caved in a little. I will continue to telephone the Maritime Services Board and the Environment Protection Authority.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS IN REPLY

Fifth Day's Debate

Debate resumed from 4th March.

Mr HARRISON (Kiama) [3.58]: I am pleased to respond to the Speech made by the Governor when he opened this session of the New South Wales Parliament. In the course of his Speech, the Governor touched on most of the aspects of the administration of the New South Wales Government. I would like to say a couple of nice words about one or two matters. I will start with those and deal with the other matters which I find not so pleasing later in my contribution. On page 5 of his Speech, the Governor, in reference to community service and families, said:

Families in their many and diverse forms will be given special recognition by the Government during 1993. The family performs the critical role in our future and therefore requires our collective support.

I commend the Governor and those members of the Government who are prepared to go on record in support of such statements. From personal discussions with the Premier, I know he holds very strong feelings about the value of the family. I commend the Premier for his views. I was disappointed that some saw fit to criticise him when he made statements about the need to get back to family values. In 1994, the International Year of the Family, I would like to see a return to family values and some relief from the intellectual attack on families in New South Wales. I am very supportive of the initiative announced by the Governor on behalf of the Parliament.

The Governor referred to marine pollution. Because of my background as a member of the Waterside Workers Federation for 30 years, I am well aware of the antics of shipping companies which take every opportunity to dump their rubbish into the harbour and into open waterways. I have seen evidence of it. Only a few years ago, anyone who visited most ports around Australia would see the residue of sludge and dirt floating on the edge of the water. Anything that can be done by way of the imposition of stiffer penalties for those who break the law in that way will be very pleasing. I place on record my support for any action the Government can take in that regard.

Having said that, I now deal with some matters mentioned in the Governor's Speech which do not bear up under scrutiny. On page 2 reference was made to a health complaints unit. The complaints unit established by the Government is nothing more than a facade. It does not operate in any meaningful way. Delays of two or three years are not at all unusual in respect of determining complaints against the actions of doctors, hospital

staff or the New South Wales Department of Health. Doctors are able to hide behind the laws of natural justice. They cannot be compelled to say things that might incriminate them, and they cover up for their mates in the way that the people of New South Wales have come to expect.

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Complainants are unable to elicit any meaningful response to their complaints. The suggestion that legislation to establish a complaints unit to ensure that providers of health services are properly accountable to their clients is just a little window dressing. Everything that I have seen to this point about the proposed complaints unit leads me to believe that it is only a facade. Those who expect a meaningful response to a complaint will be extremely disappointed. The Governor, on page 3, said that dividends of tax contributions to the Consolidated Fund from certain enterprises have increased from just over \$100 million in 1987-88 to almost \$1 billion in 1992-93. That is just another way of saying that New South Wales has more hidden taxes now than ever before.

The classic example of that was the rip-off of \$100 million from the Water Board, including the amount that was raised by the special environmental levy that Water Board consumers have been forced to bear for the past few years. In 1992 the amount raised by the levy was in the order of \$100 million which was, coincidentally, the equivalent amount diverted in the form of a special dividend paid to the Government. Water Board consumers, including those in my electorate who live in the local government area of Kiama and Shellharbour, were forced to write out a cheque last year to fund the mismanagement and waste of the Fahey-Murray Government. That was a completely dishonest action on the part of the Government. That money must be applied to the purpose for which it was collected - that is, improving environmental quality within the area of the Water Board's jurisdiction.

If there is any doubt at all about where the money might be spent, I am sure that honourable members in Western Sydney could provide the names of a number of watercourses that should be cleaned up. I can certainly provide the Government and the relevant Minister with a list of special projects in the Illawarra region that could be commenced in the near future. The levy collected was to be applied to cleaning up the environment. It has been taken and used for other Government purposes. It is incumbent on the Government to use it for the purpose for which it was collected or, alternatively, to pay a dividend of \$80 to every consumer in the Water Board area. Nothing less than that would satisfy the people I represent, who today find themselves paying as much every three months for water and sewerage rates as they used to pay for a 12-month period only a few years ago. In 1987-88 consumers were paying approximately as much every 12 months as they are now paying every three months. On the question of legal aid the Governor said:

The Government will streamline the Legal Aid Commission and make it more efficient and accountable and ensure that it operates within its means.

The commission is certainly operating within its means. I can instance needy cases in the electorate of Kiama which have been refused legal aid. I refer specifically to an elderly lady who was cast out of her son's home and not permitted to take her goods and chattels with her - pots, small pieces of furniture and personal effects. The lady approached local police, who said they could do nothing to help her. She then sought legal aid to recover her property from her son's home, only to be told that it was outside legal aid guidelines. Though she lodged an appeal, the lady was again refused legal aid. To this day she is living in a caravan, paying a considerable part of her pension in rent, and is unable to get access to her own personal effects.

Legal aid is about as useful as a hip-pocket in a singlet. The most recent funding cuts in legal aid are primarily in the civil law area - for example, land and environment, employment, the coroner, consumer protection, victims compensation, estate and probate, and matters of public interest. That will lead to great hardship for many in the community. It will also lead to an anomalous and highly embarrassing situation where rape victims could be refused legal aid in respect of proceedings before the Victim's Compensation Tribunal when the attacker may be granted legal aid to defend himself against criminal proceedings.

If that is ensuring that the Legal Aid Commission operates within its means, and is more efficient and accountable, I think it is about time the Government had a serious look at where it is going in respect of legal aid. The idea afloat in our society that every person has equal access to the law, does not stand scrutiny. Anyone who wishes to litigate these days needs plenty of money or, in certain circumstances, needs to be totally broke. Persons in a group between the two should forget about pursuing their rights at law, because they will be totally broke by the time the legal profession gets through with them.

The Governor said in his Speech that the Government believes that one of the most critical conditions for economic growth is the availability of enterprise bargaining. He said that this provides a climate of flexibility and freedom of choice for employees and employers alike, and that under the new system industrial disruption has declined. What he did not say was that under the accord introduced by the Federal Labor Government, industrial disputation had declined. It is acknowledged that Australia has one of the lowest levels of industrial disputation in the western world. Despite that, the New South Wales Government is not satisfied. Anything that workers have managed to put together for the past 50 years will be taken away from them.

Already we have seen attacks on the public holiday for Boxing Day, attacks on accumulated sick leave provisions, and we hear constantly about the need to eliminate the holiday leave loading, penalty rates and so on. Legislation introduced by this Government has been designed to hurt those least able to defend themselves - women, young people and migrant workers entering the work force. It has been designed to set seriously diminished and unacceptable standards in wages and conditions of work. The poverty line for two adults and two children was

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assessed in 1990 at \$415 before tax, yet in the industrial relations legislation introduced by this Government and this Premier, in his former capacity as Minister for Industrial Relations, the minimum wage was set at \$294.10. That is all about forcing people to live below the poverty line.

To say that people have the right to negotiate better wages - as the Federal Leader of the Liberal Party, Dr Hewson, wants - is to insult one's intelligence. Under enterprise agreements being foreshadowed by the Federal coalition - agreements that have been introduced by the Fahey Government and by the conservative Government in Victoria - workers must obtain the agreement of their employers. So will employers have to agree to enterprise agreements? And with one million unemployed, it will be difficult to get employers to agree to give workers anything better. Employers of that type will try to negotiate something worse for workers. I reject completely the sentiment expressed by the Governor that industrial disruption has declined as a result of anything that this Government has done. The Government has done everything it could to provoke industrial confrontation. Its Victorian counterpart has done likewise, and in the unlikely event of the Federal coalition gaining office, it is set on industrial confrontation of the magnitude that this country has never seen.

Page 9 of the Governor's address to Parliament makes reference to balancing the environment and resource development. The Governor said:

For example, legislation will be introduced to protect endangered species which will integrate measures for the protection and recovery of species into the normal planning approval process.

Legislation to protect dingoes in captivity in this State is urgently needed. Only last year a directive was given by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs that all dingoes in captivity in New South Wales were to be either neutered or destroyed, which effectively will mean that dingoes in New South Wales will become extinct. I believe there are very few, if any, dingoes living in their natural environment. The species has been hybridised. [*Extension of time agreed to.*]

I cannot distinguish between a person's right to own a domestic dingo, or to own a pit bull terrier, a ridgeback, an alsatian, or any other savage and, in some cases, lethal dog. I had the experience of attending a workshop set up to look at the question of acceptance of the dingo as a companion dog. The minutes showed me as an uninvited guest, which was underlined, but I was allowed to remain at the meeting. I was not permitted to speak, but at the end of the meeting I was able to ask a few questions. I placed on record that the

phrase "in the wild" did not appear to mean anything. Did it mean that if a pet dingo was found outside the front gate its owner was liable to a fine of \$5,000 but if a dog-catcher caught a pet bull terrier, ridgeback, weimaraner or any other breed of dog, the owner would have to pay only \$15 for its release? The whole thing is discriminatory against Australia's native dog.

[Interruption]

It is imperative that people who want to keep a dog as a companion, or pet, should be entitled to have an Australian native dog in the same way as they are entitled to have any other introduced species to this country. I am not talking about dingoes in the wild, as the honourable member for Monaro seeks to imply. That is a lost cause because dingoes have been almost hybridised out of existence. I am saying that where dingoes have been in captivity for as long as 50 years - and the strain goes back that far - and it can be established that they are pure bred, if it is good enough for the Kennel Council to accept it as a breed of dog that can be exhibited, it is good enough also for people who want to own an Australian native dog to do so.

If the point of view of the honourable member for Monaro is allowed to prevail, another species will go out of existence in this country. That would fly in the face of every international convention so far as the preservation of species is concerned. So long as I have a breath in me, I assure honourable members I will be agitating on this particular issue. I hope that some sort of sanity will prevail so far as the future of our native dog species in this country is concerned. The Governor addressed the question of roads and in his Speech stated:

My Government's aim is to provide a better and safer road system. Nearly \$1.8 billion has been allocated to roads this year, including a sizeable funding boost for councils under the extended 3 x 3 program.

During the years that I have been a member of this Parliament I have spoken about the need to upgrade the northern end of the Kiama bypass. Every weekend on the stretch of road known as the Minnamurra bends, traffic backs up for many miles. If one car breaks down, effectively there is only one lane of traffic available for cars travelling in both a northerly and southerly direction. People who live in the town of Kiama tend to stock up their provisions, especially on long weekends, because they have difficulty getting anywhere and even greater difficulty getting back home.

Despite a consultant's report which has identified a preferred option, all that the Roads and Traffic Authority is prepared to do is play one section of the community off against the other. The RTA speaks about public consultation and its commitment to listening to what people have to say, but there is no way that all communities will agree on where the road should go. The favoured route has been identified by the consultants. All that we are waiting on now is for the Minister to say where the route is going to be and to allocate resources to start construction.

My personal preference is well-known. I think the bypass has to go to the west of the existing alignment. There is no room in the existing corridor to provide a lifeline for southeastern New South Wales, the fastest growing local government area in this State. The alignment to the west is beneficial because the bypass can be constructed without obstructing traffic; it has a lot going for it as far as

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the construction phase is concerned. I call on the Government to immediately adopt the recommendation of the consultants with respect to the preferred alignment and to allocate resources to make a start. Perhaps we will then be able to believe that the Government is serious about providing a better and safer road system.

The Governor said in his Speech, "For the rail industry, the Government will promote competition, greater efficiency and responsiveness to customer needs". I had the pleasure recently of attending the opening of the extension of rail electrification to Dapto. It was opened by the Minister for Transport and Minister for Tourism. It was a big day for Dapto and the South Coast. I commend the Government for co-operating with the Federal Government with respect to the joint funding arrangement to take the electrification of the rail service that far. However, it does not make much difference to the people who live in the Shoalhaven area, in the

southern part of my electorate, who have to get to Bomaderry railway station and then change trains at Dapto railway station - they used to change trains at Wollongong. When the electrification proceeds to Kiama, hopefully in 1994 or 1995, they will still have to change trains at Kiama. That involves trauma for people - especially the elderly - who rely on rail services to commute to Sydney because they have to get on and off trains with their luggage.

Recently the honourable member for South Coast, members of the Shoalhaven community concerned about transport and I were part of a deputation to the Minister for Transport, the Hon. Bruce Baird. We were unable to elicit from the Minister a long-term commitment to electrify the rail line as far as Bomaderry even if we, in our capacity as Labor members and Independents, were able to prevail on the Federal Government for half the money. That is disappointing. It was a big letdown for the people who live south of Kiama, particularly those who live in the city of Shoalhaven, the fastest growing local government area in New South Wales. I call for the Government to put its money where its mouth is and do what the Governor mentioned: promote greater efficiency and responsiveness to customer needs.

Page 16 of the Governor's Speech states, "My Government puts people first in health care". With due respect, that remark is laughable. The Government has put a tax on health care generally throughout the Illawarra. In that respect I instance these matters: closure of Kiama District Hospital; axing of the rescue and medical retrieval helicopter service at Albion Park; closure of the natural birthing centre at Bulli; closure of the dental therapists training centre at Shellharbour; closure of the children's ward at Shellharbour District Hospital; downgrading of the medical stores area at Shoalhaven; abolition of the orthodontist position at Port Kembla District Hospital, which I mentioned recently in a private member's statement to the Parliament; and the threatened closure of a Sydney boarding facility where people with learning and speech difficulties are able to stay while taking an opportunity to improve their education and their ability to communicate with other human beings.

There is a threat to close two classes of six children - in other words, it will affect 12 children from round the State. Should the closure proceed, people will be put in the position of having to come to Sydney with their children for lengthy periods of time or, if they are not in a financial position to do that, they will have to cancel the enrolment of their children. This is totally unacceptable. It will be a callous act if it proceeds. As we approach the twenty-first century, every human being in Australia should have the opportunity to have the best possible education, which does not involve only the three Rs but also communicating, the ability to speak properly and the ability to take care of themselves when they go to the toilet. It is all education and the due of any person born in Australia.

I refer also to the unfinished hole in the ground which was supposed to be the services block at Wollongong Hospital. I dare say that my colleague the honourable member for Wollongong will make considerable reference to that in his speech. It is a lie that the Government puts people first with respect to health. The Government does not put people first in health; it puts private entrepreneurs first and it is intent on dismantling the health system in this State and handing it over to the worst types of people we could find if we walked the globe - people who are interested in profiteering from the sickness and suffering of their fellow human beings. I think they are despicable. In fact, I could not say anything bad enough about them - I would be pulled up if I reverted to type and described them in the way I would like to.

The Governor of New South Wales is an honourable and nice gentleman. I have had the privilege of meeting him in my electorate and at other functions in the southern part of New South Wales. I feel for him because he was expected to present an address of this kind. I am prepared to give credit with respect to families, marine pollution and so on as referred to by the Governor. I give credit to the Premier and Treasurer for his attitude towards families - I have had an opportunity to speak to him about those things on a personal level. I also give credit to the people who are trying to clean up our ports of call. I give no credit at all for the attack on health care in this State or for the neglect of transport issues, such as roads and rail in my electorate. I also give no credit for the theft of \$100 million from Water Board consumers, taxpayers of this State, who have paid to clean up the environment, only to find that the money has been used to prop up the financial mismanagement of the Government.

Mr PHOTIOS (Ermington) [4.28]: I am pleased to reply to the address of His Excellency which was recently given to the Parliament. I was interested to hear the Governor outline the Government's program for 1993. I am proud to identify myself with the Government's vision and commitment to the people of New South Wales. I acknowledge and welcome the presence in the public gallery of two great Australians, Shirley Roston and Betty Grant, who have made an outstanding contribution to one of the greatest political institutions

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of our time, the Liberal Party of Australia. Their contributions - much more than mine and that of many others in this Chamber - have been substantial. I am delighted to report that the people of Ermington are thanking the Government yet again this year for its generosity, its understanding and its pragmatism. My constituents are benefiting not only from a wide range of considered and measured reforms such as those outlined by the Governor in his address, but also from Ermington's substantial allocation announced in the State Budget last September.

For my constituents this Budget will ultimately create jobs. The Prime Minister says he is prepared to stand on his record. His record is one million Australian men and women who today are living in far more difficult circumstances than his or his family's. Members on this side of the House are doing their bit, however little it might be, to create local jobs to assist in rebuilding New South Wales. The same cannot be said, however, of the stewardship of the economy by the current Prime Minister. The program of the New South Wales Government will ensure that the needy are properly provided for; it will improve local educational facilities and enhance and maintain the high standard of local hospitals in the Ermington area.

His Excellency the Governor announced an additional \$540 million for the 1992-93 capital works program. That program is already creating real jobs, stimulating the economy and improving community facilities. The Ermington electorate is certainly proof of that. The capital works and infrastructure programs which head the agenda for Ermington are slowly starting the ball rolling for job recovery. Increases in capital works will bring an increase in jobs for my constituents. This year the Fahey Government provided the unprecedented sum of \$50 million for Ermington, of which \$30 million is being used for capital works - an investment in our future and that of generations to come. Ermington is becoming the hub of activity in the west. Real job creation is now a reality.

I turn now to the all-important portfolio of roads and transport to give a more detailed analysis of what we in the Fahey Government are doing in the Ermington region. Over the past few years that electorate has benefited greatly from the Government's commitment to improving both public transport and the road network. One of the most important initiatives in the 1991-92 Budget was the establishment of a high-speed ferry service to Parramatta. More than \$13 million was allocated for that project, which included the purchase of two RiverCats for \$5.5 million. Those craft are operating on the river and will be part of an exciting program that will be in place by the end of the year.

This financial year a further \$6 million has been earmarked for two additional RiverCat ferries for the Meadowbank service, taking it through to Parramatta. Furthermore, four new high-speed low-wash ferries will be incorporated on the Parramatta service at a cost of \$5.124 million. I am also pleased to announce that more than \$5 million will be allocated this financial year for wharf construction and river dredging, and that work is currently taking place. Included in that \$5 million allocation is provision for a new wharf and car park for the Ermington-Rydalmere service at a cost of about \$300,000. Commuters and I are pleased with the allocation of \$5.623 million this year to upgrade the local rail network, building on the historic and important work currently being undertaken on the Parramatta River for our ferry service.

Following the ambitious upgrading programs completed at West Ryde, Meadowbank and Denistone stations at a cost of \$3.1 million in recent years - not to mention at Eastwood, in the electorate represented by my colleague - attention is now being focused, as I sought, on the Carlingford line. Today I am delighted to announce the following initiatives: Ermington electorate commuters at Clyde station will benefit from \$731,000 worth of improved interchange facilities this year; Dundas station is currently receiving a \$160,000 upgrade; Camellia station - just down the road from the Ermington electorate and in an area that I am looking after, given

the lack of interest by its elected representative - has been allocated \$55,000 for upgrading; Carlingford station will be upgraded at a cost of \$106,000; Rydalmere station will receive a brand new station at a cost of \$480,000; and an additional \$50,000 will be used to upgrade signals power supply on the Carlingford line.

The main northern line has also attracted considerable State Government support as a result of my representations. A quarter of a million dollars has been allocated for signal improvements and a substantial additional \$3.5 million will go towards an electrical system upgrade on that line. Additionally, Meadowbank station will benefit from further improvements costing \$30,000, being part of the \$3.1 million referred to earlier. Also in the current Budget \$12.372 million is provided for roadworks in the Ermington electorate. This is great news not only for commuters but for the unemployed who will benefit from a substantial increase in jobs as a direct result of these major roadworks improvements. The sum of \$513,000 has been allocated for continuing works to widen the Victoria Road, West Ryde, underpass.

The construction of the Silverwater Road-Victoria Road interchange at Ermington - a dream of Liberal and Labor governments for 30 years - is coming to fruition with the continuing allocation of \$1.62 million this year. My discussions with the Roads and Traffic Authority during the past week have gained my electorate a further \$2 million. I have been able to more than double last year's Budget allocation to speed up that project. Construction of the James Ruse Drive flyover is also continuing on schedule, on time, as planned and as needed, with an allocation this year of \$6.6 million. Its completion date - with no delays, and the road in place - remains set at the end of 1994. Further improvements to roads in the electorate have been made possible by a \$892,000 allocation for RTA minor roadworks,

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maintenance and preservation in the Ermington electorate. In addition, grants totalling \$946,680 - nearly \$1 million - have also been made available to Baulkham Hills, Parramatta and Ryde councils for roads under their administration in the Ermington electorate.

I also take this opportunity to place on record my strong and unequivocal endorsement of the proposed F2 Castlereagh Freeway. I and my constituents cannot wait for that road to be built. I remain absolutely committed to my election promise, as does the Government. Despite efforts by members opposite and by minority groups outside the Ermington electorate, my constituents stand, every man and woman, shoulder to shoulder behind this project. We endorse the project and look forward to an early announcement by the Minister for Roads. I am told that more than 14,000 written submissions, including my own, have been received, registered and acknowledged by the Roads and Traffic Authority in response to the environmental impact statement. A determination by the chief executive of the Roads and Traffic Authority is expected shortly. I hope and envisage it will be an endorsement announcement on the progress of the development program for that road project.

I turn now to public housing. Construction of \$5.42 million worth of public housing accommodation in the Ermington electorate this year will also provide more jobs for the people of Ermington. That is a record amount of money to be spent in the electorate on the establishment of public housing. Because of the state of the economy under Paul Keating - who pulls the levers - more and more people are relying on public housing. For that reason I am determined to continue to give priority to those people who are forced by the policies of the Federal Government - short lived as it is in its last week - to seek assistance in obtaining a basic necessity of life: a roof over their heads.

I say to the Prime Minister: you are a shame; you are a disgrace; you are a sham, Paul Keating; you are forcing this Government to put more money than has ever been considered possible into public housing and community services. I note the presence of the Minister for Community Services and Assistant Minister for Health in the Chamber. He, above all members, knows his desperate plight because of the number of requests he gets from people such as me. Yet he is prepared to accede to the requests in the economic climate created by the outrage of a Federal Government - 10 years in the job, one million unemployed straggling behind in the unemployment queue. It is a damning record indeed. Continued construction of public housing accommodation is assisted and always supported by me. My colleagues and I always support as a measure the reduction of the onerous and long-suffering waiting lists, responsibility for which may be directly laid at the feet

of one Paul Keating, Prime Minister of Australia for a year and a bit.

I was delighted to hear His Excellency the Governor report that, following the inquiry into the Department of Housing, reform of the department will focus on service to the community. This means putting the client first, more housing options and better service. I look forward to taking that message to my community. Turning to community services, and recognising the presence of the outstanding Minister at the table, my friend and colleague the honourable member for Pittwater, I note that community services have also received a much-needed boost from the Government. Those in need will continue to reap the benefits of the State Government's \$10 million community assistance package designed specifically to assist families and individuals suffering as a result of the federally induced recession. In addition to the community assistance package, almost \$1 million has been awarded to several community based organisations whose survival is dependent on government assistance.

