

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 19 October, 1988

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

Mr Speaker offered the Prayer.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Mr SPEAKER: I draw the attention of honourable members to the presence in the gallery of Dr Richard Grant, the New Zealand Consul General.

MINISTRY

Mr GREINER: I wish to inform the House that this morning His Excellency the Governor accepted the resignation of the Hon. N. E. W. Pickard, M.P., as Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Energy. The Hon. N. E. W. Pickard, M.P., was then appointed as Minister for Minerals and Energy.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced that the following petitions had been lodged for presentation:

Abortion

The Petition of citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That the long-standing legal protection given to unborn children is being ignored with over 30 000 unborn babies being put to death in this State each year. That abortion on demand, although a criminal offence, is freely available in abortion clinics as well as public and private hospitals in this State. That the consequent drop in respect for human life has seriously damaged the moral fabric of our community. That our community urgently needs laws which will strongly reinforce respect for unborn human life; increased concern for the welfare of children and greater support for our families.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That the Parliament of New South Wales will support vigorous enforcement of the current laws. The swift passing into law of the foreshadowed Hon. Fred Nile's unborn child protection bill and the foreshadowed termination of pregnancy restriction bill will ensure their prompt adoption in New South Wales in the interests of future generations of Australian children and the Australian community generally.

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

Petitions, lodged by **Mr Chappell, Mr Fahey and Mr Welsh**, received.

Helicopter Facility for Pyrmont

The Petition of citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That there is much concern in the community about the proposed placement of the helistop at No. 14 Wharf, Pyrmont, and the resultant level of intrusive and offensive noise, which would drastically impair the enjoyment of the home environment for a large number of residents in the Balmain, Pyrmont, Millers Point and North Sydney areas, and also the possibility of a helicopter crashing into the heavily populated residential areas adjacent to the proposed site.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That your honourable House will not allow the location of a helicopter facility in the proximity of the Darling Harbour, Pyrmont, Balmain and, in particular, Pyrmont Wharf 14, area.

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

Petition, lodged by **Miss Fraser**, received.

Wollongong Showground

The Petition of citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That the citizens of the City of Wollongong are flatly opposed to any proposal that would cause any part of Wollongong Showground to be leased, assigned or disposed of for the purpose of establishing an enterprise such as an international tourist hotel or convention centre, or some such other complex that would advantage private interests but which would deny the citizens the full use and benefit of this public amenity.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That your honourable House will take urgent steps to prevent the disposition or leasing of the abovementioned property.

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

Petition, lodged by **Mr Arkell**, received.

Mort Bay Housing

The Petition of citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That an announcement has been made by the Minister for Housing that he is examining the potential sale of 120 as yet unoccupied public housing units at Mort Bay.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That your honourable House, in the interests of the disadvantaged, will not allow the proposed sale to proceed as there is a chronic housing shortage in the inner Sydney area, and such a move to privatize public housing would have a detrimental effect on access to public housing for low income people in New South Wales.

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

Petition, lodged by **Mr E. T. Page**, received.

Technical and Further Education

The Petition of citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That there is concern at the proposed changes in technical and further education. The introduction of the \$100 administrative charge for technical and further education students and the \$263 charge for diploma and associate diploma courses will reduce access for many students. The abolition of "daylight equivalent" in colleges will force the transfer of qualified teachers to other colleges and will reduce the number of qualified teachers in those colleges from which they were transferred. The decreased preparation and marking time of teachers will reduce the quality of education. The dismantling of women's programs cannot be tolerated as this is denying access by women to courses that would enable them to re-enter the work force.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That your honourable House will reassess its position and maintain the quality of education in technical and further education colleges and public schools by withdrawing the proposed changes.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Smith, received.

Wyang Hospital

The Petition of citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That there is grave concern about the administration and future of the Wyong hospital.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That your honourable House will call on the Minister for Health to immediately reopen fully ward 2 of Wyong Hospital. In view of no funds being allocated in the 1988-89 budget for the planning of stage 2 of Wyong hospital that the Minister for Health be respectfully requested to make a special allocation of funds for the purpose and ask the hierarchy of the Central Coast area health service to show cause as to why they should not be dismissed.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr H. F. Moore, received.