This funding is the result of my continuing involvement with local groups including Dundas community aid, the Ryde women's refuge - which was established as a result of my lobbying in recent years - and the Telopea family support group. My admiration for the principals of these organisations is great. Community leaders such as Margaret Farmer at Telopea family support, Sue Scott at Dundas community aid and Janet Crosbie at West Ryde-Eastwood Christian community aid all work tirelessly with limited resources for those in need in the community. On behalf of our community, warm appreciation should be expressed to the many hundreds of volunteers, all members of the community, who work tirelessly and with real commitment in administrative work and supporting specific programs for these organisations - unheralded, unsung and often unpaid.

Recently I visited Telopea Family Resources, which was awarded \$84,772 from the State Budget this year, to present two further cheques totalling \$3,000. One comprised a one-off grant of \$1,000 to purchase videos on parenting and drug and alcohol dependency - as a direct result of the sensitivity of the Minister for Community Services and Assistant Minister for Health. These videos are currently being used to educate people from vulnerable families and people from abusive situations. Many of the people who come to the centre for help find difficulty in reading and the videos are an effective communication tool in that regard. Gail Saxby, President of Telopea Family Resources, told me the remaining \$2,000 had come at a time when the centre was desperately in need of extra funds for emergency relief. Previously, emergency relief funding had been provided only by Federal governments but under the Greiner and Fahey governments it is for the first time being provided by the State.

I am constantly reminded of the integral role I have to play - and enjoy playing - with community groups in providing them with assistance. The Ryde women's refuge also received substantial funding as a

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result of my persistent campaigning. The refuge was awarded \$213,698 for this financial year plus a one-off joint State-Federal grant of \$18,144. Interestingly, crisis accommodation for women in Ryde before 1990 was simply non-existent. The closest services available to women in my electorate were at Lane Cove and Blacktown. However, these services were unable to cope with the high demand for emergency accommodation in frightful domestic violence situations. I urged the State Government to provide funding for the much needed refuge, which is now in its third year and is never short of occupants. Only yesterday I met with one of the occupants and with a welfare officer, and I will pursue the granting of priority housing in that instance. The Ryde women's refuge is an outstanding example of what the community can and should be doing to look after our colleagues in more disadvantaged positions than we could ever imagine.

Those who benefited also from the \$1 million community service package for Ryde and Ermington include Eastwood and West Ryde Christian community aid, \$235,402; Dundas community aid, \$92,831; North Rocks-Carlingford casual day care centre, \$9,188; West Ryde neighbourhood centre, \$31,918; and Dundas area youth service secured a \$33,600 support package. Breaking from my prepared notes I point out that a number of these services were started by this Government. They are not continuing programs; they are the programs in Ermington of a compassionate government. Adele House received \$72,092. Dalmar child and family care at Carlingford received \$34,878 from the Government and Robertson community centre day care, which we

opened last year, was allocated \$71,541. Ryde women's refuge, Adele House drug crisis centre and Dalmar child and family care also received \$19,130 extra assistance, following my further requests, which was divided between the three organisations. [*Extension of time agreed to.*]

A further \$29,993 has been allocated for the family support recession project in the electorate. In September I opened a long day care centre in Ermington. The Possum Patch long day care centre was built with State Government grants totalling \$389,287 and will care for 40 children from the ages of nought to five years, Monday to Friday. The demand for long day care centres in Ermington has never been greater. We are rising to the challenge. Never has the response by a State Government been so substantial. Long day care centres are invaluable to working parents as more and more couples find they can no longer exist on one income alone. For single parents forced to work the long day care centre is a godsend. This year the State Government has provided an additional \$20,000 for the Possum Patch centre despite the fact that its recurrent funding in the ordinary course of events is meant to come from the Federal Government. I was delighted to hear His Excellency the Governor announce that the Fahey Government will be sponsoring a week in August devoted to promoting awareness and strengthening of family relationships, which should assist in this general community process.

I turn now to health. Last financial year the Budget provided \$950,000 for the construction of units for confused and disoriented elderly patients in need of extra attention at Lottie Stewart Hospital, Dundas. The project was recently completed at a cost of \$2.3 million, and I was proud to officially open the units in March of last year. This year Lottie Stewart Hospital will receive \$7.5 million from the Government for running costs and further facility improvements. I was shocked late last year to learn of a proposal by prominent Labor Mayor Mark Latham, who is a close confidante of Opposition Leader Bob Carr, to close Ryde hospital. Over the past few years I have constantly and continually pushed for funding for Ryde hospital in order to improve the facilities, not close the facilities. In fact, under this Government the hospital has received an additional \$3 million for capital works.

Ryde hospital is now an excellent unit and will continue to improve as a result of State Government funding. I will never support Labor's proposal for its closure. His Excellency the Governor pointed out that this Government is putting people first in health care; and I thought that was appropriate for the Governor of our State to say in his Speech to the Parliament. New hospitals are being built at Penrith and Liverpool - in the area of the mayor who would have the Government close the existing hospital for the people of Ermington and Ryde. The Government is opening hospitals in Penrith, Liverpool, Albury and Lismore, including the Caroline Chisholm Women's Hospital on the Liverpool campus.

Education in the electorate of Ermington has also been generously provided for by this Government - the result of my recommendations for improved facilities in local schools and colleges of technical and further education. James Ruse Agricultural High School has received \$80,000 this year for the construction of hard courts. Macquarie Boys High School will have its library upgraded at a cost of \$420,000. Meadowbank TAFE has been awarded \$440,000 for a new long day care centre for students with children. The college has also been allocated \$5.937 million to complete a library, computer laboratory, small business centre, offices and amenities. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the 26 higher school certificate students in my electorate who scored places in the State's top 500. That is an outstanding example for the entire State.

I note that in a recession sporting and recreation facilities are often regarded as non-essential expenses or luxuries. However, I believe that recreation in any form is even more essential for the well-being of those who have been hit by hard times. This year I managed to secure almost \$40,000 for sport and recreation facilities in Ermington. Additionally, under the Government's capital assistance program local organisations may contribute to sport and recreation projects on a dollar-for-dollar basis, thus increasing the responsibility and commitment by local communities. Projects which recently benefited from this program are: \$485 to West Ryde Rovers Inc. Sports and Social Club to assist with the installation of

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soccer goals and nets at Meadowbank Park, Meadowbank; \$15,000 to Parramatta City Council to assist with field improvements at Curtis Oval, Yates Avenue, Dundas; \$6,000 to Parramatta City Council towards

construction of multipurpose courts at Sturt Street, Telopea; \$12,500 to Rydalmere Public School to assist with the construction of an outdoor multipurpose sports court at Victoria Road, Ryde; and \$35,000 to Ryde City Council for an amenities block at Pioneer Park. These projects total about \$70,000 to my electorate and surrounding regions. I commend these groups for their efforts to help local sporting activities in the area and their diligence in securing those grants.

With respect to the environment, the development and conservation of the Carlingford Botanic Park - or Galaringi - is rapidly becoming a reality with another Government grant this year for bush regeneration. Galaringi has been awarded \$20,000. As parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Environment and Chairman for the New South Wales Government environment committee, I have been closely involved with the development of the 14.5 hectare Galaringi site and strongly supportive of the friends of the Galaringi group, which has already achieved so much in so little time.

I look forward to formally meeting with the existing owners of the botanic parkland - that is, the Parramatta City Council and the National Trust - who I hope will be willing to transfer their land at no cost to achieve the objective of a consolidated site managed by an independent trust established by an Act of Parliament, a private member's bill which I look forward to bringing before the House this session. This week at a meeting my colleague the Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing, the Hon. Robert Webster, indicated that he would be prepared to support the development of this necessary legislation - and he is now writing to Parramatta council in those terms. Together with other honourable members I look forward to the passage of this bill.

The contentious issue of mosquito plagues in the Parramatta River is being further addressed by this Government. The continuing mosquito control program, with its \$20,000 allocation this year, has been matched by each local council to provide a \$180,000 program over three years. I am pleased to announce that it will be extended indefinitely. When I met with the Parramatta mosquito control working party on 27th February, I was pleased to report that \$250,000 has been provided by the Property Services Group for its study on Homebush Bay in order to rectify this problem. This allocation is now being matched dollar-for-dollar by the Federal Department of Defence. That \$500,000 project is under way. The group's report is expected to be completed this year, so the necessary moneys can be provided to fix the problem at its source.

The environmental trusts grants scheme, now in its third year, has also been a successful Government initiative. Funding for the scheme is derived from charges levied on industries which discharge pollutants into the Water Board's sewers. In addition to these contributions, the charges also encourage industries to use cleaner technologies and processes. I am pleased to report that I have managed to secure \$122,000 in environmental trusts for two groups in my electorate. The Biological and Chemical Research Institute of Agriculture at Rydalmere has received \$102,000 to fund a bitou bush control program, a serious problem in the country. Bitou bush infests more than 60 per cent of sand dunes in southeastern Australia and is invading the understorey of adjacent woodland.

The Ponds Creek Reserve at Dundas has received \$20,000 worth of environmental trusts funding for the continuation of its regeneration work of its bushland. I am delighted with the wins for Ermington in the State Budget and I look forward to an acceleration of activity and growth in my electorate in 1993, building on the important work the Government commenced in 1988. The northern districts were largely forgotten areas of Sydney until this Government took charge, and I am thrilled with its increased level of assistance, which encompasses a broad spectrum of initiatives - from capital works programs through to community services, education, the local environment, and finally to putting people first with exciting and expanded health programs.

When elected in 1988 I made a commitment that I would continue to serve my electorate, first and foremost, as a community based member of Parliament, without fear or favour to my party or to my colleagues in this House. My constituents have now come to expect, as they should, and I hope appreciate, this hands-on approach, which does not rely on rhetoric but, as seen by the program I have outlined today, dollar-for-dollar real action. In October last year I hosted a community leaders luncheon that the Minister for Community Services and Assistant Minister for Health attended, with the aim of drawing together, as I have done

traditionally, many local community leaders in my electorate and surrounding areas; hundreds of them came to the function and paid for the privilege.

Voters of every political party represented in this House were present. It was my way of personally saying thank you to the invaluable local citizens, but, more important, it was about my accounting by way of report and consultation. I place on public record my thanks to the many other local community members who have supported me in my program of continuing community action. I am proud of my electorate of Ermington and I look forward to many more years of representing the constituents who contribute to its future prosperity.

Mr SULLIVAN (Wollongong) [4.57]: For the past half hour I felt more and more dejected as I listened to the honourable member's dynamic speech. With the flick of an eyelid the honourable member had the Minister's entire attention - and the Minister grants his every wish: \$200,000 or \$300,000 here and \$2 million or \$3 million somewhere else. His contribution reminded me of that famous quote from George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, "All animals are

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equal, but some animals are more equal than others". Clearly, the record of Wollongong and the Illawarra in general could be paraphrased as "All electors and electorates are equal but some electors and electorates are more equal than others".

Mr Photios: To get results you have to have a hard-working local member.

Mr SULLIVAN: That may be true, although I must say the honourable member for Ermington seems to be prone to stoutness, and I suggest that though that should not be regarded as an offence he should be mindful of the words of the fairy queen in *Iolanthe* who, when chastising the other fairies about Strephon's shape said, "I see no objection to stoutness - in moderation". It would be great if the Governor really ran this State at present, because I do not think much of what he said will come into practice because of the second-rate Government currently occupying the treasury benches. Page 2 of the Governor's Speech states:

The Government will undertake a program of reform to give citizens greater choice and control over the goods and services they receive from the Government . . .

In each case . . . The Government will build upon the guarantee of service and make sure that the focus of service is the citizen, the client, the consumer. Each agency will give a guarantee regarding standards of service, but more significantly, will make a commitment to listen and respond to consumer needs.

I assure the House that the Illawarra region has many needs to which no-one in the Government is responding. His Excellency continued:

The Government's objective is to ensure that citizens benefit in tangible ways from the greater efficiency of the public service.

Let me look closely at how those grand and general words relate specifically to the Wollongong region. Under the heading "Employment and Economic Development" the Governor said:

Sustainable employment opportunities are being encouraged by my Government's commitment . . . through substantial increases in State capital works.

The reality is that in the 1992-93 budget \$540 million was allocated for additional capital works. The Illawarra received a pro rata per capita allocation which equated approximately with its population, which is one-eighteenth of the State's population. Clearly any such allocation should have also borne in mind the relative differences in the unemployment rate from one region to another. On that score, the Illawarra has been clearly short changed. No major works are being undertaken in the Illawarra and no money is being made available to address the long-term rate of high unemployment, which is one of the highest in the State. What makes this commitment more damning of the Government are the statements now being issued by Treasury which indicate that funds are simply not being spent.

The Governor said also, "A comprehensive Regional Development Policy will be implemented to encourage growth in non-metropolitan New South Wales through the capture of job-creating investment". I must ask when this plan will be implemented. The Government is in office at a time of significant recession and has suddenly discovered, as Australia starts to climb out of recession, that there is a problem. What encouragement will be provided to devise these job-creating investments? Will any job-creating targets be established for specific regions? What will be the specific targets for the Illawarra? I am sure everyone in the Illawarra will be listening closely for the answers to those questions.

The next section of the Governor's Speech to which I wish to refer is headed, "Balancing Environment and Resource Development". His Excellency said:

In a time of recession and high unemployment the Government needs to remain vigilant to ensure that environmental values are not compromised for short term gains.

That is a most exemplary objective, but will it be achieved? The Governor said also:

The Government plans to improve the current administrative arrangements in place to protect and ensure sustainable use of our natural resources, including our air and water.

In the driest continent in the world, clearly the preservation and protection of the water resource is of fundamental importance, but air has also been included. I wonder how much time, effort and money will be devoted to the achievement of these objectives and to the re-orientation of our approach to land use and industry. I note that the Government has established a special Cabinet subcommittee to undertake a fundamental review of all aspects of water resources in New South Wales. The outcome will be interesting. The Governor said also:

A State Algae Contingency Plan has been developed to minimise the problems of blue-green algae in the State's waterways. There are, however, no short term solutions. It will take many years to effectively control the problem.

That is an enlightened response to what is emerging as a major fundamental long-term environmental problem, not only for the Far West of the State but for a number of other areas where man, through damming and irrigation, has interfered with the natural water cycle. I repeat that the development of a contingency plan is an excellent objective, but how much will the Government deliver? We will have to wait and see. The development of the plan will require the co-operation of other States, as the Murray-Darling water drainage system is the responsibility of four State governments as well as the Commonwealth Government. The second compartment, if I can refer to it that way, of that particular section of the Governor's Speech dealt with pollution. Again, the Governor made an interesting statement. He said:

The NSW Government, in cooperation with the Commonwealth and other States, will develop a national framework for the management and rehabilitation of contaminated sites. The Government will also consult widely with the community in the development of a strategy to combat lead contamination.

In relation to the overall management of hazardous materials, my Government is developing initiatives . . . and a "Community Right-to-Know" Strategy.

I shall refer specifically to the situation at Port

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Kembla in the Illawarra. At present, acid droplet fallout is a common problem. The low level of fugitive emissions is a continuing problem and heavy metal contaminated dust in roof cavities is causing increasing concern to residents in the area. I should like to place on the record some of the readings recorded by the Illawarra Public Health Unit when it analysed the dust in roof cavities within a five-kilometre radius of the main industrial area. These readings are either in milligrams per kilogram or parts per million. At an address in Kembla Street, Port Kembla the readings were these: arsenic, 189; cadmium, 17; chromium, 59; cobalt, 20;

copper, 1,868; iron, 56,000; lead, 1,136; mercury, less than 50; nickel, 17; and zinc, 22,000. At another address in Keira Street, Port Kembla, the readings were: arsenic, 308; cadmium, 30; chromium, 58; cobalt, 26; copper, 12,381; iron, 69,000; lead, 2,471; mercury, 50; nickel, 51; and zinc, 3,414.

At another house in Third Avenue, Port Kembla, the readings were: arsenic, 709; cadmium, 101; chromium, 49; cobalt, 34; copper, 21,150; iron, 84,550; lead, 4,555; mercury, 2.1; nickel, 60; and zinc 28,700. At another house in Third Avenue, Port Kembla, the readings were: arsenic, 70; cadmium, 17; chromium, 15; cobalt, 6; copper, 4,750; iron, 16,570; lead, 1,147; mercury, 1.58; nickel, 9.7; and zinc, 1,037. I will limit myself to another house in Third Avenue, Port Kembla, where the readings were: arsenic, 228; cadmium, 40; chromium, 192; cobalt, 25; copper, 2,234; iron, 297,000; lead, 1,953; mercury, 0.46; nickel, 26, and zinc, 69,300. On the basis of those figures, I refer honourable members to recommended standards that have been supplied in a report entitled, "Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites" published in January 1992 by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The report refers to levels that span a graduation of concern, first the background levels normally found in the urban area, the rural area or the industrial area. The next level, which is really the first trigger, is what is termed the investigation level. From that point there are various levels of response, depending on how contaminated the site is. On page 36 of the report investigation levels are defined as levels that provide a trigger to assist in judging whether a detailed investigation of a site is necessary. Clearly, if levels of contamination are above investigation level, the site should be further investigated. The National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines indicate that investigation levels that should trigger action are: arsenic, 100 and cadmium, 20. There are no National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines in respect of chromium, cobalt and copper, but those that appear to be acceptable are the Dutch Criteria Level B - Indicative Value for Further Investigation - that is, chromium, 250; cobalt, 50; and copper, 100.

There is no standard set in respect of iron. The National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines in respect of lead are 300; the Dutch B indicative values for mercury, nickel and zinc are two, 100 and 500 respectively. In the case of a house in Kembla Street, Port Kembla, the arsenic level of 189 and the copper level of 1,868 were both well above the investigative level. Lead, 300 on the investigative level, was 1,136; for mercury the standard is two and the level recorded was slightly under 50. For Zinc the standard is 500 - the level recorded at the residence in question was 22,000. At a house in Keira Street, Port Kembla, the level of arsenic was 308 - the standard is 100; cadmium was 30 - the standard is 20; for copper the standard is 100 - the roof cavity dust level was 12,381. For lead the standard is 300 - the roof cavity dust was 2,471; for mercury the standard is two - the roof cavity dust recorded in that house was 50; for zinc the standard is 500 - in that house the level recorded was 3,414.

In one house in Third Avenue, Port Kembla, the arsenic level recorded was 709 - the standard is 100; cadmium was recorded at 101 - the standard is 20; the copper reading was 21,150 - the standard is 100; the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines for lead are 300 - the level recorded was 4,555; the mercury level was 2.1, marginally above the Dutch B standard; the zinc standard is 500 - the recorded level was 28,700. In another house in Third Avenue the copper level was recorded at 4,750; and the lead level at 1,147. *[Extension of time agreed to.]*

Madam DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order! It being 5.15 p.m., pursuant to sessional orders the debate is interrupted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

FAME COVE PRESERVATION

Mr MARTIN (Port Stephens) [5.15]: I advised the Minister for the Environment that I proposed to make a statement tonight about a matter of importance to the constituents of the electorate of Port Stephens - land at Fame Cove. Fame Cove land has become an issue in Port Stephens in recent times. It was referred to during question time last week and has been mentioned in various debates in this House. The Government is fully aware of the concerns of the people of Port Stephens. Fame Cove is on the northern foreshores of Port Stephens. The land includes a parcel of 900-odd acres owned by Blue Metal Industries and 100 acres, or 40 hectares, owned by Australian Paper Manufacturers.

At the end of last year, Australian Paper Manufacturers made it known that it was offering the land for sale because it was surplus to requirements. Auditors had obviously indicated it was an asset not capable of producing money for the company and recommended that it should be disposed of. It is a truly beautiful piece of land. It has Aboriginal and considerable heritage significance for New South Wales. The land is priceless and cannot be allowed to fall into the hands of private developers.

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I was approached in January this year by a group of people who had formed Friends of Fame Cove. I gave an undertaking to the Friends of Fame Cove that I would not make this a political issue but would go through all normal channels in an endeavour to negotiate with the Government in an effort to have the land acquired for future public use. Acquisition of the land is vital, not only for the people of Port Stephens but for many thousands of Australians who visit the area. The land was to be offered for sale on 23rd January, 1993. As a result, representations were made by the local community and a suggestion made to the company that the land pass into public ownership. The company agreed.

I understand that, from that point onwards, the Federal Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories, the Hon. Ros Kelly, wrote to the New South Wales Minister for the Environment on 29th January, indicating that the Federal Government wanted to join with the New South Wales State Government to acquire the land for the people of New South Wales. The Federal election was announced on 7th February, which means there is no problem with constitutional or Westminster propriety. There has been a degree of toing and froing but that cannot be allowed to continue. The people have accepted the offer of the Federal Government and call on the New South Wales Government to make its position clear. A decision must be made by next Friday, when the country will go into a suspended state until a new Federal Government is sworn in. By that time, the company will have offered the land for sale, and I assure the Minister that there are private developers wanting to acquire it. That cannot be allowed to happen.

Today I received advice, as did the Minister for the Environment, that the Great Lakes Shire Council has agreed to accept care, control and management of the land if it is acquired. So there is no impediment from that quarter to the acquisition. The Premier and the Minister for Planning have been made aware that today is D-day. The Opposition is urging the Government to make a statement today in the interests of the people of New South Wales, without any attempt at political point scoring and for no other purpose but to do the right and proper thing for the people of Port Stephens and the people of New South Wales. They deserve a fair go. I am calling on the Minister for the Environment to make the Government's position clear. Should he choose to do so, he will get headlines tonight as a great supporter of the needs of New South Wales.

Mr HARTCHER (Gosford - Minister for the Environment) [5.20]: I definitely agree with the honourable member for Port Stephens: I am a great supporter of the people of New South Wales. I also agree with his comment that this matter cannot continue, and neither should nor will it continue. On 29th January the Commonwealth Minister wrote to me offering to pay half the cost of the land and seeking a response from me. I responded on 12th February, and let the record show - as the honourable member for Port Stephens well knows - that I agreed to pay half the cost of the land. I also raised with the Minister the future management of the land, how it was to be costed and who would have responsibility for it. I received no reply to that letter. Because I received no reply, on 1st March I again wrote in identical terms, asking the Minister whether she was willing to enter into an agreement with us about future management of the land, its costing and future ownership. I repeated that we would pay for one half of the acquisition. It is now 9th March and I still have not received a

reply from the Federal Minister.

Mr Martin: The Minister does not understand the Westminster system.

Mr HARTCHER: The honourable member for Port Stephens has implied that the silence of the Federal Minister is excusable because the Westminster system prevents her from making commitments. The Westminster system has not stopped the Prime Minister, in his last days in office, offering \$600 million to the people of South Australia for their State Bank; it has not prevented him today offering millions of dollars on leaded petrol and millions of dollars on other environmental issues. The Federal Government is prepared to pour money into these issues but it is not prepared to come good with one half the cost to acquire this land.