Tobacco Advertising

The Petition of citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That the New South Wales Government does not have a mandate from the electors to selectively prohibit the advertising of tobacco products. Advertising, and use of these products by adults, should be allowed without Government intervention. The traditional independence of sporting, cultural and community groups will be jeopardized and politicized. Claims by anti-smoking groups that the banning of advertising and the imposition of a further tax will lead to a reduction of under-age smoking, are untrue.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That the Government will not enact any tobacco bill, and will desist from establishing any health foundations which are funded by smokers via increased and extra tobacco excise.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Greiner, received.

MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Ministerial Statement

Mr GREINER: I wish to make a ministerial statement. Following the recent election four senior members of my staff were assigned motor vehicles leased by the Liberal Party: my press secretary, Ken Hooper; my principal private secretary, John Harvey; the then head of the Premier's Advisory Unit, Gary Sturgess; and the head of the Transition Appointments Office at that time, Mr Ian Kortlang. The decision to provide the cars was approved by the State Executive of the Liberal Party at its next meeting later in April, and all lease payments have been made by the Liberal Party. Upon their appointments on contract as department heads Mr Sturgess and Mr Kortlang became entitled to official government cars. Orders were subsequently placed for cars to be allocated to these two new departmental head positions. The car for the department of State Development was ordered in May and the Cabinet Office car was ordered in September as part of the fleet order, well before the inquiries began that were reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. As other departmental cars were available, absolutely no special benefit was gained by either man's keeping Liberal Party cars until theirs arrived. As the Leader of the Opposition is well aware, there have been considerable delays in the delivery of new government cars. He has been waiting for his since June. Two of the Liberal Party cars have been returned to the party. The remaining two cars were retained—

[Interruption]

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

Mr GREINER: —by Mr Hooper and by Mr Harvey, who are still members of my private staff, and they will be retaining those cars. The relevant issues are these: no law has been broken; tax dollars have been saved; and no actual or potential conflict of interest has arisen.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to order.

Mr GREINER: At the highest the *Sydney Morning Herald* is alleging a potential conflict of interest, and in all the circumstances no such position could be said to exist.

[Interruption]

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

Mr GREINER: The heart of the issue is whether Mr Frost assisted in acquiring these cars as a private businessman or in his capacity as the finance vice-president of the Liberal Party. The view of the State Executive of the Liberal Party, and the only possible view of any fair-minded person, is that Mr Frost acted in his official capacity. The Liberal Party is the lessee of these cars; the Liberal Party has made all lease payments in relation to them; and the Liberal Party maintains them. Contrary to the highly defamatory statement of the Leader of the Opposition this morning, these cars were not donated by Mr Frost. Nor was Mr Frost the donor of the funds from which lease payments have been made. Mr Frost's role was simply that of an officeholder in the Liberal Party. They were and are the party's cars. As the State Executive

decision provides, when the cars were no longer needed they were to be returned to the party for use by the party's field staff—not to Mr Frost or his company, but to the Liberal Party.

The question then is whether any conflict of interest was involved in members of my staff driving cars leased by the Liberal Party, of which I am the leader. I assume that not even the Leader of the Opposition will suggest that that amounts to a conflict of interest. Two of my staff have driven Liberal Party cars for the past five years. Both have been financially supported by the party during that time. There was no conflict of interest in that just as there is no conflict of interest in members of my staff driving Liberal Party cars now. The *Sydney Morning Herald* has also published a story about Community Polling—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: As the article quite correctly reports, Dr Metherell was one of the proprietors of the business named Community Polling from its registration in 1985. The postal address of that business was Dr Metherell's electorate office. The activity was clearly political in nature. Dr Metherell has played absolutely no active role since 1986 and played a small role before then. Contrary to what the *Sydney Morning Herald* suggests, there is no conflict, actual or potential—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: —between Dr Metherell's role in Community Polling and his responsibilities as a Minister of the Crown. He is certainly not in breach of the ministerial code of conduct. He had no pecuniary interest in Community Polling. It was not incumbent on him to make any other declaration—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: —unless an actual or potential conflict arose. None has.

Mr CARR: The code of ministerial conduct is looking a little tatty these days. Unveiled with such fanfare, it is now a little shaky. Or to put it another way—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr CARR: —there are two big holes in it now.

Mr Greiner: On a point of order. The most constructive response that the Leader of the Opposition can—

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will come to his point of order.

Mr Greiner: My point of order is—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr Greiner: The most constructive thing the Leader of the Opposition can do is to compare the ministerial code of conduct, which now exists—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! No point of order is involved.