Madam DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order! The Minister's time for speaking has expired.

Mr HARTCHER: We would very much like to acquire the land -

Madam DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HARTCHER: - but we are entitled to know -

Madam DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order! I call the Minister for the Environment to order. The Minister's time for speaking has expired. The Minister will take note of the Chair, like all honourable members, when he is called to order.

NORTH SYDNEY STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VEHICLES

Mr SMILES (North Shore) [5.22]: The issue I raise this evening concerns the North Sydney State Emergency Service and its need to seek assistance to lease premises owned by the Roads and Traffic Authority located under the northern approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The North Sydney area is vulnerable to potential disasters. We in this Parliament need to give every assistance to such an organisation to allow it to fulfil its most important role. North Sydney central business district is the second largest business district in New South Wales, and also located in the area is the Sydney Harbour Tunnel, which has a high hazard rating. There is also the potential for rail disaster, high fire explosion at the BP oil terminal at Waverton, and storm damage such as occurred last evening. In addition, there are within a radius of five or six kilometres a number of Department of Housing high-rise complexes, which

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house mainly elderly residents, approximately 20 State and private schools, the North Sydney and Crows Nest colleges of technical and further education, Royal North Shore and Mater hospitals, and several nursing homes and retirement villages.

On special occasions the North Sydney State Emergency Service assists with crowd control at Admiralty House and Kirribilli House and at major sporting and other public events held at the North Sydney oval. The service needs an area in which to house its three or four trucks, large ladders and other equipment. It needs also a meeting hall to accommodate 30 to 40 trainees. Unfortunately at present the North Sydney State Emergency Service is located adjacent to North Sydney council's garbage and maintenance depot, with its associated odour. The present facilities are inadequate for training and the housing of the service's vehicles. Bays 9 and 10 of the Roads and Traffic Authority premises located under the approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge provide the only alternative for the service. I am aware that there has been some negotiation between the State Emergency Service and the RTA, and that various rentals have been considered. Unfortunately, the State Emergency Service is not a business, and even with all the generous support that North Sydney council can muster the service cannot contemplate the sort of rentals that the RTA is contemplating charging.

It is appropriate that the Deputy Premier assist the service in this regard. The premises I am talking about have been vacant for some time and are basically unsuitable for commercial activities. No commercial interest

has been shown in the premises and at present they are suffering a decline in quality and standard. Honourable members are aware that when premises are left unattended they deteriorate over time. It is my understanding that if the Deputy Premier were to look favourably at assisting the State Emergency Service, all modifications, maintenance and repainting of the premises would be undertaken by the service and North Sydney Council. I ask the Minister for Community Services to bring this issue to the attention of the Deputy Premier. It is an issue where one government authority, namely the RTA, should be able to find within its management and financial structure the wherewithal to assist another important government authority, namely the State Emergency Service, in its considerable crisis. My constituents deserve and need that sort of assistance.

Mr LONGLEY (Pittwater - Minister for Community Services, and Assistant Minister for Health) [5.27]: I certainly will bring to the Deputy Premier's attention the important issue raised by the honourable member. The honourable member works extremely hard for his constituents. I am pleased that honourable members on this side of the House push the causes of their constituents strongly and continuously. The request of the honourable member for North Shore will carry considerable weight with the Deputy Premier. The honourable member's electorate could not be better served than by someone of his calibre. I will certainly ensure that this matter is taken up with the Deputy Premier and that all possible resources are brought to bear to resolve the issue.

OLDHAM FAMILY PROPERTY

Mr PRICE (Waratah) [5.28]: I raise the matter of the resumption of a property on Eastern Avenue, Tarro owned by Mrs Oldham. Last June, or perhaps a little earlier, Mrs Oldham noticed a survey party on her family property, an appaloosa stud farm. The land in question is sandwiched between the New England Highway and the old St Stephens Anglican Church site on Anderson Drive, which is currently owned by the Roads and Traffic Authority. The site was acquired originally as a proposed flyover but was subsequently not proceeded with.

The Oldham family, concerned when they sighted the survey party, contacted the Roads and Traffic Authority through their solicitor. On 11th June, 1992, the RTA advised that there was a preliminary proposal for a roundabout in that area. That area is to be the site of either a grade separated interchange or a low-level roundabout, whichever is finally resolved between the State and Federal Ministers and their departments, to relieve the current black spot at the intersection of Anderson Drive and the New England Highway at Tarro. The black spot is a major problem and there has to be some relief. I am therefore concerned at the apparent reticence of the RTA to recognise that problem and do something about cementing the purchase of the property. The location under consideration is the only place where an alternative access to Anderson Drive through Tarro can be built from the New England Highway. I quote portion of a letter - there have been several pieces of correspondence - which Mrs Oldham wrote to me:

I have enclosed the letters from our solicitor to the RTA and their reply. I put this matter into the hands of our solicitors following a phone call I had with the RTA telling me that it would be in the interests of the RTA to acquire our property and to put it in writing as they had or would have an amount of money available at the end of the financial year to buy our property. This I did and these letters are what have been said. Every now and then we hear from the RTA but that's about it. We are sitting here not knowing what is going to happen and when or how long we will be here.

As we have a business we do not know what the future holds with our appaloosa stud farm. The Tarro public school has a copy of the plans for the roundabout and that is what we have seen. We would lose about two-thirds of our property. The way we found out about all of this is when two men were standing in our paddock and I had to go ask them what they were doing. They were from the RTA property valuers. They could not even knock on our front door and ask if they could come on our property let alone tell us then what was going on.

Subsequent to that letter, I wrote to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Roads. He wrote back to me indicating that there would be a need to purchase the property. The Minister's letter, dated 10th November, 1992, states:

As you would be aware, the Federal Government recently made an offer of funding for improvements to the junction of Anderson Drive with the New England Highway. At this stage, detail of the project to be undertaken with the funds has not been resolved, although it is certain that Mrs Oldham's property

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will be affected to some extent.

On 12th January, 1993, the RTA wrote to Mrs Oldham's solicitor stating:

Until a design has been completed and a Review of Environmental Factors has been carried out, it will not be possible to identify the effect of adjacent properties. However work on alternative roundabout designs will start this month, and you will be advised of the affect, if any, on your client's property at the earliest possible date.

It is imperative that a decision be made on this. Under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act the Oldhams are entitled to some consideration. I raised this issue with the Minister's office today and he is aware that I am speaking about it. In all fairness, I appeal to the Minister to resolve this matter. The property has to be purchased and the road variation has to go ahead - no matter who pays for it or when it commences. In the interests of fairness and equity for the Oldham family, I appeal to the Minister that a decision be made to purchase and that it be negotiated as soon as possible, as it is about 10 months - [*Time expired.*]

Mr CAUSLEY (Clarence - Minister for Natural Resources) [5.33]: The honourable member for Waratah would be well aware that the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Roads would be only too willing to try to resolve this problem. The Minister has brought legislation into this House to overcome this problem. I do not know the details of this case, but I am sure that the Deputy Premier will try to have these people paid out as soon as possible, if that is the case.

GOLD DRIVERS LICENCES

Mr DOWNY (Sutherland) [5.34]: A constituent of Sutherland first wrote to me about two years ago concerning an application for a gold licence he made to the Roads and Traffic Authority. He found that the RTA had ruled that he was ineligible for a gold licence because of an unpaid parking fine. Sometime in 1988 he apparently was issued with a parking infringement notice. I use the word "apparently" because at no stage did my constituent receive an infringement notice on his motor vehicle, nor did he receive at any stage a reminder notice from either the Police Service or the Roads and Traffic Authority.

It would appear that the chain of events took place at the time the Roads and Traffic Authority took over the processing of parking infringements from the Police Service. It is possible that reminder notices were not issued because of computer error. It was indicated to me in a letter of June 1991 that there would be no change of heart on the part of the RTA. Consequently, I wrote to my constituent suggesting that if he wished to take the matter further I would be more than happy to do so on his behalf. My constituent decided that there was no point in doing so and he would wait for the opportunity to be reissued with a gold licence. He kept his silver licence, paid the fine and as far as he was concerned that was it.

Last month my constituent wrote to me again. He attended the Ryde Motor Registry on 4th January, 1993, and having waited in the queue for 55 minutes, was issued with an interim licence until such time as the photographic licence was posted to him. He understood that he would receive a gold licence. To his amazement, he learned that he was to be granted only a silver licence. He was also advised by the photo licensing unit, in an unsigned letter, that the photograph which was taken was unsuccessful and he would have to attend a motor registry to have another one taken - he presumed that this would happen after another 55-minute wait.

My constituent is not very happy at this time. This problem has occurred because of what he considers to be a mistake by the bureaucracy. He did not receive advice that he had done anything wrong; he ended up

paying the fine but did not get his gold licence; when he fronted to get his gold licence he was told that he could still only have a silver licence and he had to wait in a queue for 55 minutes to have a photograph taken, which did not turn out. Consequently, he has to go again to have another photograph taken.

I ask the Minister for Natural Resources to inform the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Roads of the problem my constituent has faced. I am more than prepared to make the details known to the Minister. It seems to me that a couple of things need to be done. First, it would be interesting to know, after all this time and after indications were given in a previous letter I received from the Minister saying that my constituent would be eligible for a gold licence, why my constituent has not received the gold licence. Second, I find it quite intolerable that he should be treated so shabbily by the RTA with regard to waiting in a queue and then finding that the photograph is no good. My constituent is not very happy. I hope that this case can be resolved to alleviate his unhappiness.

Mr CAUSLEY (Clarence - Minister for Natural Resources) [5.39]: I will refer to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Roads the problem faced by the constituent of the honourable member for Sutherland. There seem to be a litany of errors in that area. I will pass this message on.

TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENT PHOTO REFUND

Mr DAVOREN (Lakemba) [5.40]: By mere coincidence I also wish to raise a matter concerning the Roads and Traffic Authority. In October last year I was visited by Mrs Prendergast, of Benaroon Road, Belmore. Mrs Prendergast told me that she wanted representations to be made regarding an infringement notice. I explained to her that it was most difficult to defeat or offer an effective defence to photographic evidence of a traffic infringement. When she explained that the car in the photograph was not hers I agreed her case should be represented. As this lady is over the age of 70 and the offence was detected at 4.38 a.m., she thought something was amiss and sent in \$10 to obtain a copy photograph. Her vehicle is

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a Holden Barina registered number RKR 062. When the photograph arrived, to her amazement she saw that the offending car was a Ford Falcon registered number RKR 052.

Mrs Prendergast went to Lakemba police station, where police assured her that when those facts were verified the information would be passed on to the infringement processing bureau at Parramatta. In October, one month after this assurance was given, she came to see me. I wrote a letter in which I asked, in its final sentence, whether consideration could also be given to a refund of the \$10 fee that Mrs Prendergast had been charged for a copy of the photograph. In November, having heard very little except, in a telephone conversation, that Mrs Prendergast had been exonerated, and having received no response in writing I wrote another letter, in which I stated:

I would be pleased therefore if you could arrange for Mrs Prendergast to receive a refund for \$10 being the fee charged to obtain a copy of the photo.

In February of this year, still having heard nothing, I sent off my usual epistle on such occasions, which asked, "Further to my representations, are you now in a position to reply?" I rang the infringement processing bureau, which patiently explained that it had accepted Mrs Prendergast's explanation but that unfortunately another section handled the request for refund of the \$10. The problem is that no administrative machinery is currently available to refund the money. I am probably the only member who has ever asked for a refund, and the bureau does not know how to send back the \$10. Surely, if the bureau has the \$10 in one account a cheque could be drawn; but apparently that cannot be done.

The typographical mistake of confusing the numbers 5 and 6 is easily made. I do not condemn the bureau for that mistake, but I am furious that no one is willing to admit that the error was made and that the \$10 should be refunded. The sum paid and sought to be refunded is not a great amount of money but the principle involved - that of admitting an error was made - is most important. Administrative machinery should be available to

enable an innocent motorist to be refunded \$10 paid for a copy photograph. I am unaware how many people apply for copy photographs, and perhaps Mrs Prendergast's request is the only one ever made. However, I am seeking that some arrangement be made in such cases - of which there must be few - to refund the fee. Such an arrangement is only fair and reasonable.

RYDALMERE FAMILY INN HOTEL MILK BAR

Mr PHOTIOS (Ermington) [5.44]: I wish to raise what I consider to be, arguably, one of the most serious and alarming developments I have witnessed in the Ermington electorate since my election in 1988. I am speaking about the unfortunate consequences of a Parramatta City Council development approval of a milk bar for minors within the bounds of the Family Inn Hotel at Rydalmere. I am speaking about youth in hotels and clubs. The council has approved a development application for the delicensing of that hotel's club bar. Children as young as 10, under the licence approved by the Labor-controlled Parramatta council, will be able to attend the hotel without supervision by their parents or older friends, drink in the milk bar and play the amusement facilities, pinball machines and the like, which are available until as late as 10 o'clock on a week night.

That development approval must concern all members, regardless of their political persuasions. The fact that Labor aldermen on Parramatta City Council allege that the development is due to lack of available entertainment in that area is damning. I appeal to the council to urgently review its decision and rescind it. I appeal to the Minister for Local Government to use whatever powers he has to save young people from that fate. I ask him to contact the council immediately to ask it to review its appalling decision, which has been rejected across the board by the community since it was first revealed on the front page of the *Parramatta Advertiser*, to the great credit of that newspaper and its journalist John Blair, under the headline "Milk Bar in a Pub for Kids Moral Worry for Aldermen".

Ten-year-olds should not be on hotel premises as late as 10 o'clock at night on weekdays and 10.30 on the weekends without parental supervision. At those late hours they should be at home doing their homework, spending time with the family, or enjoying entertainment that is approved by their parents, with appropriate supervision. The concept of 10-year-olds playing video machines and jukeboxes, playing pool and eating junk food at 10 o'clock at night, unaccompanied by adults, is outrageous and completely unacceptable to the people of Ermington and Rydalmere. I intend to write to 4,000 people living in that area to bring to their attention what has been rushed through Parramatta City Council by the Labor Party Caucus.

This so-called amusement facility is unacceptable. A milk bar of the sort proposed is not the answer to what is an obvious problem in my area, as it is across Sydney. The answer is for the Parramatta City Council, its Labor Lord Mayor and aldermen to open up community halls in Ermington and Dundas to young people of an evening, to open the padlocks and allow young people to use community facilities which should be available to them. Youth groups should have greater access to these facilities - rather than to hotels and clubs - without having to pay hundreds of dollars for the privilege.

Mr Thompson: What are you doing about it?

Mr PHOTIOS: In answer to the honourable member's interjection, I am willing - apart from seeking to correct this wrong - to put my money where my mouth is and sponsor out of my own pocket the first three or four such events. The issue is not addressed by asking me what I am doing. The Parramatta City Council, its Labor Lord Mayor and aldermen should be asked whether they think it is appropriate for children as young as 10 to go to a

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hotel, unsupervised, and play on jukeboxes, video machines and pool tables, and eat junk food, in hotel premises next to where licensed alcohol is available. I reject the proposal outright.

I commend the *Parramatta Advertiser* for running such a strong campaign. I am delighted to be the first

community leader - of many, I am sure - to endorse that newspaper's campaign. I look forward to the energies of the Minister for Local Government being directed against Parramatta City Council in that regard. I note in particular that the Minister has already indicated to me that he views the proposal with similar seriousness and is determined to demand of Parramatta council a review. The pub for kids must close now.

FORMER HUNTER REGION POLICE OFFICER

Mr FACE (Charlestown) [5.49]: I raise a matter of considerable concern to me, the community and some police in the Hunter region. The matter involves a senior sergeant of police who was attached to the Hunter region who, I understand, is still under investigation for a series of matters. I do not propose to reveal the senior sergeant's name here this evening, but if finality of the matter is not reached in future I may be forced to. I adopt this approach because the family of the officer lives in the area. I might say that I am showing him much more charity than he has shown me and my family over the past few years. The matters involved are serious and I ask the Minister for Police to confer with the Commissioner of Police on behalf of the community and the police in the area to bring the matter to finality. It has been investigated since the latter part of last year by the internal affairs department.

In 1991, from memory, a 34-page, once again from memory, complaint by various people, including me, was made about this senior sergeant of police. Some of the complaints were of a civil nature; some were clearly matters that should have been dealt with by police internal affairs. When the latest investigation, unbeknown to me, started I asked the internal affairs police to visit my office, along with the president of an organisation I am involved in, so that I could put to them why various aspects of the complaint which had been to the Ombudsman a long time ago had not been investigated. I will not say what the serious concerns were because that would identify the person, which would be unfair. But the matters are serious, and some of them were expressed by me. Admittedly, in one case there was no complainant, but there is no doubt that the offences took place. Any investigation would have clearly revealed what now has been complained of by several officers.

The officer has been moved from the Hunter area to Sydney. This has all the hallmarks of something that used to go on in the police force under various governments - sweeping things under the carpet. It appears that the officer will get just a paddy-whack on the hand and be told not to do it again. That is the conclusion to be drawn when that person has been given the most unusual privilege of driving a vehicle back and forth to his home in Newcastle. Most police who are transferred away from an area have to make their own arrangements. I suspect that a lot of the travel is being done in police time. This matter has gone on for far too long. I cannot understand why it has not been cleared up. Several of the complainants are absolutely traumatised by the proceedings. One now believes that the only recourse open to her is to go to the Anti-Discrimination Board - a very serious step in my view.

I believe I have been very restrained in what I have done over the past few years and in the matter I raise tonight. Until the matter is finalised I will continue to raise it in the Parliament. If I have to, I will use the forms of the Parliament to debate the matter in this Chamber. It has gone on for far too long and has hurt too many people. The officer involved appears to have got away with everything, leaving a trail of disaster behind. One is not guilty until that is proven, but the investigation has taken far too long. The matter was raised with the Ombudsman in 1991 and the same matters have been investigated by police internal affairs since the latter part of last year. I ask the Minister to conduct a complete inquiry and to confer with the commissioner on the matter. [*Time expired.*]

NEW ENGLAND TERTIARY EDUCATION

Mr CHAPPELL (Northern Tablelands) [5.54]: I want to correct a most irresponsible statement - an outrageous claim displaying callous disregard for the truth - which appeared in today's *Sydney Morning Herald* at page 6. It is a statement made by a senior public official relating to the role of the National Party in the

provision of tertiary education in the New England region of New South Wales. The claim was that the Nationals had opposed a university in the New England region on the grounds that people without higher education were more likely to vote for the National Party. "Don't laugh, I'm serious," he said. I have to assume that this is an accurate report of what was said. It can be taken in one of only two contexts. Either the quote relates to the past, the developmental stage of tertiary education in country New South Wales, or it relates to more recent years. If it is the former case, it was precisely because of the absolute commitment of Country Party members of Parliament - forerunners of the National Party - and of their supporters that tertiary education went bush. It was specifically to the New England region that country education went first.

Names that spring to mind immediately are D. H. Drummond, Country Party member, State Minister and subsequently Federal Minister for Education; Earle Page, a name synonymous with the Country Party; Colonel Mick Bruxner, Country Party; T. R. Forster; Colonel H. F. White - indeed, the White family over several generations; and P. A. Wright. The list goes on and on. These were

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the pioneers of tertiary education in the country, specifically in the establishment first of the Armidale Teachers College and then of the University College of New England, which subsequently became the University of New England.

The same people and many of their fellow pastoralists and landholders, professional and community leaders, predominantly - but not exclusively - of conservative political commitment, simply would not give up in the face of adversity and saw that tertiary education institutions were established in the country. Perhaps even more significantly in the light of yesterday's idiotic comments, these same people and their successors pressed on to the development of the external studies education model which was to be emulated throughout the world. If the report relates to more recent times, it is equally true that National Party members of Parliament and our supporters out there in the community remain deeply committed to the development of tertiary education in the country.

I and my colleagues in the electorates of Murwillumbah, Ballina, Lismore, Clarence and Coffs Harbour have been very actively committed to the development of the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, which subsequently has advanced to university status, and to university college facilities at Coffs Harbour and other places throughout the State. Questions of amalgamation or disamalgamation of the various parts of the University of New England have nothing to do with this. They may have led to some of the comments yesterday. The commitment of National Party members to tertiary education is absolutely unquestioned. We supported the development of all the programs I mentioned, and we still do.

Former member Sir Davis Hughes to this day is actively pursuing the development of university education access for everyone, but particularly for isolated rural people, by the use of the very latest education technology. Indeed, the Federal National Party recently endorsed a policy statement on giving access to tertiary education to people who are currently being failed by the Federal Government, which did not plan for the demand in tertiary education places and then did not fund that demand anyhow. The question is: who could be so inane, inept and stupid as to make the claim made yesterday? If it were a person who might simply have been talking irresponsibly off the top of his head, we could forgive him, but it was the Prime Minister of Australia talking in Ballina yesterday. He made the outrageous claim that the National Party has failed tertiary education in rural areas.

The National Party has been pre-eminent in developing tertiary education in country New South Wales. Our record is there for anyone to see. I deny anyone the ability to prove that we have been in any sense at any time throughout the history of the Country Party or National Party slack in attention to detail in our drive and commitment to tertiary education, technical education and every level of education provided for the benefit of the kids and the people of country Australia. It is to the eternal discredit of the Prime Minister making this inept and stupid comment that his Government could not plan to meet the present demand for tertiary education places and was not prepared to fund the places. Thousands of people throughout the country have been left without access to tertiary education. [*Time expired.*]

2 TIL 5 YOUTH THEATRE

Mr GAUDRY (Newcastle) [5.59]: I bring before the House the plight of the 2 Til 5 Youth Theatre in Newcastle. This group is one of 120 small co-operatives that has been caught up in the voluntary liquidation of the Australian Association of Co-operatives. This group has serviced the people of Newcastle and the Hunter full time for nine years and in a part-time and full-time capacity for 16 years. It is a tragedy that a group which services the community is caught up in this manner. I refer to the statement of the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Cooperatives in the House on 4th March when he said:

I wish to restate that the Government has no liability in this matter -

That is, the collapse of the society of co-operatives -

- and I believe it would be inappropriate to look at a propup. Co-operatives are, after all, simply business entities and it would be inappropriate for any government to prop up any failing private sector business entities no matter how worthy the object of that business.

The Minister was perhaps not fully advised at that time because there is no doubt that the 2 Til 5 Youth Theatre is not a trading enterprise; it is not a business entity. It is, as many other small co-operatives are, a community advancement co-operative formed for the public good. These co-operatives have been formed for the public good, they are non profit making, they are non profit sharing, they declare no dividends. They are a special category under the Registrar of Co-operatives. In effect, they are there to administer government funds. The 2 Til 5 Youth Theatre, which is exposed to the extent of \$65,000 in this liquidity situation, is mostly holding Australia Council and New South Wales Ministry of the Arts funding, as do PACT Theatre and other youth theatre co-operatives. Many community advancement co-operatives are caught up in the drastic situation of having no funds. They cannot trade; therefore the full-time and part-time workers are now without jobs because there is no income to administer the co-operatives.

I approached the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Cooperatives and was most thankful for the approach he has taken. He certainly is concerned, as I am, about what has happened with co-operatives generally in this collapse. The particular category of community advancement co-operatives need to be looked at closely. I raised this matter with the Ministry for the Arts and I am sure Minister Collins would be concerned that government funds are no longer available to carry out the Government's objectives of the co-operative societies servicing the needs of the community.

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Two permanent and six casual employees of the 2 Til 5 Youth Theatre are no longer receiving any funding. As I said, the sum of \$65,000 is tied up. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is extremely concerned about the South Sydney Community Aid Co-operative and PACT. We share the view that it is not the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Cooperatives who is lagging here; it is for the Premier and Treasurer, whose role it should be to show leadership, to come out quickly and say he will act, not to bail out the Australian Society of Co-operatives but to make an advance to the Registrar of Co-operatives so that worthwhile groups - including child care centres, Aboriginal arts groups and other groups working for the benefit of the community - can get back into the market-place and be effective in working for the community. [*Time expired.*]

HORNSBY SUNDAY RETAIL TRADING

Mr O'DOHERTY (Ku-ring-gai) [6.4]: Not long after I was elected member for Ku-ring-gai in August last year the issue of Sunday trading in Hornsby was brought to my attention by a number of constituents. Debate about Sunday trading had been going on for some time. I am not referring to Sunday trading by hotels; that debate took place many decades ago. I am referring to weekend trading, the deregulation of shopping

hours. At that time a large number of centres around Sydney had deregulated hours and were trading very successfully. Retailers in Hornsby were very concerned that they were losing out, and the community certainly generated a demand to be able to shop in large centres, especially on Sundays. On Sundays families can have a pleasant and relaxing time shopping. According to the evidence collected by these retailers, Hornsby was certainly losing out to centres nearby, such as Chatswood, Castle Hill, Parramatta and other places that my constituents found readily accessible.

The question was: why could Hornsby not have Sunday trading? That question was eventually taken up and asked by the Minister for Industrial Relations following my representations and after discussions I had with the Minister, retailers and other people in the electorate. It was eventually decided that weekend trading would be able to go ahead at Hornsby. Weekend trading at Hornsby commenced before Christmas. I support fully the rights of retailers to open on Sunday. I believe it is important that we as a society should be able to deregulate shopping hours. Deregulation of a whole range of things is good for society. It makes our society more productive and allows people greater freedom of choice as to when they shop, engage in entertainment, and so on.

I am concerned that there should be no coercion regarding the opening of shops, particularly on Sundays. Some people feel very strongly about this issue. As a member of the Christian community in Sydney, I want to ensure that people who feel strongly about not opening on Sunday should not have to open on that day. For the record, my view about the Sabbath is that it is good to have a day of rest on one day of the week, as is certainly prescribed by God in the early chapters of the Bible, but that day of rest need not necessarily be on a Sunday. We can deregulate our day of rest in the same way that we deregulate other things. The question is: what is in our hearts and minds on that day of rest?

I am concerned that a constituent of mine, a small shopowner, feels he will be coerced by the large shopping centre of which he is a leaseholder to open on Sundays. He is concerned that he will be forced to sign a lease that says he must be open whenever the centre is open. That is anathema to the whole idea of deregulation. It is anathema to me as a Liberal member of Parliament and it is anathema to most members of our society. I believe there should not be that coercion for small business owners to open on Sundays. I would be very concerned if it is correct that he was being coerced by the terms of a lease or other means to open on Sundays. My understanding is that the Building Owners and Managers Association, the industry organisation that represents building owners and managers and the managers of large shopping centres, has an agreement with the Government that there will be no coercion for its leaseholders to open on Sundays. The organisation believes it should be up to the individual shopkeeper whether he or she opens on Sundays.

This evening I call on the Attorney General and Minister for Industrial Relations in another place to confirm for the benefit of my constituent that an agreement has been reached between the Government and the large building owners and managers. If any case of coercion of small shopkeepers is brought to the attention of the Minister I ask him to act to protect their rights to be open only when they feel it is necessary.

Mr CAUSLEY (Clarence - Minister for Natural Resources) [6.9]: The Minister for Industrial Relations has made it clear that the Government has no intention of forcing shopkeepers to open on Sundays. The idea behind the legislation, which was introduced into this House by the present Premier, was that people should have the right to open or not to open. That is a freedom available in a society such as ours. In some instances it is of great benefit, particularly in a city like Sydney, which is a mecca for tourists. It is of benefit also to two-income families which have no opportunity to shop during the week. The Government's enterprise agreement legislation makes that possible. The Minister for Industrial Relations has advised that at this stage there is no formal agreement with the Building Owners and Managers Association that there will be no coercion. Perhaps that is something the Minister should clarify. He has advised that he will make a formal statement tomorrow or perhaps answer a question in relation to the matter in the other place, where he is the Leader of the House.

Private members' statements noted.

[Madam Deputy-Speaker left the chair at 6.10 p.m. The House resumed at 7.30 p.m.]

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GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS IN REPLY

Fifth Day's Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr SULLIVAN (Wollongong) [7.30]: The levels of heavy metals in the dust in residences in Port Kembla is a matter of grave concern. I should hasten to add that, provided the dust is not disturbed, it probably does not pose a major health hazard, although that is one area where there is some disagreement. In the Port Kembla area lead dust rises above the National Health and Medical Research Council's investigation level at about half a kilometre from Southern Copper; the cadmium level rises above the NHMRC's investigation level at about four-fifths of a kilometre from the Southern Copper smelter at Port Kembla; and in respect of arsenic the NHMRC's investigation level is exceeded at a kilometre from Southern Copper. That is a serious matter and should have the attention of the Environment Protection Authority. In his Speech, the Governor said:

The NSW Government, in cooperation with the Commonwealth and other States, will develop a national framework for the management and rehabilitation of contaminated sites. The Government will also consult widely with the community in the development of a strategy to combat lead contamination.

In relation to the overall management of hazardous materials, my Government is developing initiatives . . . and a "Community Right-to-Know" Strategy.

The community does not know. I wonder what the strategies are. So far they have consisted of handing out leaflets, one of them entitled, "What Can We Do About Roof Dust?" distributed by the Illawarra Health Unit, which is a joint venture between the Illawarra Area Health Service and the University of Wollongong. Others are, "Looking out for Lead. Some things to do to Protect Children" issued by the EPA and, "Removal of Lead Contaminating Dust from Ceilings" also issued by the EPA. That is not appropriate, and the EPA needs to lift its game.

What does the "Community Right-to-Know Strategy" really mean? What right is there for ordinary members of the community to participate? Last, and most important, why has the Government not proceeded with the establishment of a select committee into lead pollution, referred to in the business paper of 17th September, 1992? That would give the community and experts from outside the Government, from interstate and overseas, an opportunity to have input. At the moment we are waiting on a discussion or position paper - depending on who honourable members listen to - which was imminent on October 1992. Swiftness of action, fleet of foot decision making, is an anathema to the Government in this particular instance and, I presume, also to the EPA. I refer specifically to the Governor's comments about housing. On page 12 His Excellency said:

Following on from the Inquiry into the Department of Housing, reform of the Department will focus on service to the community. This reorganisation will mean more housing options for the community, better use of funds so that more services can be provided, and services designed with clients' needs foremost.

In the electorate of Wollongong the Department of Housing has provided more than 3,000 residential units. Most representations to my electorate office relate to maintenance problems with the Department of Housing properties: windows and doors that will not shut, leaking taps, faulty electrical switches and points, and leaking shower recesses. The common theme is the difficulty associated with getting the Department of Housing to deal with such matters. The department has basically three frequent responses. Invariably, the first is, "The tenant can fix it"; second, "We have no money for maintenance on that type of thing this year"; third, when almost dragged screaming into taking some action, the response is to do only token repairs.

I can quote instances when people have been unable to lock their front door although a tradesman has been engaged to fix the problem. I have gone to the premises and have been able to push the door open. Presumably the tradesman was paid but nothing has been done. There is one instance after another where repairs have been only token repairs and not long-term repairs. I am sure all residents of Department of Housing properties will be pleased with the commitment to improve the meeting of clients' needs. Certainly, my staff will be most appreciative that the problem will be significantly reduced in the not too distant future. There was a general comment by the Governor about major reforms in education. Reference was made to increasing opportunities for education and training in the post-compulsory age group. On page 14 His Excellency said:

A number of different strategies will provide school students with more flexibility and appropriate options for further education and training.

The Board of Studies is consulting widely over a set of proposals aimed at increasing access to, and flexibility of, the Higher School Certificate. For example, proposals will enable students to combine part-time HSC study and work.

It was further stated:

As a joint venture between the Department of School Education and TAFE, senior secondary colleges are being established at North Sydney (Bradfield College), Coffs Harbour, Illawarra, Bankstown and Wagga Wagga. This initiative will broaden the learning pathways available from school to further education and training to work.

That is one of the great initiatives for education. Having taught in a high school for almost 28 years, I always took my hat off to mature age students who returned and put themselves in a position of being ordinary students again. That took a great deal of courage. I have been in a position where I have taught a mother and her daughter in the same year and in the same class. The older of the two, the mature aged student, became the teacher's pet. This initiative is a move in the right direction. It will increase the opportunities for post-secondary education and training and introduce multiple strategies that will encourage people to further their education. If we can get over the great damage done to the education system and the HSC by Metherell, who referred to Mickey Mouse courses, and meet the needs of the community, it will be a move in the right direction.

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I would like to conclude by referring to the issue of health and the remarks of my colleague the honourable member for Kiama when commenting on, "My Government puts people first in health care". I do not know where those people are but they are certainly not in the Illawarra. There have been claims of innovative solutions, and expansion of clinical resources in scarce areas in the south and west of Sydney, the North Coast and the Central Coast. The point I am making is that areas such as the Illawarra, which really boomed in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, have still not caught up. The southern area of the Illawarra Area Health Service is booming. Although we are attracting more resources, the fundamental problems that have existed for many years in the Illawarra are not being addressed. Statistics can always be compiled to show that some areas are getting more than their fair share. The statisticians in the Department of Health can do that very admirably. Honourable members should ask themselves: does it make sense? Invariably, the answer is: no, it is a whole lot of codswallop.

I should like now to refer to one particular matter that the Minister for Health was most reluctant that I raise in Parliament last week, that is, mammographic screening. The NSW State Cancer Council decided not to establish a mammographic screening centre in the Illawarra. Of all women screened for breast cancer in the Illawarra, 5 per cent will be forced to travel to an assessment centre in Kogarah for further treatment. That centre, to be established at St George Hospital, will be the only assessment centre between southern Sydney and the Victorian border. Given the size of the population in the Illawarra and South Coast regions, it is intolerable that women requiring this treatment will be forced to travel to Sydney.

The journey by public transport to Kogarah from anywhere in the Illawarra or on the South Coast is extremely arduous and time consuming; it should also be unnecessary. I should like to quote from the comments of others. For example, the Cancer Council's State planning and co-ordination unit manager for mammographic screening, Ellen Ryan, said that the Illawarra women would not be grossly disadvantaged by the scheme - they will be disadvantaged, but not grossly disadvantaged. When asked, she refused to comment on the Illawarra's suitability for an assessment centre. Dr Clingan, an oncologist from Wollongong, is reported at page 1 of the 24th February edition of the *Illawarra Mercury* as saying:

We could easily set up an assessment centre, we have the pathology, radiology staff, why should they (Southern Sydney Area Health Service) get the money and we shouldn't? . . .

They haven't got any (special) expertise at Kogarah. I don't understand why they are ignoring the Illawarra, it's like second best is good enough.

I want to raise this fundamental issue: that the Illawarra is being regarded as an out-station of Sutherland and St George hospitals. That is turning the clocks back to the 1960s and the 1970s when services were provided for the Illawarra and the South Coast at Kogarah and Sutherland. This, for a population of more than one-third of a million, is entirely unsatisfactory. In many respects it is the re-emergence of the imperialistic attitudes of the old boy network in the Australian Hospitals Association and certainly in the teaching hospitals in Sydney. I find this totally disgusting. It is an attitude that says that the Illawarra is not as good as anywhere else; it will get second best. If one looks at the regular pattern set by this Government in the past two years, one notes that increasing services for the Illawarra and the South Coast are invariably located at St George or Sutherland.

The expectation is that the bunnies in the Illawarra and on the South Coast can get on the train or into their cars and come to Sydney for treatment. It is a total denial of the fundamental principle that health services should be provided in the area of the population, where that service can be justified economically. I would argue that there is a record now with the orthovoltage machine, with mental health facilities - and the clinical services building is another example - and community health services. They are all geared to provide fodder for the grand scheme, the grand centres, at St George and Sutherland hospitals, and for the gentrification and glorification of a few people who regard themselves and St George and Sutherland hospitals as being significantly better than anyone and anything in the Illawarra.

Mr WINDSOR (Tamworth) [7.46]: It is with a degree of pleasure that I take the opportunity to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate. I intend to raise a number of matters in relation to the economy of this State, the environmental debate, agriculture, law and order, and local government. The Governor spent quite a deal of time in his Speech talking about employment and economic growth. It is an area of great personal concern to me and it should be of great concern to anyone who will vote next Saturday. I believe that the economic growth not only of New South Wales but of the nation, and the employment growth we are all trying to achieve, could well be decided on Saturday. In relation to economic growth and employment I should like to talk about country areas. Honourable members know that I represent the electorate of Tamworth and I am proud to do so. But I do not believe this Government is doing enough in relation to what some people call decentralisation and others call regionalisation; it really does not matter what it is called.

I believe this Government and previous governments of all political persuasions have not addressed the issue for a number of reasons, not the least of which is political, that is, the voting patterns that would occur if there were a transfer of people from one part of our community to another. In New South Wales we have a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to do something about decentralisation or regionalisation, rather than just continuing the rhetoric that we hear from everyone of all political persuasions, particularly at electorate time. I have noted with some cynicism, listening to many of the

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Federal politicians who are seeking re-election next Saturday, that they are all engaging in the rhetoric again and have no confirmed commitment to do anything about it at all. I should like to spend some time on the relationship that I believe we have, and will have for a number of years, between the economy, which has always tended to be the excuse for driving decentralisation, and the environment, which in some cases has been

the argument against decentralisation. Those honourable members who have bothered to listen to me in the past would know that I have spent some time on this subject before.

I believe we now have a set of circumstances, particularly in the western suburbs of Sydney, that will allow us to have a debate that is both economically and environmentally positive for the people of New South Wales. That debate should be bipartisan or non-political, but as the debate continues - and it will continue over a number of years - no doubt the differing political opportunists in this place will take positions and find some argument against the greater good of the people of New South Wales. We have an opportunity to promote decentralisation. I should like to spend some time explaining what I mean. We have a massive environmental problem in the western suburbs of Sydney, a massive social problem in the western suburbs of Sydney, and a transfer of population from the regional centres of country New South Wales into Sydney for a number of reasons, employment being one of them.

We are seeing symptoms of a slow rebellion against that, not the least of which were some comments by the Chairman of Clean Up Australia, Ian Kiernan, only a few days ago in relation to the State Government's inactivity on environmental matters in Sydney. Ian Kiernan has a boat to row in relation to the urban community. I believe there is an opportunity to relate the problems of the urban community to the potential of rural and regional centres. Obviously that will not be done because it happens to be a good idea at the time or because Tony Windsor thought it was a lovely thing to do. In my view it can be justified, and I do not believe the Government or the Opposition are doing enough work to look at these proposals. It can be done if there is an economic assessment of the infrastructure costs of the overdevelopment of the western suburbs of Sydney, and added to that would be the obvious environmental costs and, probably the most important of all, the social costs of the maintenance of people in an area where there is no real community. Those people are just put there because Sydney is the only place they know and the only place in which they may be likely to find work.

That is not good enough. Members of this Parliament should have a greater degree of long-term vision in wanting to solve the problem. There could be political penalties to pay in the mix of population, but honourable members should look at the environmental, economic and social problems of the western suburbs, assess the infrastructure costs and relate them in an economic sense to incentives to relocate people to country New South Wales. In the past a payroll tax deduction or some other lolly has been provided to induce people to relocate, and, subsequently, whichever government obtains office, the lolly is removed and it becomes uneconomic for those businesses to remain in rural New South Wales.

The socioeconomic and environmental costs should be assessed economically and a figure should be put on them. With the formation of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Trust and a number of other organisations that are at work in that area, there will be pressure to put an economic cost on what is happening. The costs that the community is willing now to spend on building infrastructure in the western suburbs should be transferred into incentives for people to relocate. Obviously those incentives are open to debate. They could be in relation to cost of fuel, which is a detrimental cost to country businesses. They may well be in relation to communications costs. The cost of business telephone calls to major metropolitan areas could be the same as a Sydney local call. Given modern communication technology, these sorts of costs could be reduced if honourable members had a degree of long-term direction and vision.

That could be good for all the people, not only for regional centres, which may, because of their low infrastructure costs, pick up additional population, maintain and build upon their own economic bases, but also for people who have relocated from Sydney where they have felt bogged down and where the environment has been detrimental to their children. In a sense the Government is falling foul of the lowest common denominator thinking. Some regional centres, in the Minister's words, have good delivery of health care services and lesser waiting times for elective surgery than hospitals in, say, the western suburbs of Sydney or other metropolitan areas. That is no justification for extending the waiting times in country areas, which I think the Minister may be considering. That should be one of the driving determinants to encourage people to leave the metropolitan areas of Sydney. What is wrong with having an incentive in the health area to encourage or help people to relocate?

I have been concerned about agriculture for a number of years. The Governor spent a deal of time speaking about agriculture, which has an important role in the State's and the nation's finances. Some of the Prime Minister's rhetoric of late has not paid proper credence to the importance of agriculture in the past, at present and in particular in the future. The statement that Australia is just a quarry and just a farm is derogatory to many of the people who have worked in those two important industries, which have created considerable wealth.

Mr Gibson: But fairly true.

Mr WINDSOR: No, it is not fairly true. Obviously agriculture has experienced and is experiencing difficult times, driven by some dreadful economic management for the past 15 to 20 years. Agriculture should not be forgotten by anyone, in

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particular by members of this place. I take this opportunity to compliment the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs on a few sound initiatives, one of which is the Rural Assistance Authority. Another initiative is the noxious weed legislation, which will bind the Crown in relation to offences concerning noxious weeds. Three railway lines are situated in my immediate neighbourhood, and for a number of years I have struggled with the State Rail Authority to control noxious weeds. The people downstream from that particular government authority incur heavy costs. I am sure many others could quote the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other government instrumentalities that lay down the law on certain aspects of human behaviour but will not abide by the law that most normal people have to abide by.

I assure the Minister for Transport that once the noxious weed legislation is passed, which I will support wholeheartedly - for the past five years I have argued in favour of this type of legislation - I will be knocking at the Minister's door to clean up the railway lines. Noxious weed control is an enormous cost to neighbouring landholders, and that cost initially and over time will have to be met by better managerial practices of government institutions. In relation to the control of noxious weeds and many other areas, the Government and its instrumentalities should look at the overall catchment and all the players in that catchment rather than the specific column mentality that some Ministers and institutions of government tend to look at without considering the impact they may have on others.

I urge the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs where possible to change or modify the hormone growth promotant debate in relation to the European Economic Community and the enormous paper-chase being created. The Minister should do as much as he can to simplify that system because an enormous burden is being imposed on agents and cattle producers in particular. The time burden that will be imposed at a very busy time of the marketing process at the saleyards, where mistakes will be made, could be detrimental to the livelihoods of some individuals and, more importantly, to the potential of the European Economic Community market.

Another subject that the Governor spoke of is land care and the environment. Both those issues are important to me. As honourable members would know, I am disturbed about the destruction of what was formerly called the Soil Conservation Service. Irrespective of what it is now called, that destruction continues. Last week I reintroduced a private member's bill, the Soil Conservation Service (Special Provisions) Bill, which will soon be before the upper House.

It is my view and the view held by many others, particularly a number of employees of the former Soil Conservation Service - and, more important, those who received and no longer receive advice and assistance from the Soil Conservation Service - that the amalgamation was ill conceived; it was driven by Treasury officials rather than someone in possession of any knowledge of what is happening with soil in New South Wales. The process is not working and the Government should, in its wisdom, acknowledge that it has made some mistakes. I do not get any joy out of trying to drive through a piece of legislation that will have a fairly significant impact on the structure of government. [*Extension of time agreed to.*]

The administration of soil and water, our two most basic resources, should be combined under the one

ministry; it is the only way that environmental problems can be looked at in a total catchment sense. An example of the non-performance or the castration of the Soil Conservation Service was recently brought to my attention. One of my constituents rang a representative of the Soil Conservation Service for advice about river-bank erosion - quite a decimating type of erosion in our area. My constituent was told, after having spoken to two people, that the service was underpowered, underresourced and that no one would be able to see him for three weeks to a month. That situation was not satisfactory because a lot of soil conservation work takes place when the climate is dry.

Towards the end of the conversation the representative to whom my constituent had been speaking said that he would be quite happy to visit his property - which was only two miles from the office of the service - after work to give a professional consultancy at his own cost. I am not against the privatisation of Port Macquarie hospital, in fact, I believe the introduction of some external capital into an area which has such a requirement could be quite positive. However, I am against a government employee refusing service on a extremely important environmental problem because he is underresourced.

At present the Government is in the process of spending \$80 million on the Environment Protection Authority. I believe that resources at the coalface, hands-on technology, should be increased. That is an example of what is happening to the former Soil Conservation Service. I note with interest that approximately one month ago the Deputy Premier was having some water management problems in his electorate. I suggest that the Deputy Premier, in his wisdom, might look more closely at my bill when it goes before the upper House. Perhaps he will encourage some support for it.

Country New South Wales is suffering from massive environmental problems - blue-green algae and water management problems, particularly with flood plain water control and water usage. New South Wales has no legislation which impacts on those problems. Until soil and water resources are combined, constructive legislation cannot be introduced to manage the flood plain. If soil and water resources remain separate, a lot of toing-and-froing will occur between the two departments - one of which is almost dead and the other does not like the dead body. The communication and competition between the two departments is responsible for a great deal of inactivity.

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It will not be the Government who pays the penalty for that activity - and I have not yet seen any initiatives from the Opposition for any long-term solution. Those who own the land and are trying to make a living out of it will be ones who will pay. I cite examples of dry land salinity producing massive economical and personal effects on those who currently own certain areas of land. Obviously trees need to be planted, and total catchment management should be more than simply a catchcry. Land care should be something of which we are all proud. As politicians we should promote land care rather than do as the Government has done in the past 12 to 18 months, invest a massive amount of money into the Environment Protection Authority, which will be just another cop shop that looks good on paper, is politically saleable to the urban community, but really does nothing for the broader State.