Mr CARR: Under the principle enunciated by the Premier, to be known as the Greiner doctrine, it would be possible for a personal donor to top up the salaries of permanent public servants. Now a departmental head can have a businessman, providing he holds a Liberal Party ticket and office in the party—

[*Interruption*]

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

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! This may be a matter that attracts a certain amount of excitement from both sides of the House, but the standing orders require that a member be heard in silence. I insist that that occur, and I request honourable members to bear in mind the rulings regarding general calls to order.

Mr CARR: The crux of this matter is that under this Government it is permissible for the head of a department to receive a salary topping up from a business person, providing he or she holds office in the Liberal Party.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs to order. I call the Attorney General to order.

Mr CARR: That is the essence of this situation. So much for the ministerial code of conduct now; nothing of it exists. This is a government without honour and without standards.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr CARR: There are many questions to be explored about both these matters. They will not go away with that lame and pathetic statement from the Premier which opened the proceedings of the House this afternoon. One question that must be asked is, why did Senator Bronwyn Bishop leak this story to the *Sydney Morning Herald* in Canberra? Why is it that the State director of the Liberal Party, Graeme Starr, refuses to defend the behaviour that the Premier defends? The fact is that senior Liberals do not accept the Greiner doctrine. Senior Liberals in Canberra and in the party headquarters do not accept that he has behaved honourably in this matter. The extraordinary situation is that the head of a government department, under the Greiner doctrine—

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development and Minister for Public Works to order.

Mr CARR: —can receive gifts from a senior business person if that person has the protective argument that he holds office in the Liberal Party. That is the nub of this matter, and that is the Greiner doctrine. Both Sturgess and Kortlang have been dreadfully compromised in this affair. As departmental heads, they accepted cars provided them by a developer. There is no way of rewriting this affair. The list of questions that must be answered is very long indeed. Why were the cars registered in their own names if they were Liberal Party cars?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition's time for speaking has expired.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Mr CARR: My question is directed to the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs. In view of the ministerial code of conduct, has he required the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs to provide him with full details of money received and disbursed through the Minister's electorate office? Did the Premier believe the Minister's assertion that he was unaware that his office received donations totalling \$200,000? Does the Premier believe for one moment that the Minister was unaware that this money was laundered to Independent candidates in the last State election?

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question is argumentative in its context and I rule it out of order.

Mr J. H. Murray: On a point of order. According to the standing orders, honourable members may ask questions during which they can use argumentative and substantive statements to provide information for the person to whom the question is put. I submit that the Leader of the Opposition included argumentative clauses in his question for that sole purpose.

Mr Dowd: On the point of order. In recent times a practice has developed that whenever a ruling is given by you, Mr Speaker, with which the Opposition disagrees, an Opposition member rises on the subterfuge of taking a point of order, but in fact canvasses the ruling. The point of order raised by the honourable member for Drummoyne is a flagrant breach of the rules which provide that a ruling from the Chair should not be canvassed unless by way of substantive motion. The Opposition has not yet challenged one of your rulings, nor should it do so. This point of order should not have been taken. It is an insult to the Chair.

Mr Whelan: On the point of order and on a point of privilege relating to questions that are permitted to be asked in this Parliament.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ruled that the question was argumentative and therefore out of order. The honourable member for Drummoyne then took a point of order. I afforded him the indulgence of waiting to hear the content of his point of order. The Attorney General then took what was virtually a point of order on the earlier point of order. The House should proceed in an orderly fashion. If the honourable member for Ashfield wishes to speak to the Attorney

General's point of order, or that taken by the honourable member for Drummoyne, I shall hear him. However, I will not condone a double-barrelled situation where the honourable member for Ashfield raises a point of order and a point of privilege. He must do one or the other, so that they may be dealt with in appropriate order. Does the honourable member for Ashfield wish to speak to the point of order?

Mr Whelan: Not to the point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I shall now rule on the matter before the House. The honourable member for Drummoyne took a point of order that argumentative content is allowed in a question. That is clearly not the case. Obviously a member may give certain facts to explain the tenor of a question. The Leader of the Opposition's question was in order until the last sentence when he made what was clearly an argumentative comment in which he sought an opinion from the Premier.

In order to take the heat out of the issue, if the Leader of the Opposition will delete the latter part of his question, I shall permit him to ask the first part of it. I remind honourable members that questions must be framed carefully to contain only such facts as are necessary to explain the questions, and to seek information about action to be taken by the Government. In this House questions cannot contain argumentative or provocative terms.