A number of solutions are available. Part 8 of the Water Act needs overhauling. Industries and scientists who are trying to solve some of the problems, such as blue-green algae and salinity, should be encouraged. Those problems will not be solved by simply shutting down the sewerage system and preventing people from going to the toilet, or by closing down agriculture. Those problems will only be overcome by good management. Until our water-based and soil-based resources are under the one umbrella nothing will change.

The impact of feral animals on the environment is far more serious than people realise. I will support the Opposition's proposed legislation relating to feral cat and fox control. If honourable members are really concerned about the environment, they should address this issue. It is not a very saleable commodity in the television viewing rooms of some people in Sydney but feral animals have a detrimental effect on our environment. During the parliamentary break I took the opportunity to travel to Tasmania, partly for a holiday and partly to assess the environmental debate which has been taking place.

I spent some time in the wilderness areas of the southeast, the World Heritage area, of which many people speak and on occasion hold up as an example of pristine environment. I was shocked to find that the environment was not at all pristine. It has been modified greatly by human habitation over many years, and the Aboriginal burn technology - used to encourage the kangaroos to feed in certain areas - modified the original vegetation. I do not detract from its beauty, it really is a magnificent area, but when people are speaking about wilderness areas and World Heritage areas they should reflect on the impact of past human habitation.

I draw the attention of the House to the fact that this very day a debate is raging in my part of the State with respect to some parcels of land which have been assessed as wilderness areas. There is a degree of opposition to those areas being proclaimed as wilderness areas; I have opposed their proclamation as wilderness areas. Last week I made a speech about the weed problem that exists in the area at the moment and which will persist if the lockup wilderness mentality is imposed on some of our beautiful national parks. Today the Armidale-based Anglican Bishop, Peter Chiswell, entered the debate. Bishop Chiswell is a keen bush walker and sees a need to protect the environment. He is concerned that human values are being sidelined. A newspaper article quotes him as saying that there appeared to be little sensitivity shown for the people who will be affected by any declaration of a wilderness area, such as timber workers, farmers and landholders

I think the most important point he makes is that, "We should not pretend that nature exists in some sort of exclusive domain, as the wilderness mentality would suggest". That confirms the observation I made with respect to the Tasmanian southeast forests. While in Tasmania I inspected the timber and woodchip industries to assess the impact they have on landholders. To be honest I was shocked at the clear felling which is still taking place in some areas of Tasmania. I do not agree with clear felling. I believe that that technology has not been adopted anywhere in New South Wales. If it were adopted, I would oppose it quite vehemently.

In the main, I believe that national parks and wildlife bodies have not managed their areas successfully - they might argue that part of that is due to lack of government funding, which may well be true. I believe that the lock up wilderness mentality will not gain anything for individuals in New South Wales. A few feral people may think that it is a good political debate to win. The areas they are trying to save will be affected in the long run - perhaps by fire if no protection or control measures are taken to prevent the buildup of fire. As I mentioned earlier, the Aboriginal population has always had a burn technology in relation to the New South Wales bush. I think it is detrimental to move away from that and to let nature take its course. If nature does take its course - and I think we will witness this in the Blue Mountains within the next year or so - there will be a number of deaths where stupidity has reigned.

When Parliament resumes in a fortnight's time, I intend to produce 5,000 signatures calling for a referendum on the subject of capital punishment. I will be producing 5,000 signatures a day for every day that Parliament sits of this year. I hope that will encourage Opposition and Government members to pay some attention to the justice system with regard to violent crime and truth-in-sentencing provisions. In my view, society would like to have the choice of - [*Time expired.*]

Mr FACE (Charlestown) [8.16]: I am pleased to participate in the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Ross Sinclair, A.C., Governor of New South Wales. Although the Speaker is not in the Chamber, I place on record my congratulations to him on his achievement of 20 years' service to the Parliament. He joins the 20-year club of which he and I are the only members at the moment, although various other members will become eligible in November 1993. The Speaker is greatly

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respected by both sides of the Parliament. He has made a significant contribution in many ways during his period of service.

I thank the Chairman of Committees, the honourable member for Port Macquarie, for her kind remarks. I trust that her reference to me being one of the older types of fellows meant that I was one of the old style of fellows - that I am one who appreciates and endeavours to abide by the conventions of this institution. I believe that in the thrust and parry of debate across the Chamber everything is fair in love and war, but I believe also

that differences between members should remain in the Chamber and should not be taken outside the Chamber.

I wish to refer to matters that have caused me and other members of the Opposition extreme concern. I refer to a certain member of the New South Wales Police Service who has been the subject of questions raised by me - and I might say that they have been voluminous - and other members of the Opposition in this House and in another place. The many questions have either been ignored or met with vague and unsatisfactory responses by those to whom they have been directed. I believe that I am being moderate when I say that the Government has, to some degree, stymied the Opposition by failing to respond to reasonable questions it has raised about this man.

I am on record asking a question about this person as early as 1984, so it could hardly be said that I am attempting to embarrass the Government at this time. Recently I visited the United States of America in connection with my parliamentary duties, as I saw it, to inquire into various aspects of gaming. I did nothing untoward; I made arrangements to see various people known to the Government who, I am certain, were of good repute. I did not in any way, shape or form seek to involve myself in any untoward activity in the State of Nevada. I am sure most honourable members would agree I am always careful in that regard.

I inquired into issues which affect the racing, casino and gaming industries. During the course of discussions with various American gaming personnel, information was volunteered to the effect that the very same New South Wales police officer, whom I shall identify, has been responsible over the past decade for about \$300 million worth of export trade which, in the normal course of events, would have benefited the New South Wales and Australian economies - I emphasise, \$300 million at a time when this country needs everything it can get from overseas trade. It is disturbing that one individual - a New South Wales police officer - is able to threaten attempts by this nation and this State to promote healthy export trade in an effort to reduce our trade deficit and unemployment levels.

As well as the detrimental economic impact of his actions, the people of New South Wales have been put to the considerable expense of costly litigation to which the police officer has been a party, either as a plaintiff or as a defendant, because of his unbridled actions. The officer in question has been given an unfettered licence by successive police administrations to investigate and research various matters affecting gaming and he has been permitted to relentlessly pursue a certain person and his companies. This has occurred over successive police administrations. In saying this I do not cast aspersions on former commissioners Cec Abbott and John Avery or the present commissioner, Mr Tony Lauer. I know all of them personally. I do not say that they knowingly permitted this to happen. The department, now the service, has let this somehow go unchecked.

As I said earlier, this has occurred over the period of two governments - this Government and the previous Labor Government. The underlying reasons for this are becoming clearer in my mind, as I will explain shortly. What I am about to say has been verified officially by inquiry and by legal evidence. Imagine the consequences of the actions of this officer of the Crown on the men, women and children of this State. It is not easy to come into this Chamber and name people but, as *Hansard* will show, this New South Wales police officer has been the subject of many questions in this Parliament going back to 1983. Detective Sergeant Robert Campbell Clark - he is well known to many with whom I spoke as Bobby Clark - is a man who will be familiar to many honourable members. Some honourable members may remember that, in the early 1980s - that is how far this matter goes back - the then Leader of the Opposition, Nick Greiner, made allegations in this House about Ainsworth, a poker machine manufacturer, and the illegal practice of his companies.

The then Leader of the Opposition, under pressure from the Government, named the sources of information which led to his claims. He named Detective Sergeant Robert Campbell Clark and Detective Lionel Hanrahan. There was uproar from members of his party because he named his sources of information. I am not critical of Nick Greiner for having done so. I am not casting aspersions on him; I believe he was naive and named his sources of information in the heat of the moment. I am sure that he, in retrospect, would never have done it. In any event, this same person's name is continually raised in this Parliament in questions and answers and in debate. Two members of the New South Wales Police Service, who were employed by the government of the day, were running around with confidential police information causing the Government and

the accused man, Ainsworth, and his business interests, all kinds of trouble.

Other members of this House are known to have collaborated with and received information from Clark and his colleagues, including a former member for Pittwater. It is irrelevant whether or not this was valid information. The point is that two police officers took it upon themselves to blow the whistle on Ainsworth, and the Government which employed them, by supplying confidential information knowingly and in a misleading manner. I wish to make it clear to honourable members that I have no brief to support Len Ainsworth. I have met the man

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on half a dozen occasions, as I have met other poker machine or slot machine manufacturers at various functions to do with the Registered Clubs Association and the Club Managers Association, where I attended last night. I have never been in Ainsworth's company socially. I have never been to his factory, just as I have never been to the factories of other manufacturers, and I have no intention of doing so. That is not to say that anything they are doing is untoward. I have always been careful in that regard because of the mystery that supposedly surrounds people such as Mr Ainsworth.

Tonight I make it clear that I am not on a vendetta and I am not a member of the Len Ainsworth admiration society; I wish only to point out the damage and injustices that have been done. Ainsworth is still involved in litigation with Clark and his colleagues. It is impossible to relate the entire facts about Clark without mentioning Ainsworth and his companies. For several years the Ombudsman has been investigating Clark and his involvement in these matters. We are still awaiting the Ombudsman's report. As I said earlier, this matter occurred over the period of two governments. I am not suggesting it is the responsibility of the present Minister, the Premier or the present Commissioner of Police. It is unbelievable that this man can cavort and travel around this country and throughout the world with what appears to me to be immunity. American sources have told me that Clark was actively involved in a campaign to discredit Ainsworth and his companies in order to prevent approval for the company to supply poker machines in America, in particular to Nevada and New Jersey.

Clark pursued a police career in the gaming industry to stitch up Ainsworth. I believe this has become Clark's obsession. He has shown a definite vindictive attitude towards Ainsworth. Evidence is also to hand that Clark has had, and still has, an abnormally close relationship with an American company that has a presence in this State. I do not intend to name that company because I know the people operating in Australia, as I know Ainsworth. They have never done anything untoward. In fact, their managing director, a person of integrity, is revered in the industry. I emphasise that this occurred in America and only an inquiry will determine whether that relationship still exists. But that American company is a major competitor to Ainsworth.

Clark's career has been tainted with questionable practices. He and his wife have had an interest in a debt collection agency, which he operated from Blacktown police station; an interest in a business called Intelligence Resources; an interest in a business called Compliance Management; and an interest in a security company called CVM - and all this occurred while he was a member of the Police Service. There is more evidence of this. On 21st February this year the *Sunday Telegraph* published an article which clearly indicated that Clark was still actively engaged in poker machine and gaming activities. The article claimed that Clark had patented an idea allegedly to stop or detect poker machine cheats; that Clark had held talks with a gaming industry company; and that the company had successfully built prototypes based on those discussions. It would be interesting to know what company Clark has been dealing with and on whose behalf and authority such contacts were made.

The article stated that this patented idea involved poker machines being linked and that the Liquor Administration Board was considering the matter with the intention of restricting machine models which would be made available to clubs in the future - a move which I believe every honourable member and the club industry would find disturbing. The article also noted that Clark had been in contact with Professor Swan. Most people would know that recently Professor Swan conducted a survey for the Government in relation to the installation of poker machines in casinos. I am not suggesting that either Professor Swan or the Government

has done anything wrong. However, on this occasion Professor Swan was nominated and was recently engaged by the Chief Secretary to assess the impact on clubs and hotels of machines in the proposed casino.

The article suggested that Professor Swan had endorsed Clark's concept. One wonders what all this means and what is going on with the administration of gaming. To the best of my knowledge Detective Sergeant Clark is supposed to be working in the State intelligence group on matters unrelated to gaming. But it appears that he still has an unfettered role to do whatever he likes in the gaming area and he has the freedom to hold discussions with a gaming company to build prototypes of a device for which he claims to have patent rights, presumably for his own commercial advantage. He has written to the Leader of the Opposition on two occasions with regard to this device, to which I will refer in a moment.

In the mid-1980s Clark applied for the position of director of the Casino Control Division of New South Wales Treasury. He was unsuccessful but it is known that after failing to win that position he initiated surveillance of the appointee, Charles Shields. Charles Shields has assisted me in a voluntary capacity for years, but he was not known to me at that time. Clark utilised the services of officers of the Penrith poker machine task force without appropriate reason or authority. He also used the resources of related intelligence agencies to assist with the invention of spurious information about Shields which could be distorted to discredit him. Despite his zeal, Clark's efforts proved fruitless. Clark had Shields' mail opened. But he was not satisfied with that. Clark followed former Deputy Commissioner John Peron, a solicitor who set up in private practice after leaving the police force. That caused Peron a considerable amount of trouble.

It is interesting to examine the way in which Detective Sergeant Clark recruited police colleagues to take part in his actions. In the late 1970s Clark used Detective Rudd from the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence to obtain all available information recorded in police files relative to gaming machines.

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Constable Peter Vincent, an officer who fell foul of Clark's deeds, was described by a Supreme Court judge as either incompetent, stupid or a liar. Vincent ended up making an unreserved apology to Ainsworth in relation to the harm caused to Ainsworth by the illegal execution of a search warrant which cost New South Wales taxpayers \$60,000, plus costs. Clark also used Sergeant Hanrahan to meet his ends. This resulted in Hanrahan being criticised by a Supreme Court judge for investigating matters concerning corporate business activity about which he had no knowledge or competence.

In recent times Clark has had a woman police officer - whom I do not intend to mention because I believe she has been gulled by him - cover for his deeds and has now recruited a Detective Sergeant Mark Loves to help push Clark's barrow in trying to carve his niche in the gaming industry. If only these people could realise how Clark has quite cleverly used them as scapegoats for his highly questionable activities. During litigation with Ainsworth, Clark himself was forced to state in court through his solicitors that he did not mean to refer to Ainsworth in a paper he delivered to a gaming conference at Griffith university in Brisbane in 1984, when in fact Clark himself told certain persons that Ainsworth was the target of his address.

Sergeant Clark's actions in heading a smear campaign to denigrate Ainsworth and his business go much further. Information has been supplied to me both in America and here in Australia of the well-known fact that in 1984 a director of the firm in America supplied to the Nevada Gaming Commission a book which bore the title "Leonard Hastings Ainsworth". The subject of the book referred to Ainsworth's character and included extracts of reports of Detectives Clark and Hanrahan and other police materials which were grossly derogatory of Ainsworth. It is known that the police reports were prepared by those police officers for the information of the New South Wales Ombudsman, who was conducting an inquiry and whose report was not published until 1986.

It will be obvious that those reports were obtained by that particular company illegally and through improper means, no doubt via the close connection Clark had with senior executives of the company and through a close relationship Clark had with a man named Bill Prehn, who was also involved with intelligence resources, and with former Detective Vincent in a company named Industrial Performance Group. Prehn has admitted on oath that he was a liar and a false pretender, and there is evidence that Clark's association with

Prehn in the gaming machine area goes back at least 12 years. [*Extension of time agreed to.*]

In early 1988, before the hearing by the New South Wales Licensing Court of the application by a particular company for a licence to deal with gaming machines in New South Wales, police were advised that in 1984 that company had presented the said illegally and improperly obtained book to the Nevada Gaming Commission. One would think that such action would have formed the basis of an objection to that application. However, no inquiries were made and no objections were lodged which related to the document. The few serious objections taken by police to the application were either withdrawn by police in court or dealt with by way of undertakings made outside the court - undertakings which were conditional on certain information and the identities of certain individuals being suppressed from the public record.

The questions one is compelled to raise are: What arrangements were made outside the court about the alleged association between a director of the company and a person recognised as a mafia criminal which formed the basis of the original objection? Why were the said undertakings made outside the court, representing a highly unusual manner of dealing with such serious matters, and why were the details not exposed to public scrutiny? Which police officer carried out the investigation into that company and was responsible for supervising the objections to the application? The answer: none other than Detective Sergeant Clark!

It is also noteworthy that on that occasion the licensing unit was represented by a sergeant of police only but by no other qualified legal counsel. On the other hand, Ainsworth's application to the court was met with what can only be described as hostile, adversarial objections, to the point where the police utilised the services of a Crown solicitor and a number of barristers. Ainsworth's licence application was originally granted but police objected and forced reviews in several higher courts, at great expense to the New South Wales public. The final result was the same as the original decision, that is, that Ainsworth was held to be a fit and proper person to be licensed.

I have also been informed that the very same Sergeant Clark and his colleagues notified regulatory authorities in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia of adverse reports about Ainsworth which ultimately cost Ainsworth's companies business in those jurisdictions, thus losing considerable business for the New South Wales economy which I estimate could be worth up to \$300 million. And which company ended up getting the majority of the business? None other than the company Clark was involved in and another company with which he was closely connected. But it does not seem to end there.

It is common knowledge that Ainsworth won a tender in 1985 for the supply of gaming machines in Puerto Rico, only to subsequently lose the tender when the Puerto Rican authorities were sent a copy of the "Leonard Hastings Ainsworth" document, supplied with the knowledge of Clark's licensing unit. Once again, the business was won by the two American companies. I have previously asked questions in this House about Sergeant Clark travelling to Puerto Rico to give evidence against Ainsworth when Ainsworth was suing the Puerto Rican Government for the loss of the contract. But the Government's form in this

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matter is consistent - silence. Yet, in that purely civil matter the taxpayers of this State were held responsible, without the Minister's knowledge, for the payment of Clark's salary.

To this day the amount of compensation Clark was paid by the defendants in the matter has never been publicly stated. More recently it has come to my notice that the infamous 1990 Queensland Criminal Justice Commission inquiry into poker machines was supplied with information direct by Sergeant Clark without authorisation and, indeed, in contravention of a direction issued by senior police to Clark that no information or documents be sent to the commission without first passing through proper channels to be vetted by the police hierarchy. Clark admits to supplying the information but countenances his actions because he claims what he supplied was so-called intelligence compiled by him in his own time.

But what Clark apparently fails to realise or accept is that he obtained all that information and had it prepared using resources made available to him by the Police Service and other regulatory agencies as part of

his normal police duties. The commission's report, on the strength of Clark's information, declared that two poker machine manufacturers, Ainsworth and Olympic, should not be permitted entry into the Queensland market. The majority of the documents supplied by Clark contained historical claims which have subsequently been disproved or dismissed after being fully tested in various courts and inquiries. Once again, Ainsworth was put to considerable expense and embarrassment. The State of New South Wales also suffered as a result of the irresponsible and vindictive actions of Sergeant Robert Campbell Clark. Once again, a New South Wales manufacturer of an Australian product was involved.

It is also worthy of mention that the High Court of Australia ruled in Ainsworth's favour by a unanimous decision that he had been denied natural justice in the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission's hearings. That decision is serious when it is known that Sergeant Clark supplied information to that commission directly and not through proper channels where he could have - and should have - been vetted. Recent articles in the Queensland *Courier Mail* clearly indicate the wrongs of the commission's hearings in this matter. Latest information confirms that senior police who had been asked for input into the casino control legislation and other casino matters have been directed by the commissioner to ensure that the very same Sergeant Robert Clark be consulted before any input is provided.

So given all of these occurrences, is there any wonder that I, my colleagues and honourable members should feel outraged that this sergeant of police can be given licence to conduct his duties in such a rampant and uncontrollable manner to denigrate Australian interests. Sergeant Clark's relentless pursuit of Ainsworth and his career advancement in gaming regulation have left an indelible mark on the integrity of our Police Service. I am at a total loss to understand how an ordinary sergeant of police, who in the normal course of events would have been promoted long ago - one could understand this behaviour of police of commissioned rank would give it some imprimatur, but Clark has never been able to achieve higher rank because no one wants him - could be permitted to do acts and make decisions that not only adversely affect certain individuals but also have a disastrous effect on export trade and the economy of this State and country.

On several occasions the Opposition has done its best to raise its concerns and those of others in this forum, only to be stone-walled over a period of time. Enough is enough. The Opposition demands answers to the questions it has raised in the interests of public scrutiny not only of the Police Service of this State but also of the administration of gaming. The same man went to Victoria and questioned and taped the responses of people illegally, including Victorian Ministers of the Crown. Once again, that question has never been answered. The Opposition calls on the Government to bring out the facts about Sergeant Robert Campbell Clark and his police record.

The Government must give an answer to the ever increasing awareness that somehow this police officer is being protected by the police administration while he continues his unsatisfactory behaviour and continues to damage the interests of our community through his vendettas, in pursuit of what must surely be his own personal interests. It cannot be disputed that since 1978, through successive police administrations, Sergeant Clark has involved himself in the gaming machine area almost entirely without restriction, despite court rulings and publicity that has been given to his questionable role in that activity. I raised that matter at length during the debate on the Casino Control Bill which was passed by this Parliament last year, but still nothing has been done.

When Clark and Hanrahan went to the former Premier in 1983 they publicly stated they were seeking insurance to protect themselves from being stopped from working in that area. That Clark has continued to act at his leisure and pleasure tends to indicate that he enjoys guaranteed insurance from somebody above him. As I have already said, he is now co-operating with a gaming industry company to further exert his influence. Because of the nature of this industry Sergeant Clark, because of his antecedents, should not be in a position in which his uncontrolled actions can result in further court litigation which may cost this State many more hundreds of thousands of dollars in defending actions which may adversely affect the economy through export trade losses.

Surely it is time for a decision to be made whether Sergeant Clark is to continue as a police officer

carrying out the proper functions of that office or to pursue his business dealings with certain gaming companies. If he chooses the latter, he should resign or be dismissed from the Police Service. His past and current activities within the gaming industry are surely

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in conflict with his police duties. As I said, when I was overseas by sheer accident I ran into a person on the night before I was to return to Australia who told me that Clark was involved with a former director of the Nevada Gaming Commission, a fellow called Rumbold, at a time when there was a loss of exports and a denial of a licence to Ainsworth.

Now Rumbold works for a casino there. When I spoke to a person from the same casino where Rumbold works he stated, "We kept Ainsworth out for two years". It is an unhealthy relationship to have a police inquiry involving police. When I ran into people by virtue of who I was with on each occasion I was asked how Bobby Clark was going, which shows that something is drastically wrong. The situation has gone on far too long. It has been referred to by the coalition in opposition and by Labor in opposition. It is not easy to do what I have done in the Parliament tonight. I have acted in frustration at trying to get to the truth of the situation. The Ombudsman has been conducting an inquiry for some years and if he cannot come to a conclusion he should at least be able to bring down an interim report.

The former director of the Nevada Gaming Commission, now one of Clark's closest friends, denied exports worth \$300 million to this State by locking out an Australian manufacturer. As I said in my initial remarks, I have no brief for Lenny Ainsworth or his companies. What I have placed before the Parliament tonight is based on fact and on research from court hearings, what has happened with the Criminal Justice Commission inquiry and what I ascertained from Neil Trezise and Race Mathews. Clark went to Victoria and illegally taped them, Ministers of the Crown. He has wandered around this State, this country and the world with no fear of any reprimand.

It is about time somebody finally brought the matter to an end. I am not casting aspersions on this Government or the previous Government. I am satisfied that a mystique has grown around this fellow which has allowed him to do what he likes, when he likes and how he likes. For the State, the Police Service and the integrity of gaming the sooner somebody brings this matter to a conclusion the better. If he wants secondary employment in the gaming industry he should do what any other policeman would have to do. I call on the Minister to bring down the Ombudsman's report so that this sad and sorry story can be finished once and for all. *[Time expired.]*

Mr KERR (Cronulla) [8.46]: I listened with interest to what the honourable member for Charlestown said. I point out that it is not a matter for the Minister to bring down an Ombudsman's report; that is purely a matter for the Ombudsman to do. I shall speak about this aspect of independence later in my speech. On behalf of my constituents I express our appreciation to His Excellency for the work he has done for the community in the short time he has been Governor of New South Wales. The Minister for Consumer Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education and I were at St George Sailing Club recently, where we had the opportunity of dining with His Excellency and Mrs Sinclair. The members of that club, who are from the St George and Sutherland areas, were very encouraged by the vice-regal visit. This is an example of how involved the whole State is in activities such as sailing and very worthy sports. Receiving such vice-regal patronage provides encouragement to the officers of clubs who voluntarily devote their time to assist people of all ages in very worthwhile sport and to provide social facilities.

The keynote of His Excellency's Speech was responsible economic management. That was the central theme. In 1988 the Government, on its election, undertook a probing examination of State finances. The examination revealed a truly disgraceful state of affairs that had accumulated over the previous 12 years of Labor administration. The Curran report of that inquiry was tabled by the former Premier, Mr Nick Greiner, in this Parliament. It showed an incredible accumulation of debt. Madam Deputy-Speaker, by borrowing you and I can live beyond our means, but only for a limited time. Why then should we think collectively as a State that we are not bound by the same limitation?

The result of ignoring that limitation can be seen in the mismanagement of Labor administrations in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia. The people in those States are paying a heavy price for Labor administration. New South Wales was headed in the same direction. We had accumulated a debt for the next generation that this Government has started to pay off to reduce the debt burden. How much more money would have been available for schools, police and hospitals if the spendthrift activities of the previous Government had not taken place? Nevertheless, New South Wales is in a better position than Victoria, which was reduced to a basket case by the previous Cain-Kirner administration.

Even the present Leader of the Opposition said that the Labor Government in Victoria was an embarrassment to the Labor movement. I can well remember the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Mr Egan, saying, "Do not let Greiner do to New South Wales what Cain did to Victoria". What a display of fraternity in that statement in the desperation of the 1991 election! It acknowledged the mismanagement that had occurred in Victoria under the Labor administration. Of course, there was a slight degree of irony in the fact that in the 1984 election the person that was brought out to campaign on Mr Egan's behalf was none other than Victoria's Premier at that time, Mr Cain. Obviously at that time the then member for Cronulla thought the activities of the Cain Government were worth emulating in this State.

Recently the Western Australian Government was defeated at the polls for no reason other than a degree of mismanagement and a former Premier and former Deputy Premier being before the courts. South Australia, perhaps undeniably a very rich State, will have to carry the legacy of a Labor Government

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for many years to come. For more than 10 years under the administration of John Bannon South Australia was held up as the model - perhaps even before the Wran model - of the politics of moderation. However, lurking beneath the surface was a scandal of gargantuan proportions in relation to the State Bank. Recently the royal commission has tabled another segment of its report on that ongoing scandal. People have made money with money in a totally unscrupulous fashion. Even when it was possible for those people to make money with money, it served no public benefit. Money should be used to generate wealth and services for the general community.

Even in the depths of this recession that we had to have, for which the mates in Canberra have been totally responsible, governments still need to provide essential services. This underlines the importance of the improved capacity of government trading enterprises to pay dividends. These dividends have meant that New South Wales has been able to contain its deficit, employ 800 additional teachers, put more police on the beat and build more hospitals. Yet the only thing to be heard from the Opposition is carping criticism. If New South Wales had continued under Labor's 1950s style of management - the style of the cardigan Premier that New South Wales had before 1988 - those dividends would not have been available. Those dividends have resulted from the skill and dedication of public servants who have accepted the challenge of providing services in a more commercially orientated environment without neglecting the quality of those services, and in fact enhancing their quality in many cases.

The Minister for Consumer Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education understands what a consumer society is all about. It is about providing people with decent services. This Government stands for giving people the right to work as they wish, to spend what they earn, to own property and to have the State as a servant and not as a master. Engineers, miners, manual workers, shop assistants, farm workers, teachers and housewives are the essential foundations of our society. Without them there would be no state. Other people with special gifts should be given their chance, because while the adventurers who strike out in new directions in science, technology, medicine, commerce and industry are hobbled, advances cannot be made. The spirit of envy can destroy but it can never build. All people must be allowed to develop their abilities, to accept their capacities, to realise what is within them, and to make their own choices. That is the Cronulla way.

The Governor's Speech continues the Government's commitment to an independent judiciary, the utmost decentralisation of government, the control of the executive by Parliament, an election system which maintains majority rule and regularly held elections. Since 1988 the Government has established the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which is responsible not to the Executive Government but to the Parliament

and has the powers of a royal commission to expose and prosecute corruption in New South Wales. I am aware that there has been some criticism of the ICAC. However, it remains my belief that the ICAC is an innovative institution for attacking corruption which is at the base of much organised and other crime. To operate successfully it must have public confidence. In the long-term interest of the ICAC as an institution its image must not be tarnished by any unfairness or even the appearance of unfairness.

I am pleased that the committee which I chair is working towards a report on any changes which may be necessary to the Act under which the ICAC operates. Since 1988 the Parliament has been restored as a meaningful forum for debate and for public scrutiny of the actions of the Executive Government. The establishment of a senior executive service has restored professionalism to the senior ranks of the New South Wales Public Service and put an end to politicisation. I should like to pay tribute to many public servants with whom members of Parliament deal daily.

Mr Jeffery: Hear! Hear!

Mr KERR: The honourable member for Oxley agrees with that remark. The public service has a sense of dedication and commitment. This Government has done much to encourage that attitude and to provide a management structure that allows people to appreciate that they can take managerial risks.

Mr Jeffery: Are you a member of the Public Service Association?

Mr KERR: The honourable member for Oxley is a former member of the Public Service Association and proud of it. I am a former member of the Public Service Association and a former member of the Professional Officers Association as well. That demonstrates that there is a place for those organisations. I will be speaking more about that when I come to the Governor's reference to the workplace. The Government has also given full recognition to the courts, including the Industrial Commission and the Land and Environment Court. However, liberalism is not a collectivist philosophy; it does not seek to exalt the state. It regards the state not as an end in itself but as a means of assisting the people in realising their goals. To do this the Government must reach out to the community. It should not be so pre-occupied with economic theories that it forgets people.

A viable market economy presupposes not only legal order and social stability but a community of moral ties between its citizens. I appreciate the degree of consensus from the other side of the House with what I am saying, but it is very much what the Liberal Party has been saying since its formation in 1944. It must be acknowledged that this is a Government of the people and for the people. The previous Labor Government talked about being the Government of the working-class, but divided the work force into trades presided over by union bosses - a recipe for tyranny.

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Mr Jeffery: And disaster.

Mr KERR: And disaster. The Government repudiates the industrial aristocracy that was so prevalent under the former administration. Enterprise bargaining provides a climate of flexibility and choice for employers and employees. I encourage members on the other side of the House to visit companies at least occasionally. If they do they will find that people are not opposed to profits. On the contrary, they want to work for a prosperous concern, a concern with a future: their future. Work is always personal and when one does it well one knows what it is for and what will result. One appreciates that one is part of something above and beyond oneself; one is providing something for others.

Mr Rixon: Work is its own reward.

Mr KERR: I am reminded that work is its own reward. I welcome the recognition given to families in the Governor's Speech. However, it is important to recognise the important changes that have occurred in the

post-war period. As has been observed over the centuries, the essential amalgam of the family unit is present everywhere and remains virtually unchanged. The bonding of the basic tribal unit and the nation was essential to mitigate against the ravages of poverty, disease, cyclical war and untimely death - demanding, striving for and securing heightened motivation, a sense of patriotism and an acceptance of duties and responsibilities of family and community interdependence, all in an environment in which governments barely touch the fringe of social welfare.

The primary stimulus is of raw motivation derived from negative theory. Life was difficult and perilous so goals and purposes were starkly clear. John Donne's message, "No man is an island . . . because I am involved in mankind" is well understood. I am my brother's keeper and he is mine. With the scourge of the Great Depression of the 1930s still vividly recalled, post-war governments sought to waterproof their communities by massive injections of social welfare, health, education and housing measures - all worthy causes in themselves. It is interesting to note that those changes occurred under Liberal Party-National Party governments.

Mr Fraser: They care for the people.

Mr KERR: As the honourable member for Coffs Harbour said, they care for the people. As I have said, although those causes were worthy in themselves, they had significant unforeseen consequences. As government hand-outs replaced individual responsibilities, so the historic amalgam of family and tribe, the independence of all, became severely weakened and with it came the clouding and diminishing of goals and purpose. It may well be that the present Prime Minister has the family at heart and is seeking to take us back to those perilous times with the recession we had to have.

Mr Fraser: A million people unemployed.

Mr KERR: A million people unemployed, and that does nothing for family life or for the cohesion of any society.

Mr Fraser: He will get the sack on Saturday.

Mr KERR: He will get the sack on Saturday, yes. No community can properly function unless the professionals - be they accountants, architects, lawyers or engineers - establish and maintain high ethical standards and a meaningful sense of duty towards the community. I should like to quote some remarks of Lord Hailsham. He is a jurist who has been quoted with approval by Attorneys General such as the late Paul Landa. In his recent autobiography Lord Hailsham said:

The marks of the profession are the imposition of a high and uniform qualification for entry, a system of special ethics enforced by a just form of self government, openness to criticism, and a determination never to deprive the public of access to our services in order to secure personal or corporate gain.

[Extension of time agreed to.]

I continue the quote:

Above all, the mark of a profession is the right and duty fearlessly to exercise independent judgment to the best of our skill and understanding.

I have no doubt the Government will keep these principles firmly in mind when bringing forward any reforms to the legal profession. In his Speech the Governor said, "In a time of recession and high unemployment the Government needs to remain vigilant to ensure that environmental values are not compromised for short-term gains". I know the honourable member for Oxley would appreciate that because he is a firm environmentalist. I do not want to offend any of the environmentalists in the Chamber, but I agree with Nick Greiner when he said that people are genuinely concerned about the quality of the environment in which they live and work.

However, they are equally as concerned to secure a good education, to obtain employment, to progress financially, to sustain a lifestyle with modern comforts and amenities and to pass these benefits on to their children and grandchildren. All honourable members will agree with that; I hear no dissenting voices. Even the honourable member for Coffs Harbour would agree that he has to balance his natural environmental concerns with his concern for future generations so that they inherit a better lifestyle.

Mr Beck: Does the honourable member intend to speak about employment?

Mr KERR: Yes, I will be speaking about employment. The Governor spoke about the challenges New South Wales faces. I want to turn briefly to how the people of my electorate have met those challenges.

Mr Fraser: A good local member.

Mr KERR: That is one way they have met the challenges, but they have gone further. At the request of the honourable member for Murwillumbah, I will speak about employment. School and work should not be two separate worlds. The Minister for Consumer Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education is at the table. I am pleased with the work

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done by Cronulla High School in relation to work experience. One of the teachers, Mr Graham Hornery, arranged for various companies in my electorate to provide work for students. The Minister at the table attended a luncheon where the contributions of those employers were acknowledged. The students performed particularly well.

Mrs Chikarovski: They are all to be congratulated.

Mr KERR: They are all to be congratulated. That work experience program demonstrated that schools are very much part of the community and not merely some form of safe haven where young people are left unprepared for the outside world. Each of the high schools in my electorate - Cronulla, Woolooware, Caringbah, De La Salle and Endeavour - has a good work experience program. When we speak about changing times and changing requirements in the workplace, work experience is one way in which those challenges can be met at a local level. I also want to talk about water quality in the Cronulla electorate because, as all honourable members know, that electorate has the best beaches in the world. Surf clubs representing the four beaches in my electorate are always in the first half dozen in the results of surf carnivals held not only in Australia but all over the world. Cronulla Surf Club recently won the world championship for the third time in a row.

Mr Jeffery: The honourable member was talking about beaches.

Mr KERR: I am talking about beaches, and therefore I am talking about surf clubs. The primary aim of surf clubs is to ensure the safety of people on the beaches. The way that is done is by lifesavers developing their skills in competition. The best lifesavers are members of Cronulla Surf Club. As I said, that club recently won the world championship three times in a row. I well recall the reception that took place at Parliament House at which the Hon. Kerry Chikarovski was present and personally congratulated the members of the Cronulla Surf Club on that achievement.

Mr Fraser: Did she have a swimsuit on?

Mr KERR: It is a pity the honourable member for Coffs Harbour was not a member of this House in earlier years because Janice Crosio would have realised all his dreams when she visited Bondi Beach in a swimsuit.

Mr Jeffery: The *Sydney Morning Herald* was not large enough.

Mr KERR: It certainly did not make the tabloids. I was leading up to making some remarks about the

problem of pollution on our beaches. Janice Crosio told us that ocean outfalls would solve all our pollution problems. When the Hon. Tim Moore was in Opposition he argued against that proposition publicly. We now have the outfalls and once more Tim Moore has been proved right. The outfalls have not solved Sydney's sewerage problems. Fortunately, the community at Cronulla is working with the Water Board to ensure that that problem is overcome. At present a study costing \$800,000 is being conducted in relation to the Bate Bay area to try to discover the causes of the pollution. One of the real problems in relation to that pollution is stormwater drainage. It is about time Sutherland Shire Council accepted its responsibility in that regard. The stormwater drainage system should be attended to properly to ensure that our coastline and beaches are not damaged.

[Interruption]

The honourable member for Kiama talks about spending and not stealing money. I advise the honourable member for Coffs Harbour that recently Sutherland Shire Council spent \$7 million of ratepayers' money to buy back a garbage contract. How much of that money could have been used in the local environment on a stormwater drainage system? That money could have been better spent. I thank the honourable member for Kiama for his interjection.

[Interruption]

I am talking about Sutherland Shire Council. I also want to talk about air quality. There has been considerable criticism by some Sutherland shire councillors about Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, yet that same facility at Sutherland employs many people from the electorate of Cronulla. It is showing the way in terms of scientific research into water and air quality. I pay particular tribute to ANSTO for the air monitoring program taking place at that facility. I recently accompanied the Minister for the Environment on an inspection of the program. A local Cronulla resident, Dr David Cohen, has been in charge of the program. I believe I speak for the Minister for the Environment when I say that we were all very impressed with the work being carried out there. I ask the Sutherland Shire Council to recognise the scientific advances that are taking place at ANSTO; to not pillory that institution, which is so vital not only to the economic welfare of the Sutherland Shire but to the environment in which we live and which we will leave to our children.

[Interruption]

I was speaking about ANSTO. The honourable member for Sutherland has been a firm supporter of the scientific research carried out at ANSTO in relation to air and water quality. I should also mention the advances in medical research that have taken place at that valuable institution. It is time that Australians recognise and become proud of the contribution this country is making to scientific advancement at the ANSTO facility. As a nation, Australia has not spent the large sums of money on research that other countries have spent, and yet the dedication of scientists and technicians has ensured that Australia is up with the best in so many areas. I could say a lot more about transport and health in the electorate of Cronulla. Only a few weeks ago I accompanied the honourable member for Sutherland to the Sutherland Hospital for the opening of a

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refurbished maternity ward. As you know, Madam Deputy-Speaker, the world tends to be divided into two types of people - those who live in the electorate of Cronulla and those who wish they could. I am sure the facility will be well used.

More than \$1 million has been spent in recent years upgrading the Cronulla railway system. The Minister for Transport is a Cronulla boy, which explains quite a lot. He has always been very helpful in terms of upgrading public transport. During the last spring festival at Cronulla, one of the jet boats provided a great source of delight during the festivities.

Mr Beck: He is a top Minister.

Mr KERR: The Minister for Transport and Minister for Tourism is a top Minister, as the honourable member for Murwillumbah has said. My contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate has ranged over a number of issues. The bottom line is this, there have been significant advances in education, health, public transport and law and order during the recession we had to have. Time will not permit me to speak on law and order in the electorate of Cronulla. The Keating Government has robbed New South Wales of more than \$1.5 billion. How many more policemen, doctors and teachers could that money have provided. In the short time available to me, I would like to encourage honourable members by saying there is nothing wrong in the State of New South Wales that cannot be cured by what is right in Cronulla.

Mr McBRIDE (The Entrance) [9.16]: I must say I enjoyed the good humour of the honourable member for Cronulla. I am one of those who belongs to the other half, the half who do not want to live in Cronulla. In the Governor's Speech, he said:

My Government's aim is to provide a better and safer road system. Nearly \$1.8 billion has been allocated to roads this year . . .

However, the Government's aim is sadly astray on the Central Coast. Funds for major roads on the Central Coast in the 1992-93 Budget are 32 per cent below those allocated for 1991-92. Despite now having a Government Minister representing the Central Coast, there has been a reduction of one-third in funds for roads in the area. The Kariong section of the Pacific Highway is still incomplete despite numerous promises. The Graham Park overbridge at Gosford is slipping out of sight, further and further into the future. The roadworks in the Gosford municipality are being neglected because of inadequate funding and substantial cuts by the Government.

The closure of the section of the Pacific Highway at Cheero Point is another example of the Government's neglect of roads on the Central Coast. In April 1991 the highway was fully closed as a result of land slippage and has remained closed ever since; now almost two years. The estimated written down capitalisation of that section of road is approximately \$76 million. The estimated cost of reconstruction of the road is \$2.3 million. A road worth \$76 million is not being used because it requires a \$2.3 million repair. That is equivalent to leaving one's car off the road because it needs a new wheel and tyre. The cost of the repair is 3 per cent of the total asset value but the Government is not interested in fixing that section of the road. Further, the Government and the Roads and Traffic Authority have no plans in the event of an emergency on the freeway. Fortunately, so far, an emergency has not occurred. However, there have been numerous major blockages which have resulted in serious delays to commuters and holiday makers. Two years later, notwithstanding petitions to this Parliament numbering 15,000, requests from local State members, local government and community organisations, the Deputy Premier has refused to take action and claimed in a press release of Tuesday, 25th February, that a further investigation has been initiated. The fact is, there is no need for a further investigation.

In a question placed on notice in October last year, and replied to in November, the Minister said extensive investigations have been done and, as a result of those investigations, the Government estimates it would cost \$2.3 million to repair that section of road. The local council has been fobbed off again. The investigation has been done, and the Minister admitted this in November of last year. But when a delegation from Gosford council approached the Government about the closure of the road, it was told the Government proposed to conduct another investigation into aspects that had already been covered. The simple fact is that when the Deputy Premier digs his heels in on an issue, common sense goes out the window of the National Party "ute", Premier Fahey and other Liberal Ministers get out of his way. It is clear to all who drives the Government while the Premier sits in the back of the "ute".

More importantly, the ineffectiveness of the Minister for the Environment, the honourable member for Gosford, in regard to the interests of residents of the Central Coast, could not be more apparent than in the continued closure of the Pacific Highway at Cheero Point. It has been closed for two years. The Minister led a deputation to Sydney and the Deputy Premier told him that the Government would conduct another investigation, but the investigation has already been done. I also draw the attention of honourable members to the issue of the upgrading of Wyong Road from Tuggerah to The Entrance. In 1988, the Deputy Premier made

a commitment to complete the road in four years. That time scale has continued to expand and expand - which is not surprising, given the girth of the Deputy Premier - and the road is now listed in the 1992-93 Budget Papers for completion in 1997. In other words, in 1988 the Deputy Premier said it would be completed in four years; in 1993, he says it will be completed in 1997 - nine years later. In the latest documentation which the Deputy Premier sent to the council the estimate is eight years.

The Budget Papers state nine years; such is this Government's commitment to roads on the Central Coast. The funding figures for this section of road are even more revealing of the Government's
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contempt for Central Coast road users. The estimated cost of the road is now \$60 million. At the end of June 1990, \$28.5 million was spent. In 1990-91, \$10.96 million was allocated. In 1991-92, \$5.3 million was allocated. In 1992-93, \$1.5 million was allocated. Since June 1990, each year funding allocations for this road have been halved. On the current rate of allocation it will take another 18 years to complete this section of road. Not one additional square metre of hot mix has been laid on the road since May 1991, which is when the last State election was held.

Mr Jeffery: Bring back Harry Moore.

Mr McBRIDE: No, it was another fellow but I will not remind the honourable member of his name. Since the last State election not one square metre of hot mix has been laid on that section of road. That is a scandalous example of a fit of pique by the Government. It is the sort of caper for which Joh Bjelke-Petersen was famous - "if you don't vote for me or if you don't vote for my candidate I will cut off funds for that seat". This is electoral blackmail of the worst kind, and I am sure that Central Coast constituents will show their feelings towards this type of politicking at the next State elections. Even more revealing is the statement last week by the Deputy Premier when he was speaking about Federal funding allocations. In a *Sydney Morning Herald* article of 3rd March the Deputy Premier is reported as saying:

The State Government has accused the Federal Government of spending more than \$9.6 million on road works in marginal electorates while deliberately stalling more urgent road works in other areas of NSW.

That is what the Deputy Premier said last week.

Mr Fraser: They have a hide to do that.

Mr McBRIDE: They really do. I have a lot of admiration for the Deputy Premier because no one has a hide like him. He went on to say:

Defying all State and local government priorities, the Federal Minister . . . has been particularly selective in choosing Labor's marginal seats to curry favour and buy votes with the money the NSW Government has saved on behalf of all the State's taxpayers . . . Some might suggest that is being smart. I suggest it is being downright dishonest.

The honourable member for Coffs Harbour agrees that pork-barrelling marginal seats is dishonest. In relation to the Government's commitment to education and training, in my electorate parents and pupils of Narara Valley High School are still waiting for a new high school. At present the school conducts classes in the grounds of North Gosford High School. With the best will in the world the department will be pressed to meet the Minister's commitment to construct the school by July 1994. The department has little more than a year to build the school, but as yet not one sod of soil has been turned.

[*Interruption*]

It happens all the time - promises, promises, promises but no substance. The urgency of the situation cannot be overemphasised. On behalf of the parents and pupils, I urge the Government to reaffirm its commitment that the school will be completed by July of next year. I suggest that though it will be impossible to complete the high school in 15 months the Government will not inform the parents of that fact. Narara

Valley borders on the seat of Gosford, and I wonder for whom the electorate will vote at the next State elections. There is also an urgent need for a new high school in the Tumby region. Existing high schools at The Entrance, Berkeley Vale and Lisarow are overloaded to the point where pupils living within kilometres of these schools are being transported by bus to Terrigal. I was bemused when I was told by an official of the Department of School Education that this represented the Government's policy of freedom of choice in education. Pupils now have the choice to attend the high school at Terrigal because there are no places available at their local schools.