The point of order taken by the Attorney General is that a custom has developed by which what might be called supplementary points of order have been taken. I have endeavoured to be fair and to follow the time-honoured principle of former Speakers of the House not to stifle debate. In part that principle is intended to ensure that honourable members receive adequate explanation of what is occurring in the House. Therefore I have allowed members some indulgence. Members of the Opposition should not attempt to canvass a point of order once a ruling has been made. If honourable members wish clarification of a ruling, they are at liberty to approach the chair later, or to see me in my Chambers, and I shall explain why I ruled in a particular way. Having concluded my ruling on the point of order, I ask the honourable member for Ashfield whether he wishes to say anything further?

Mr Whelan: No, Mr Speaker. You have covered the point of privilege I intended to raise.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the Leader of the Opposition to repeat his question in the manner I suggested.

Mr CARR: My question without notice is directed to the Premier. In view of the ministerial code of conduct has he required the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs to provide him with full details of money received and disbursed through his electorate office? Does the Premier believe the Minister's assertion that he was unaware that his office received donations totalling \$200,000?

Mr Dowd: On a point of order. Perhaps the Opposition ought to order a new Carr. It is offensive to ask the Premier whether he believes something he is told by a Minister. A question framed in that way contains an implication about what the Minister said. In any event, the code of conduct relates to Ministers, and the present Minister for Education was not a Minister at the relevant time. The question is improper as it implies that the Minister is not worthy of being believed. The Premier should not be asked a question about his opinion of the worth of a Minister.

Mr J. J. Aquilina: On the point of order. Prior to asking the Leader of the Opposition to restate his question, you clearly said that the question was completely in order with the exception of the last part of it. I submit that the Leader of the Opposition has done precisely that; he has asked the first part of the question and deleted the second part that you ruled to be objectionable.

Mr Yeomans: On the point of order. It is clear that the question was repeated with the second part intact. The question asked for the belief of the Premier. Though I am interested in the Premier's beliefs, the question is seeking an opinion. Question time in this House is intended to seek facts, not opinions.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The point of order has substance. I said that the latter part of the question was clearly out of order. At times it is difficult for the Chair to recall the exact phrasing of a question. If a question is prefaced by the words "Do you believe", it clearly seeks an expression of opinion. As obviously this question is of interest to the Opposition, and as the House has a clear understanding of what the Leader of the opposition is asking, I shall allow the first part of the question, which seeks facts only. I disallow the second part of the question. I ask the Premier to answer the first part of the question. In doing that I have extended a considerable indulgence in the interest of debate in this House. I counsel honourable members that considerable care be taken, particularly by members of the Opposition who are always in the role of casting more difficult questions, in the drafting of questions to ensure that they do not infringe the standing orders of the house.

Mr Dowd: On a point of order. Twice during your ruling the honourable member for Bankstown referred to "Open Government," sufficiently loud for me to hear it on this side of the House. As you were in the process of delivering a ruling, the comment could only be a reflection upon your ruling. This is offensive not only to the Chair but also to the House. The honourable member should be asked to withdraw the comment. Your ruling is not influenced by the Government, and the honourable member should respect the Chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! No point of order is involved. If the honourable member for Bankstown made that type of remark, perhaps he should be grateful that the Chair did not hear it. I advise honourable members, particularly the newer members, that it is grossly disorderly to speak when the Chair is addressing the Chamber. Further, comments that can be construed as a reflection on the Chair seriously breach standing orders. I offer that advice to honourable members, though I do not uphold the point of order. I make a general exhortation for the House to come to order and I request members to listen to the Premier's reply in silence.

Mr GREINER: Might I ask the Leader of the Opposition to repeat that part of his question that was ruled in order?

Mr CARR: Well may they squirm.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will confine himself to asking the question.

Mr CARR: The first part of the question is: In view of the ministerial code of conduct, has the Premier required the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs to provide him with full details of money received and disbursed through his electorate office?