The problem continues. The Central Coast has only one class of eight places to deal with a specific learning difficulty, whereas the Liverpool area, with an equivalent school population, has six classes. The Central Coast is a rapidly growing area but its educational needs are not being met. Schools, teachers and resources are needed now. The Central Coast - and this is the core of the problem - falls in the metropolitan north zone, which starts at North Sydney and finishes at Swansea. Though the school population continues to decline on the North Shore, the school population on the Central Coast continues to expand. There is not one classified disadvantaged school in the zone south of the Hawkesbury. All disadvantaged schools in the metropolitan north zone are located north of the Hawkesbury. The zone divides into two distinct groups - the haves and the have-nots. Though the Government has a problem with what to do with its schools on the North Shore, whether to rent out classrooms, the Central Coast does not have classrooms.

It is time that an honest inventory of the distribution of the zone's resources was undertaken to establish the equity of that distribution. I am convinced that the results will support a case for the restructuring of the zones. It does not make sense to link the North Shore with the Central Coast. The Central Coast is a unique entity. It stands on its own. It is not Newcastle and it is not Sydney. It has its own identity and educational needs. To be lumped in with the North Shore of Sydney is to disadvantage the people of the Central Coast. While ever the Liberal North Shore Government is in office the Central Coast will be disadvantaged by being in the same zone. No matter what the circumstances, if Ministers whose electorates are on the North Shore telephone the Department of School Education to ask for something, they will get it. That is what it all boils down to.

Mrs Chikarovski: The honourable member must be joking.

Mr McBRIDE: I am not joking. It will be more than 15 months before Narara Valley High School is operational, and the Tumby region has no high school. The Minister should not shake her head;

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she should do something about it. Page 15 of the Governor's Speech refers to 17,000 available technical and further education places in 1993. This, of course, is wonderful news, but the honourable member for Gladesville in his contribution to the debate referred to 14,000 new places. It does not matter whether it is 14,000 places or 17,000 places, the Government's figures appear to be rubbery.

Mr Rixon: It is rubbery, all right; and it goes on Saturday.

Mr McBRIDE: No, the Government's figures are rubbery. Whatever the true number of places, how many more places would be available if \$100 million had not been wasted on the constant reorganisation of the TAFE administration. This circus began five years ago when the Premier was the responsible Minister; and it still continues. TAFE is now up to its third administrative reorganisation in five years, and very little has changed on the shop floor. New South Wales TAFE was one of the outstanding educational organisations in Australia. Its courses and content were a model for other States. The level of training, skills and commitment to excellence was second to none, and the teachers continue to teach, despite all the nonsense that has gone on.

When speaking to a local official about the current administrative restructure I suggested that the wheel had turned 360 degrees. We are back where we started five years ago and \$100 million later. He disagreed. He said, "That is not true. It is more like 370 degrees". Not only have we gone full circle, we are starting the circle again. TAFE has been reorganised to the tune \$100 million and we are back to where we started five years ago; and it was the Premier who started this nonsense. The Long Jetty pre-school is in desperate need of a permanent building. The North Shore has classrooms to spare, but the Central Coast does not even have a permanent building. Currently Long Jetty pre-school rents the local scout hall. Government land has been

designated for a pre-school at Bateau Bay, but unless a commitment is made to construction, this option will lapse. The exceptionally well-run Long Jetty pre-school deserves the support of the State Government and the local community. Wyong Shire, in which this preschool is located, was the fastest growing municipal region in Australia according to the last census figures, and this service is needed now. Again, I ask the Minister to help us out on this score.

There has been an interesting battle on the Central Coast with respect to the retention of the autonomy of the Central Coast Area Health Service. This battle started in early 1992 when it was proposed to amalgamate the Central Coast service with the Royal North Shore service. It is like our education zoning - we are in Royal North Shore there, too. Fortunately, everyone saw the stupidity of this proposal and it was dropped. The Central Coast Area Health Service was established in 1976 as the first regional health service in New South Wales. It was a pilot scheme which is now part of the whole system in New South Wales. The Government came up with the idea to amalgamate the Central Coast with Royal North Shore but commonsense prevailed and that idea was dropped.

However, the Minister for Health was not to be deterred and he proposed that the Central Coast be amalgamated with the Hunter. The Central Coast Area Health Board was stunned. More importantly, influential Liberal Party members and supporters were furious. Thousands of signatures were obtained opposing the plan. Both local councils which covered the area opposed it - that is, Liberal aldermen, Labor aldermen and Independent aldermen. What happened then? Government supporters realised that the seat of Gosford could very well be lost as a result of this issue. They went to the Premier direct, and he overruled the Minister for Health and the amalgamation was temporarily averted. However, it did not stop there. The Minister had to get square - and he did. It was summed up in an article that appeared in the local paper. The article, which bore the headline "Revenge Sacking", reported:

Health Minister Ron Phillips will not be welcome at Liberal Party functions in Gosford after sacking Central Coast Area Health Service board chairman Neville Wallwork.

Gosford Liberal Party president Malcolm Brooks said he would turn his back on Mr Phillips for the decision which he said "smells of revenge".

Malcolm Brooks was one of the people who came to the Premier and said, "Listen, if this goes ahead you will lose the seat of Gosford". [*Extension of time agreed to.*]

Malcolm Brooks, a former State Liberal Party representative for that area, said that it "smells of revenge". The article continued:

"I would give one word of advice to the new chairman Professor Donald George - be cautious with any dealings with the minister", Mr Brooks said.

The article further stated:

The sacking is widely seen as a payback for Mr Wallwork's part in stopping the merger of the Hunter and Central Coast Area Health Services.

Mr Wallwork is not a member of any political party - if anything, he is a Liberal Party sympathiser. He gave 20 years of voluntary service; 10 years with the Ambulance Service, and was a member of the board; and 10 years as chairman of the board of the Central Coast Area Health Service. What did Mr Wallwork do? He stood up to the Government on the basis of what he believed was the right thing for the people of the Central Coast. What happened? A revenge sacking. That is how he has been treated by the Government. How was it done? On Christmas Eve one of the Minister's staff telephoned him and - after 20 years community service - said, "You are sacked". The Minister did not ring up; one of his flunkies did. The Minister did not have the guts to ring Mr Wallwork himself. That is the sort of Minister we have for health.

Such was the shambles going on at that time that
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the Government advertised for a new chief executive officer and engaged a consultant. The consultant was paid not to find a CEO; the Government did not need one after it was decided that the Central Coast was not going to be amalgamated with Newcastle. Remember: Royal North Shore was going to be amalgamated, then Newcastle was going to be amalgamated and then it was decided they were not going to be - they were going to look for a chief executive officer. Everyone was confused. They paid a consultant \$46,333 - an unusual amount. What was that for? It was for services completed. The consultant advertised in the *Sydney Morning Herald* once and in the *Australian* once. The Minister for Health said that the consultant completed all services, including advertising, appropriately dealing with responses to the advertisement - remember that there is no job, that had already been decided - conducting research, reviewing individual applications, discreetly inquiring into most applicants' performances and records, and preparing detailed reports.

Mr Photios: It sounds very secretive, does it not?

Mr McBRIDE: No, it amuses me.

Mr Photios: It is a conspiracy.

Mr McBRIDE: No, it is not a conspiracy, it is just an example of mismanagement. It is just a shambles. The Governor referred also to law and justice. He said, "The Government's main aim is to increase the accessibility, variety and affordability of legal services". I wish the Premier good luck. The simple fact is that this Government will cave in to the legal profession, as it has done in the past.

Mr Jeffery: What happened to your mates?

Mr McBRIDE: Which mates?

Mr Photios: The ones who should be sitting behind you. They have all left you.

Mr McBRIDE: It would not matter how many members were on the Government side of the House, I would not need a backup.

Mr Rixon: Do not worry, we will listen to you.

Mr McBRIDE: I do not need a backup. For you lot it is only a matter of time.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Chappell): Order!

Mr McBRIDE: Thank you very much, Mr Acting-Speaker, at least somebody is talking to me. What happened with conveyancing? The former Premier, Nick Greiner, tried to take the profession on but he was rolled. The legal profession got its way, as it always does. The issue is not wigs and gowns but genuine reconstruction of the legal system. Paying barristers thousands of dollars a day is a joke. Working people cannot afford justice. To make matters worse the Government has made cuts to legal aid. If the Premier was fair dinkum, he would do something about increasing court fees, expand the provision of legal aid, and implement a genuine restructuring of the legal profession. The issue of cuts to legal aid is big on the Central Coast. If the Government wants to hold on to the seat of Gosford, it had better do something about this issue.

Yesterday I visited Joan Gardiner, a lady who was swindled out of \$82,000. Her complaint is the subject of a civil law case. The person who swindled her out of the money has been convicted. She lost \$82,000; her husband is now deceased; and she has been forced to sell her home. She applied for legal aid but because it is in the civil section her application was refused. Her life has been destroyed by someone who committed a crime but she cannot get legal aid to do anything about it - absolutely nothing. These issues concern people on the Central Coast and should concern the Government. It was interesting to hear comments about the family in

the Governor's Speech. I note with pleasure the proposal to sponsor Family Week in August. This will link up with the United Nations declaration that 1994 be the Year of the Family. I strongly support this ideal. However, I would like to see the Government continue this ideal through to the delivery of services by the Department of Community Services.

Mr Photios: I have been meaning to have a family of my own.

Mr McBRIDE: It would improve you 1,000 per cent. Because of growth on the Central Coast, services are falling behind. Funding for Central Coast youth refuges has been in constant crisis for over 12 months. In November last year, Woy Woy Youth Refuge, Yeena Women's Service, Wyong medium-term accommodation and Wyong Crisis Refuge were all facing closure due to lack of funding. The threat of closure arose from the Government's refusal to provide supplementary funding to meet award salary increases. The Government's position was totally shameful, given that it had consistently underspent recurrent funds totalling \$23.4 million that had been allocated to supported accommodation assistance programs - in 1989-90 by \$11.4 million, in 1990-91 by \$6.3 million, and in 1991-92 by \$5.6 million. Over a three-year period, while those refuges were under threat of closure, \$23 million that had been allocated was not spent. The anguish and heartache caused by that constant uncertainty, for no good reason, is another black mark against the Government under former Premier Greiner.

[Interruption]

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Chappell): Order! Members will cease trivialising the procedures of the House. The member for The Entrance should continue with his contribution.

Mr McBRIDE: I realise that the current Minister is new to the portfolio. I hope another similar failure does not occur under his administration. I turn to State development and jobs. The Central Coast has been particularly hard hit by the State Government's attack on public sector jobs. Its actions make a mockery of its claims to establish

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18,000 new jobs. Since the Government came to office about 60,000 jobs have been lost. Just before Christmas last year 200 Elcom miners lost their jobs, as did 114 workers from Newvale mine and 80 from Awaba. As well, hundreds of State Rail Authority workers were shown the door at Chullora workshops, and apprenticeship places with public sector employers plummeted. So much for the Government's sincerity on the issue of jobs.

For four years the Government has been holding up the development of the Warnervale precinct of Wyong Shire Council. That site will generate hundreds of jobs on the Central Coast in both the short and long term. It required funding of \$4.5 million to council for infrastructure to get the job off the ground. A State Government task force recommended that the job go ahead. Relevant departments also recommended that the project go ahead but former Premier Greiner overruled all available advice without explanation. The popular view was that he was looking for some trade-offs such as the transfer of the local water supply to the Hunter.

Whatever his reasons, he and his Government were prepared to let that development wither and die - that is, to stop a major jobs development program on the Central Coast involving 25,000 building lots over 15 years and a future population of 75,000. That development represents a dramatic stimulus to employment and development. Under the Federal Government's local capital works programs \$2.6 million has been allocated to that project and it is now under way. That funding was part of \$6 million allocated to capital works on the Central Coast. Given the Government's action on that project and other employment initiatives on the Central Coast, there is no way the Central Coast region will take this Government seriously on the issue of jobs.

There is also the matter of a \$500 million underexpenditure on capital works in the first half of this year and \$300 million last year. That is, over the past 12 months \$0.8 billion has been underspent - money which could have been spent on capital works that could have created more jobs. How many jobs would that money have generated had it been spent? This Government is a phoney on the issue of jobs. It is about time the

Premier grabbed the tiller and started steering the ship of State. Why is that money not being spent?

The issue of a Sydney casino is one of the great concerns of clubs in The Entrance electorate. I have received faxes from the Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club, the Terrigal Memorial Country Club and the Mingara Recreation club opposing the Sydney casino and the inclusion of slot machines. In particular, clubs are concerned that, given one casino, regional casinos will follow. Regional casinos would devastate the financial viability of Central Coast clubs. Members opposite recall that in 1988 this Government said there would be no casinos.

Mr Fraser: Who said that?

Mr McBride: Your Premier. Central Coast clubs provide a genuine community service for local residents. They support junior and senior sports teams - soccer, football, cricket, golf, fishing and netball, to name a few. Clubs support community groups by providing rooms for meetings, functions and school presentations. The problem confronting clubs is, even if the Government gives an assurance that regional casinos will not be permitted, can they believe it? In 1988 the Government said there would be no casinos; then it said it wanted two casinos, and then a super casino. How could regional clubs not be concerned about the future possibility of regional casinos?

The Government has turned around on casinos and could turn around again. Yet the Government cried foul when the Opposition asked for a casino to be built at Darling Harbour and for measures to be put in place to protect interested clubs. Clubs provide a community service, and all their profits are returned to the community. I ask the Government to give a guarantee that it will not permit regional casinos. The Government should put that promise in writing and send it to clubs in The Entrance electorate. I challenge the Government to write to other clubs saying that regional casinos will not be permitted. However, if the Government puts that promise in writing it could be waved in its face in about 12 months' time. I turn to public housing. In the Wyong district the waiting time for one-bedroom pensioner units is six years and four months, and eight years two months at Gosford. [*Time expired.*]

Mr JEFFERY (Oxley) [9.46]: With great pleasure I respond to the Address in Reply by His Excellency Peter Ross Sinclair, the Governor of New South Wales, on the occasion of the opening of the third session of the Fiftieth Parliament, an historic occasion which all members were honoured to attend. Prior to His Excellency's Speech in the Legislative Council I noted how many members and councillors who had been present when I was first elected in 1984 were absent. After ceremonies concluded I checked the records for that period and discovered that 62 of the 99 members in 1984 have left this Parliament - an incredibly high turnover of elected representatives. I was very proud when I was first elected as the honourable member for Oxley in 1984, and after almost nine years I still retain that pride. The high turnover in politicians is a mark of how hard our occupation is. Members of all political persuasions need a lot of grit and determination.

Members opposite, like the workers of New South Wales, should vote for the Hewson coalition team next Saturday in the Federal election. The honourable member for Liverpool should be the first to support me in that statement, for when he was chucked out as the honourable member for Penrith he had to collect his superannuation. Under the Federal coalition's Fightback package superannuation will not attract lump sum taxation. The honourable member for Liverpool, who will be in Parliament only for another couple of years, will have the dubious record of having lost two different seats under successive

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governments. The Government's program is one of consolidation. As many members have said in this debate, we are living in difficult and desperate times.

The honourable member for The Entrance referred to steering the ship of State. He should be glad that this State, under this Government, is in such firm and reliable hands. The Keating recession - the one it is said we had to have - is biting deeper and deeper into the hearts of the citizens of this great State. Last year was a tough period for the Fahey-Murray Government, which has been battling against the worst recession this country has endured since the Great Depression. Yet the Opposition's mates in Canberra have continued to cut

funding further and further. The Federal Government has continued to strangle this State through funding cuts but at the same time has tried to prop up Labor States - especially Victoria, which had so much trouble prior to the Kennett Government coming to office. Minister Keating supported South Australia by offering \$600 million for the State Bank of South Australia.

Mr Anderson: Do you want to back yourself on Saturday?

Mr JEFFERY: Of course. I am very confident. The coalition will have a majority of at least 14 seats. The honourable member should write down now what I have said - then he will not be able to say that I did not tell him. I strongly object to \$600 million going to South Australia at a time when the recession has slashed State government income and increased the demand for government services.

Mr Bowman: Where did the Governor say this?

Mr JEFFERY: On page 2 of his Speech when he said that despite the economic difficulty the State Liberal-National Government has stuck to a program of reform and prudent financial management. I can remember when I was in opposition and the honourable member for Swansea was in government, that is before he lost his seat at the same time as the former honourable member for Penrith lost his seat. They are recycled members.

Mr Bowman: Born again.

Mr JEFFERY: Yes. The honourable member for Swansea should also be voting for the coalition because of the lump sum superannuation taxation arrangements. The Minister for Finance, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs, in answer to a question this morning, referred to dividends from the active and vital government trading enterprises being used to enhance essential services such as education, health and police. It is acknowledged that without government trading enterprises the people of New South Wales - the Minister used the words "we, the shareholders" - would be much worse off, because governments do not create money; people create wealth. Close to \$1 billion has been injected into the State from government trading enterprises. Without that money we would need higher taxes or further cutbacks. The Labor Government in Canberra is propping up Labor State governments. By contrast, Labor members have shown no example of policy development. Opposition members say different things wherever they go. The Leader of the Opposition goes to one organisation and says something and his Deputy goes to another organisation and says something different. We are never quite sure what the Opposition policy is.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Chappell): Order! The honourable member for Oxley has the call. Other members will refrain from trying to take part in the debate.

Mr JEFFERY: The Opposition offers nothing constructive in parliamentary debates. I suppose it is the Westminster system but the Opposition approach is to make life as difficult and restrictive as possible for the Government. The Opposition does not care about the people of New South Wales. It is not capable of telling the truth. It has been caught out time and again. The Leader of the Opposition must be careful: if you tell the truth it is easy, but if you tell lies you need a very good memory. He has been caught out time and again. Even the Independents will attest to that. Labor has proved that it is not competent to manage the economy of the State. When the coalition is in government everything runs properly, but when Labor gets in everything is wasted and the State is put back into hock. That has happened in the States around Australia and that is what has happened federally. That is why there will be a change of Federal government this Saturday.

Labor members, like their Federal colleagues, knock the progressive policies of the Liberal and National parties. They try to drag Australia down to the level of a Third World country with zero growth. This has been made clear in the current Federal election campaign. I will not be critical of the three Independents but I ask them to be careful. They have been willing allies of the Labor Party. They have done a few things that gall me on occasions. I believe they have little concern for the good government of this State. They did not allow the previous Premier his day in court; they did not even allow him his day in the Parliament. They were

interested only in pleasing the loud minority groups.

In government and in opposition I have stated that we should resist the pressure to overregulate or overgovern. We must not legislate for legislation's sake. I know this because like all coalition backbenchers I go out and mix with people. The people do not want more government control. They do not want more government assistance or intervention if it means their freedom of choice or individual pursuits are threatened. There are too many regulations and laws. There are white papers, green papers, pink papers, committees, tribunals, hearings, reviews, commissions and so it goes on. There is too much red tape.

I am strongly of the view that we must not allow the bureaucracy to rule our way of thinking and the legislative program. My father, a fairly wise person, years ago told me that I must learn to live within my

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means. Those wise words apply to a family, a business, a State government and a Federal government. It is time we all learnt to live within our means. Australia would not be in its present mess if the Federal Labor Government had learnt that very basic lesson. Its economic shortcomings date back to the disastrous big-spending Whitlam years for which we are still paying. I must be fair and say that the Fraser years were not much better. We overspent when we could not afford it and that is when the rot started.

The New South Wales Government has been very successful. It has been honest. As I said earlier, we must get back to basics. If we legislate, it must be for the majority, and we must manage our resources and securities for the common good. In these modern times it is very easy to be sidetracked by the great range of issues which cover the front pages of the daily newspapers. Politicians seem to run with whatever the papers are saying. They are led by the media. That concerns me at times. Politicians want publicity but we must resist allowing the media, and not the Government, to run the agenda.

The Prime Minister has made diversionary tactics an art form. He has led electors down the path of republicanism. He has engendered debate on the flag or any other issue that will take the heat off his disastrous budget predictions and the flagging economy with mass unemployment. People are sick and tired of politics for politics' sake. The Leader of the Opposition last week introduced a bill to change reference to the monarchy or the Crown in the affirmation of allegiance. Those issues should be decided by the people, not by 99 State politicians or by Federal members of Parliament. The people should decide such issues at a referendum.

Do not try, as politicians did, to divide and try to get away from the real issues - health, law and order, employment, or whatever it might be. Politicians would be thought of much more highly if they got back to the real issues and did not try to create diversions. As chairman of the Joint Select Committee upon the Process and Funding of the Electoral System, I noted with great interest the comments by His Excellency in his Speech. The report of my committee on election funding and disclosure laws has been considered by the Government and legislation amending the election funding Act will be introduced into this Parliament shortly. I commend that action. I am absolutely delighted that the substantial work of the bipartisan committee has been accepted in part and acknowledged by His Excellency as the basis for landmark legislation in this current session. Last week members from the Parliament of Argentina who visited Sydney spoke with my committee about election and funding processes. It was an interesting meeting. Obviously New South Wales is a world leader in this field, which is a great credit to this Parliament and to all members of this House.

As Deputy Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee upon Road Safety, I also commend the Government's Road Safety 2000 initiative, designed to reduce fatalities and accidents on our roads. Following the two horrific bus-coach accidents on the North Coast, in particular the one north of Kempsey in my electorate - and I know the Minister for Transport was there that morning - the work of all the emergency services personnel, such as ambulance and State Rescue, was absolutely superb. It shows that the issue of State bus and coach safety continues to be a priority of this Government. I fully support this commitment and look forward to working closely with the bus and coach safety standing committee in the coming months. I pay tribute to the Bus and Coach Association which, in co-operation with the Government, has worked hard to do whatever is necessary. I inform the House of the many positive and progressive moves in my electorate of Oxley in the past few months. Despite the economic downturn nationally, the mid North Coast and North Coast continues to

grow. [*Extension of time agreed to.*]

While the Minister for Transport is in the Chamber, I congratulate him on being a can-do Minister. State Rail will shortly be providing an extra XPT train service exclusively for the mid North Coast, from Sydney to Grafton and return. The former member for Coffs Harbour, Matt Singleton, and I, and the Minister for Natural Resources, have been making representations about an improved daytime service, now running Sunday to Friday. As a result, the XPT train will run daily between Sydney and Grafton. The return visit will arrive in Sydney at 4.40 p.m. That is a time convenient to pensioners and the elderly to enable them to go on to their destinations at places such as Liverpool, and not arrive late at night. That will be readily acknowledged by the honourable member for Liverpool.

Mr Anderson: What time does it get to Kempsey?

Mr JEFFERY: It gets into Kempsey at 3.30.