Mr GREINER: The Minister for Education and Youth Affairs has provided me with all information required by the ministerial code of conduct. It seems to me that today the Opposition is interested in questions of ministerial propriety. It is seeking to draw a comparison between what it apparently deems to be appropriate ministerial behaviour and what it alleges to be some inappropriate behaviour by the Minister for Education. I make it perfectly clear that the Minister for Education has absolutely satisfied me that he has in no way done anything in breach of the ministerial code of conduct. He has done absolutely nothing inappropriate to his position, his office, or any matter dealt with in the copious pages of the ministerial code of conduct. I remind the House that there was no such code of conduct when the hopeless lot opposite were in office.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: The former Government did not have the gumption to set appropriate standards. I shall deal with ministerial standards of the former Government. That will allow the House and the people of New South Wales to see where lies the balance of ministerial behaviour and propriety, concern about ministerial funds, and so on. I ask the House to set its mind back to about November of last year when the honourable member for Rockdale was Premier. At that time the former Premier needed help to bail himself out. What did the Opposition do? It called for help from the Canberra mafia.

Mr J. H. Murray: On a point of order. I draw attention to Standing Order 78, which states that an answer shall be relevant to the question and that in answering any such question a member shall not debate the matter to which the same refers. The Premier has not attempted to answer the question; instead he is debating a matter that happened in Canberra 12 or 18 months ago. His answer is in no way relevant to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I request that the Premier direct his answer to the specific question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is correct in saying that the Premier's answer should be relevant to the question asked. However, it has long been the practice of this House not to place any restriction on how a Minister answers a question, provided the answer is relevant; and in some instances in recent years even that proviso was not deemed to be necessary. I draw the attention of members to the context in which the question was framed. The Leader of the Opposition has raised the whole issue of ministerial responsibility. So far the Premier's answer has been germane to the question. I shall bear in mind the comments made by the honourable member for Drummoyne. If I consider that the Premier is straying from the question, I shall ask him to confine his answer to the question.

Mr GREINER: The Opposition will squirm in a minute, especially the Leader of the Opposition. The former Government brought in the Canberra mafia. Honourable members should remember that we are talking about ministerial propriety, presumably in the context of the repeatedly botched up question asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: The former Government brought Mr Richard Farmer to New South Wales from Canberra. Mr Farmer was to be the architect of the Unsworth underdog campaign.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: According to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Mr Farmer made regular appearances at the State Parliament to prepare for the election. Mr Farmer was one of the minders who was at the heart of the Labor Party election campaign. He was the key aide in the novel Unsworth campaign telling the voters that the Labor Party did not have a chance of winning. He is obviously a very valuable person. That is the background to Mr Farmer. Honourable members know who he is. Mr Farmer, the wine merchant, is one of the principal people who came from Canberra to Sydney to help the honourable member for Rockdale run his election campaign.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: Whether Mr Farmer did that badly or not does not matter. That is what he did from late October to early November through to 19th March when I met him at the tally room; he was not a happy little vegemite. I shall be brief on this point. We are dealing with a question of ministerial propriety in the context of the employment of Mr Richard Farmer, who was brought from Canberra, to run the Labor Party election campaign.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: I have a letter here addressed to Mr R. Farmer in Deakin, Canberra, which reads:

Dear Mr Farmer,

I refer to your employment as a consultant to the Hon. R. J. Carr, MP, Minister for Planning and Environment and Minister for Heritage.

Mr Farmer was employed by the former Minister for Planning and Environment—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER:—for exactly the period in which Mr Farmer was trying to fix the Labor Party campaign in New South Wales. He was paid \$10,000 over that period by the former Minister for Planning and Environment, the present Leader of the Opposition.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: The letter continues, and this is the pretence:

You will be required to advise on and assist with media and inter-governmental relations for the Minister for Planning and Environment.

Everyone in the press gallery—

Mr Whelan: On a point of order, only five minutes ago, Mr Speaker, you ruled on the question of relevancy by Ministers and the Premier to answers. The question related to the ministerial code of conduct. It did not relate to Mr Richard Farmer. It did not relate to Bob Frost. It did not relate to any fund raisers on behalf of the Labor Party, the Liberal Party and the National Party. The question specifically asked the Premier about the ministerial code of conduct. You limited the Leader of the Opposition to the specifics relating to the ministerial code and now you are allowing the Premier to wander up and down the highways and byways, down to Canberra and back, for the purpose of protecting the corrupt Minister for Education and Youth Affairs.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! On the point of order, if the whole thrust of the question by the Leader of the Opposition deals with the conduct of Ministers and the propriety of their conduct—