Mr Anderson: In the morning.

Mr JEFFERY: We are talking about daytime services. Now we will have three XPTs. All the problems that Labor created are being fixed by this Government. There are many other great benefits to my electorate; I have a shopping list which I will give to the Minister later. The infrastructure for water and sewerage schemes in country areas is very important. In Kempsey, Wauchope, Nambucca and Urunga works worth more than \$53 million have been completed or are in progress. That is of great benefit to country people. Do not underestimate the value of water and sewerage services. All areas want them, but they may not realise the huge cost involved in providing these services. Roadworks, particularly on the Pacific Highway between Kempsey and Maxwell at a place called Algomera and Warrell Creek require a lot of work, and will cost in the order of \$22 million. These works will greatly benefit tourism and commerce on the mid North Coast.

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Mr ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Chappell): Order! I call the honourable member for Wakehurst to order. I call the honourable member for Wakehurst to order for the second time.

Mr JEFFERY: South West Rocks is another progressive area. I know that the honourable member for Liverpool loves that area as I do. The Minister for Transport was up there some weeks ago. The new bridge at South West Rocks, which will cost \$500,000, has been commenced and the old timber bridge is to go.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! Members will comport themselves properly in this House or vacate it.

Mr JEFFERY: Like all good local members, I go to every cat and dog fight so that I can look after my constituents. We are very compassionate. The Labor Party abandoned workers and put them on the unemployment scrap-heap. That is why the Federal Government will be thrown out this weekend. Education is another important area and two new schools have been built in the electorate of Oxley: a new high school at Nambucca Heads and a new primary school at Aldavilla near Kempsey. I am proud of the public education system in my electorate and I am very proud of the Catholic education system in my electorate. They do an excellent job. I am a product of the public education system, as were my parents and as are my children.

I know that honourable members opposite support me in those remarks. Another great benefit to my electorate is the new community services district office in Kempsey. I know the honourable member for Liverpool has always been interested in police. Police are needed. There are never enough of them, particularly in growth areas. It is not always possible to have the number of police that the community would like. I propose an innovative scheme for consideration by the Minister for Police and the Minister for Education. I have spoken to the Chief Superintendent, Ian Campbell, in Port Macquarie regarding this excellent scheme. I propose that police officers from the west of the State who wish to holiday in the east be

offered accommodation in our schools in Christmas and school holidays. This would serve the dual purpose of protecting schools from vandalism, and assisting local police in times of crisis. Schools these days have toilets, showers and locker room facilities, so I am sure comfortable accommodation could be provided to police officers and their families wishing to enjoy a change of scenery and a holiday on the coast.

I believe this suggestion has merit. I ask the relevant Ministers to give the matter earnest consideration because law and order features prominently in the Governor's Address. I now raise the question of housing in my electorate. I will accept public housing if it is offered to my electorate because I want to see people with a roof over their heads. Society will not be stable unless adequate housing is provided. I feel for families who are in crisis because of lack of accommodation. The Liberal-National Government housed more than 13,383 low income families and pensioners from the public housing list during the financial year ending June 1992. That is a great achievement.

I refer to an exciting project in my electorate called Osprey Village in the wonderful Nambucca Valley at Nambucca Heads where people from metropolitan Sydney have been accommodated. Homes occupied by one or two people have been vacated to allow people to enter these brand new units, freeing up three- or four-bedroom homes for rehousing of city families. I have received many telephone calls from couples and single people happily retired in this beautiful village. Out of 80 people I have only had one complaint, from a person who was too far from her family. Everyone else says it is like winning the lottery. For the first time in their lives they have an opportunity to vote for a National Party member, and that is another bonus. Health is also a major issue as people get older. I welcome the planned development of the Port Macquarie base hospital. It will satisfy many needs of my constituents and alleviate the necessity to seek treatment in city hospitals. At present many have to travel to Newcastle or Sydney to obtain specialist treatment which will be available soon at the Port Macquarie base hospital.

A major concern for oyster growers on the Macleay, Hastings and Nambucca rivers is the movement of oysters in areas which may contain gigas, or Pacific oysters. Movements to the Nambucca River ceased following a recent meeting at Ulmarra with the Minister and oyster growers. However, with regard to the Macleay and Hastings rivers the Minister has repeated his assurance that he will be monitoring closely all movements to these rivers. He has assured me that he will not place these estuaries at risk. I should like to raise one last issue and that is the Queen's Grant Estate at Port Macquarie. This is an example of how government decisions can affect people.

The dispute about landholders on Queen's Grant Estate wishing to build on their land has been going on since 1966 when council allowed a subdivision. The owners have been paying rates but they cannot build. They should be either paid full compensation for their land or be granted permission to build. Next week council will say that because of health regulations the water-table is too high and could result in a problem with sewage. However, I am sure that today's technology could devise a way to overcome these difficulties. Local government or departments should not wave a hand of dismissal and blame past decisions. This is the sorriest saga with which I have been involved in my nine years in office and I ask for justice for these people.

I appeal to Parliament, the Ministers involved, council and departments to show compassion. Compensation should be paid to them - not a pittance - or they should be permitted to build on their land, as was originally intended in the 1960s. The land was bought in good faith and although they are

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not allowed to build they are still paying rates. At times such as this I feel helpless because of the obstacles put in the way of these people, and I feel for them. It is true that council inherited the problem, but the Government also inherited the problem from the former Labor Government. This Government had to pick up the tab and honourable members opposite know that. It is not sufficient for honourable members opposite to say it is not their fault. I ask that the people of North Port Macquarie be given a fair go to proceed with building on their land or to receive just compensation. It has been a pleasure to speak to the excellent address given by His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Ross Sinclair, A.O., Governor of New South Wales.

Mr ANDERSON (Liverpool) [10.16]: I wish to raise a number of matters in connection with the Speech

of His Excellency. The first is Mainsbridge Special School at Liverpool. The reasons I raise it are probably twofold. On 10th April, 1992, and 22nd September, 1992, I received answers to questions on notice with regard to the Mainsbridge Special School, particularly with regard to staffing and other issues. One was a 10-part question and the other an eight-part question. In the answer of 10th April in response to a matter I deposed, the Minister said, "Parents have not expressed concern to the Department of Community Services". In a similar way the Minister responded to the September question and said:

In mid 1990 five parents expressed concern about limited access to speech therapy. From September 1990 regular speech therapy has been provided by the Department of Community Services.

To my knowledge there have been no parental concerns in the last two years about the level of services at the school. Certainly the active School Council has been most pleased with the provision of services to Mainsbridge.

This is all utter rubbish. It gives the lie to claims that the Government is concerned about young people and, in particular, the special young people in this school. Mainsbridge Special School caters for 118 students with moderate to severe intellectual and physical disabilities. At present this school of 118 very special children has a speech pathologist and an occupational therapist one day a week but no physiotherapist. Mainsbridge has many and varied programs but cannot operate as effectively when it does not have adequate therapy staff. The school needs a speech pathologist and an occupational therapist five days a week and a physiotherapist two days a week.

The necessity for those services is simple. In the pre-school section all 30 students are in need of individual speech programs. In the infants, primary and secondary sections at least 50 per cent of students require one-on-one speech programs. The remaining students need a speech program initiated by a speech pathologist and catered for within the classroom by the teacher. The pre-school and primary sections of the school require occupational therapy with many and varied gross and fine motor programs.

Within the secondary section an occupational therapist is required for the 40-plus students involved in the recycling program so as to break down the skills in the program and therefore make the steps involved easier to understand and enable the program to be carried out successfully. An occupational therapist is also essential for high-support students in need of individual occupational therapy programs. Physiotherapy is needed for all students within the school's gross and fine motor programs, and the high support students need weekly physiotherapy in order to participate in mobility programs.

Another problem relates to work experience programs for young adults when they reach school leaving age. In 1990 one student, having reached school leaving age, attended a workshop. The remainder who had reached school leaving age had to be sent to their homes. Of six school-leavers in 1991, two attended workshops, two were employed within the recycling program, one enrolled at a technical college and one had to be sent home. In 1992 Mainsbridge had six school-leavers but employed three of those within its recycling program. At present they are still employed by Mainsbridge. From that information it is easy to understand that Mainsbridge has been the key employer of its school-leavers. With workshops shut or taking only the more able workers, the less able are being sent home, thus becoming a burden to their parents and extended families.

Real difficulties also exist in relation to respite care. At present little or no respite care is available for high-support children or children with behavioural problems. At present no respite care is available for working parents. Hence in the case of many mothers, a career is non-existent because respite care is unavailable. If children are sick for even one day, no one is available to mind them other than the mothers or members of extended families. I particularly wanted to mention Mainsbridge because of the wonderful work it does. I have tried everything to have something done to address this particular issue.

There seem to be looks of disbelief on the faces of honourable members on the other side of the Chamber. The number of speech therapists and occupational therapists available in other parts of Sydney is astronomical by comparison with the number available in western and southwestern Sydney. It is not merely a question of

funds. Speech therapists and occupational therapists are able to earn far more money in private practice than in the public sector. Even those who are prepared to work within the public sector choose to work in areas in which they live or in areas which they believe are better suited to them. So it is, as with teachers for example, that western and southwestern Sydney miss out. I defy anyone to produce statistics to show that any region of Sydney is less underresourced than southwestern Sydney in speech therapy and occupational therapy.

Mr Hazzard: Less underresourced is a double negative, which means that it is resourced.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Chappell): Order! The honourable member for Liverpool has the call.

Mr ANDERSON: One thing I will never need in this Parliament is assistance from the honourable member for Wakehurst. I have seen what he has done to the careers of those people he likes, so I do

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not want to see what he could do to my career. I want to refer briefly to Australia's Wonderland. It is not located in my electorate, but it is not all that far away. The reason I refer to Australia's Wonderland is that since that private sector operation was established in 1985, it not only has become a major tourist attraction but has also provided employment. It attracts as many as one million visitors per annum, involves investment in excess of \$100 million, and employs about 65 full-time staff and about 1,000 part-time staff each year. Those seasonal staff are mostly juniors.

That means that more than 5,000 young people from western Sydney have gained valuable work experience at Australia's Wonderland. That is in addition to the benefits that flow from the Australian wildlife park, a major addition to Australia's Wonderland. Most people accept that Australia's Wonderland is one of the largest tourism investments ever undertaken in this State. As I said earlier, it was funded by private enterprise. It is amazing that a private sector organisation, with joint venturers, established Australia's Wonderland on the other side of Wallgrove Road from Eastern Creek without receiving a zack from the Government. Those who control Australia's Wonderland do not complain about that, but the present State Government has now made available to Luna Park \$25 million in one form or another for its restoration. The reality is that it is difficult for Sydney to support two theme parks.

[*Interruption*]

The honourable member for Wakehurst is asking a question of the Minister for Transport and Minister for Tourism, and the Minister will confirm what he asks. The fact is that Luna Park will have an effect on Australia's Wonderland. The two theme parks ought to have been made to compete on an equal basis, but they were not. I want to place on the record of this House that the way in which the restoration of Luna Park has been funded is totally unreasonable and totally unjustified. Like many other members of this House, I have fond memories of trips to Luna Park as a much younger person. I do not understand the rationale of the so-called managers and private sector advocates allowing something to be done in one way for Luna Park but not in the same way for Australia's Wonderland.

While I am talking about Australia's Wonderland - as I said, it is situated across Wallgrove Road from Eastern Creek - it has been providing entertainment in the form of popular music and similar attractions. It has now become evident that Eastern Creek will be a direct competitor with Australia's Wonderland in the provision of music shows as well. The only reason I raise this matter is that I am concerned that existing job opportunities for young people in western Sydney will be diminished as a result of the Government's actions. The actions of those who control Australia's Wonderland ought to be encouraged.

I also want to mention briefly two issues relating to public housing. I do not know how many times members of Parliament must write to the Government and the Department of Housing asking them to enforce the provisions of the department's tenancy agreement. All honourable members understand the role played by public housing and how important it is. People provided with public housing sign an agreement which basically provides that they are to allow their neighbours to enjoy reasonable use of their properties without being annoyed or pestered. I do not understand why, when it is clearly established that people are making

nuisances of themselves, action is not taken.

Local members are besieged by six or seven tenants from the near vicinity who ask, "Can you get me a transfer to get away from this nuisance, this problem?" In many cases not only noisy music is involved. Physical threats, the throwing of bottles, the smashing of items and the wrecking of lawns are also involved. The department must deal with this problem. It cannot continue to say that people should seek assistance from the legal system and the police. The people involved cannot afford to take legal action. Community justice centres have no compulsion powers. The police are unable to deal with these matters unless they are present when the incidents take place. The department has a responsibility to address the problem.

The other matter I want to mention in relation to public housing is that in October 1989 the former Minister for Housing introduced an absolutely diabolical policy. This is not the first time I or my colleagues have mentioned it in this House. I refer to the one-offer proposition: one takes what one is allocated. I was approached by a 79-year-old woman who could not get one of her pieces of furniture into a bed-sitter she has been allocated; she did not want it dirty or anything else. When she rejected the bed-sitter, she was taken off the list and told to start from scratch again, despite lodging appeals and everything else. I sometimes wonder what sort of people sit on appeal panels.

All I am saying is that when one sees the results of the Government's policy it is no good the Government crowing about public housing in this Speech that was drafted for the Governor to deliver. I do not blame the departmental officers for what is happening; they are merely implementing the Government's policy. The Government must address the problem. I am not talking about situations that occur once in a lifetime. I am certainly talking about my electorate, where the bulk of my work relates to public housing. It is time the Government understood what this policy has done. No one is asking for open slather. All that is asked for is a reasonable policy and its sensible implementation. It seems that again my remarks will fall on deaf ears, but I can only try.

The same applies with legal aid, which I have previously mentioned in this House. More and more constituents in recent times have simply been unable to obtain access to legal aid. The end result is that they cannot pay for it because they do not have the money, and they are then denied justice. Access to health care should be based on medical need, not capacity to pay. For goodness' sake, let us not return to a situation where access to justice depends upon

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capacity to pay. That road has been travelled before and will continue to be travelled until the Government faces its responsibility in relation to legal aid.

The Ombudsman has consistently reported that he cannot do his job effectively unless he has more resources. He receives considerably less than the Independent Commission Against Corruption and other bodies, but the public will not believe in that system if the Government does not provide adequate resources. Quite frankly, I am sick and tired of seeing reasonable and genuine complaints not being investigated, solely for the reason that the Ombudsman does not have the resources.

After an aggregate of 13 years in this place I maintain the view that each and every one of the parliamentary staffs - be it the attendants, Hansard, the clerks, the dining room staff, and all the other staff in the building - deserve the thanks of members for performing their jobs extremely well and very courteously, for which all honourable members are grateful. As a local member, but particularly in my role as a shadow minister, I again pay special tribute to the Parliamentary Library, whose assistance in obtaining research material and matters of that nature is absolutely superb and has enabled us to effectively undertake our role as shadow ministers. I wish it to be recorded again how much I personally appreciate the efforts made by the Parliamentary Library.

In singling out library staff I reiterate my appreciation of the help I receive from all staff of the Parliament and have received since the day I arrived. From time to time members under heavy workloads and with the weight of the world on their shoulders ought to stop and think how, with a little effort, they could make life a bit

easier for the people who work in this building trying to provide services for us. I have always operated under the principle that if you treat people the way you expect to be treated, things will be a lot easier. People sometimes forget that.

I do not wish to reiterate the issues that were debated last week on a private member's bill introduced by the honourable member for South Coast, but I do wish to refer to issues that go to the heart of the speech made by His Excellency. At page 16 of His Excellency's Speech there is a particular reference, "New hospitals are being built in Penrith and Liverpool, Albury and Lismore, including the Caroline Chisholm Women's Hospital on the Liverpool campus". [*Extension of time agreed to.*]

Whilst any improvement is welcomed, the Caroline Chisholm Women's Hospital is not as it is purported to be in the Speech. It is an \$18 million obstetric and gynaecological unit that was part of the redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital. But what annoys me and many people in Liverpool and southwestern Sydney is the decision taken by the Government to move the Royal Hospital for Women from Paddington to the Prince of Wales campus at Randwick. That decision is indefensible. If that hospital had to be moved anywhere, it should have been moved to southwestern Sydney to the redeveloped hospital at Liverpool. I shall explain why.

In 1990 the number of families in the Eastern Sydney Area Health Services was approximately 161,000 and the prediction was that by the year 2001 there would be approximately 162,000. In southwestern Sydney in 1990 there were 315,000 families and by the year 2001 there will be almost 416,000. But that is not the only issue. In 1989-90, the most recently published figures, eastern Sydney had 8,328 births, involving a flow into the region of 4,806; in southwestern Sydney there were 9,617 births, a considerable difference. The publication *Towards a Fairer Australia*, a local area research study, part of the Federal Government's social justice strategy, participated in by the State, clearly demonstrates the need for specialist women's health services, and not just obstetrics and maternity matters.

This was an opportunity to have solid evidence of a commitment to provide resources to southwestern and western Sydney and that opportunity was lost. Statements were made by the Minister for Health and others about moving resources to southwestern Sydney. At the moment not too many financial resources are being moved. Buildings are being built but that will not resolve the matter. Recently I received an answer to a 20-part question I asked of the Minister for Health. The honourable member for South Coast also asked a 37-part question. Both questions related to the redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital. The answer given by the Minister for Health consisted of three or four lines in each case, telling us nothing.

The Minister for Health says he is not hiding anything. If he is not hiding anything, why will he not answer the questions? Why are we not told how and when the services are to be built up? At the end of the redevelopment exercise the hospital work force will increase progressively from its current 1,080 to approximately 2,380. The Opposition wants to be assured those resources will be provided. The Government says nothing is being hidden and that the Minister has established a task force to look at the St Vincent's proposal. What the Minister did not tell the House was that there is only one representative from the South Western Sydney Area Health Service on that task force. That fact cannot be denied.

His Excellency's Speech referred to moving resources to southwestern Sydney, but the fact is that the resources are not being moved. The honourable member for Camden is well aware that in the last financial year productivity cuts to the South Western Sydney Area Health Service amounted to more than \$3.5 million. In the current financial year more than \$5 million has been removed. I have no argument about productivity cuts to overresourced areas or areas where growth is being held back so that resources can be placed elsewhere. If that will achieve money being sent to western and southwestern Sydney, that is fine; but that is not the case.

The South Western Sydney Area Health Service has had those two reductions of millions of dollars over a two-year period when there was a 28 per cent increase in patient throughput - at a time when the Department of Health acknowledged the skilful administration being displayed in that area. The

22,971, an increase of approximately 5,000 admissions. In 1989-90 it had 3,254 day-only admissions, and in 1991-92 it had 5,820. To cover that massive increase in work, staff numbers rose from 1,057 in 1989-90 to 1,096 in 1991-92.

The 394 beds in 1989-90 had reduced by 1991-92 to 380. Let us have no more hypocrisy about the moving of resources. The need is there now. It is all very well for the Government to have a policy of productivity cuts, but they must be implemented logically. If a government intends to build up services progressively and allow hospitals to slowly provide a range of increased services in preparation for the new buildings, it has to give them the money to do so. The next matter I want to raise in connection with the hospital relates to what has happened to academic buildup. In relation to the comments of Professor Ian Webster I refer honourable members to an article by Allan Cleaver in the *Liverpool Leader* of 16th September, 1992, which reads:

Twenty-one months after the first medical students arrived on the scene Liverpool Hospital has well and truly become a teaching hospital.

The hospital is giving tomorrow's doctors a thorough training of a standard they could not expect to get anywhere else in Australia.

The article points out that community medicine forms an important part of the study course at Liverpool in the training of doctors. The Dean of the Clinical School and Professor of Public Health at Liverpool Hospital, Professor Ian Webster, is one of 11 professors who work at Liverpool Hospital with medical students from the University of New South Wales. The article continues:

Professor Webster says the underlying advantage of Liverpool being a teaching hospital is that young doctors will want to work in the south-west sector . . . "They get an insight into a broader spread of medical practice and learn more about community health and the problems of ageing people and the ethnic community."

That is why members of Parliament, or most of them in southwestern Sydney, defend the retention of the redeveloped Liverpool Hospital as part of the public sector and so trenchantly oppose its privatisation by anyone. I remind honourable members that it was not so long ago that St Margaret's Hospital intended to move to Liverpool to provide obstetric and gynaecological services. In a press release of 2nd April, 1991, the complex administrator, Sister Mary Reardon said:

Knowing your interest in St Margaret's we would like you to know that the decision of the Sisters of St Joseph not to relocate to Liverpool was taken after lengthy and painstaking study. An expert Task Force concluded that there were impassable medico-moral and ethical barriers to the relocation.

They remain. To their great credit, the Sisters of St Joseph made a difficult decision not to go to Liverpool. Those issues still remain and are incapable of resolution. However, that is not the principal issue for the Opposition and the overwhelming majority of the people of Liverpool; it is for the reasons I have talked about. There is now a networking arrangement for the whole of the South Western Sydney Area Health Service; there are internationally and nationally recognised professorial appointments. What is happening is exciting, new and wonderful in the provision of health care, and it will be destroyed if the hub of the South Western Area Health Service is privatised. It is no good the Minister for Health, as he did, saying, "Everything is fine. I will tell you what is happening. The task force report will do this, that and the other". It will not satisfy anyone. The Government should end it now, tell us the truth and give us the details.

I want to mention briefly two other matters. One is a matter that has been going on for more than 20 years. It is the desire of the people of Liverpool to have a police-citizens' youth club or a police boys' club, as they were once known. The current grant of \$250,000 provided by the Government has been the same for more than a decade. Every area does not have the same capacity to raise the dollar-for-dollar funding that is required. I call on the Government to adopt the Opposition's policy of doubling the grant to \$500,000. It will not cost the Government one cent more over a four-year term, because only one or two clubs are proposed. If

the Government does that, a club will become a reality in an area of enormously high youth unemployment that can well justify having such a club. I put that to the Minister formally in writing. I hope it will become a reality.

Finally, in the few minutes left I want to refer to recent articles about the helicopter rescue and medical retrieval service in Sydney. The way CareFlight and Westpac are rostered week about is and has been for the past two years an absolute disgrace. It is a ludicrous way to operate. One group is based at Parramatta and the other at Prince Henry Hospital. The most appropriate service should be called out. They should be available on a daily basis. They could both operate at no extra cost if allowed to do so, but they cannot because of some bureaucratic stupidity by people who would have a very different view if they, their wives, their children or their loved ones were in an accident or injured and in need of transport to a major tertiary referral hospital. The Government should end the insanity and allow CareFlight and Westpac to provide the services that need to be provided. I thank the House for the opportunity to contribute to this debate on behalf of my constituents. I hope the Government will take note of the matters I have raised and that some sanity will finally prevail in regard to these issues that are so important to my constituents.

Debate adjourned on motion by Dr Kernohan.

House adjourned at 10.46 p.m.