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn honourable members not to interrupt the Chair when it is addressing the Chamber. The conduct of Ministers present and past is absolutely germane to the question of overall ministerial conduct. There is no way in which the question can be addressed without an answer being given on such matters. The question invites such an answer. Therefore, the Chair could not construe that the Premier's answer is not relevant to the question asked.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: When the Leader of the Opposition was a Minister of the Crown he took \$10,000 of taxpayers' money and applied them clearly and directly to paying for a Labor Party election campaign strategist. Mr Farmer was nothing more and nothing less. He had nothing to do with the Minister in his job as Minister for Planning and Environment. Mr Farmer spent his time running the campaign for the former Premier.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: I could go on. The former Minister for Sport and Recreation might like to pay attention to something about his ministerial propriety. I wonder if the House is familiar with the edition of *Computing Australia*—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I draw the Premier's attention to the fact that by introducing more than one reference he is starting to debate the matter. I ask him to confine his answer to the question and conclude his answer as quickly as possible.

Mr GREINER: I shall certainly honour your ruling. I have good information on the honourable member for Coogee, the honourable member for Wallsend, and in particular I have good information on the honourable member for Blacktown. To come back to the starting point of my answer, the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs has done absolutely nothing wrong, nothing improper.

[Interruption]

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

Mr GREINER: The Minister has in no way breached the ministerial code of conduct. He has in no way breached any other code of conduct. He has in no way misled anyone. He has played no active part or no part at all in the activities of Community Polling, the subject-matter of the part of the question that was ruled out of order.

[Interruption]

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

Mr GREINER: The details of Community Polling donations were spelled out publicly in the newspapers. They were audited in the Liberal Party's electoral return for the last election. There is absolutely nothing strange or sinister about that. We look forward to the Labor Party electoral return, which I am sure will be a mine of information. There is nothing further to inquire of the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. He has acted with absolute propriety.

INTERCITY TRAIN CARRIAGES

Mr MERTON: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Transport. Does the Government have any plans for new intercity train carriages and, if so, what changes have been made to the contract for new carriages entered into by the previous Government?

Mr BAIRD: The honourable member for Carlingford has contributed much—

[Interruption]

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

Mr BAIRD: —to this House in debate, and to his electorate. He is an outstanding member. In this matter the Government does not need to depend upon opinion.

[Interruption]

Ms Allan: You are cutting it, are you not?

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

Mr BAIRD: The previous Government was planning to cut services. Unlike that Government, this Government will not be about cutting services to Carlingford.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: The Government does not need opinion on this question, like the former Government did.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: The facts speak for themselves. The rabble opposite were incapable of carrying out good economic management. Nothing is more clear than the classic case of the intercity carriages. As the Commission of Audit pointed out, the previous Government failed to evaluate major capital investment decisions. Nowhere was this more evident than with the State Rail Authority. The report found that capital was effectively free for the State Rail Authority because it did not bear the financing costs of its investments; this was despite the fact that the State Rail Authority was losing \$3 million a day. This brings us to the decision to order 14 double-deck intercity carriages at a cost of \$25 million. This contract was an exercise in mismanagement right from the start. The contract was planned for a fleet of 50 carriages, and there was much fanfare about new generation technology. However, the contract was not subject to open competitive tender. This was a feature of the previous Government's style of governing. The honourable member for Heffron made this a particular art form.

No call was made for tenderers. A call was made for a particular contract. The Sydney Harbour tunnel project is a case in point. In order to maintain employment at Comeng the contract was let at considerable cost to the taxpayer. That cost was \$25 million, which represented \$1.8 million for each carriage, far in excess of the amount of \$1.4 million for each carriage that had been determined in previous long-term contracts. This contract was one through which the taxpayers did not get good value for their money. No question was asked about whether this was the cost-effective way to go or whether we were getting value for money. It was simply a matter of continuing to spend and spend. The glossy train syndrome has never been more evident than in this decision. The previous Government, and particularly the present honourable member for Rockdale, wanted these inner city trains to look just like the Tangara, his favourite toy. We well remember the honourable member for Rockdale standing astride the Tangara. He announced developments with the Tangara every day of the week. This was at the cost of hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars, with coffee and croissants on the station, and television commercials aimed at promoting the new shape for the Tangara.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: The episode with the intercity carriages was even worse. At a cost of \$500,000 the Government was going to give the intercity trains the Tangara style of plastic nose. There was no practical or engineering justification for this extra expenditure. The Government thought it would look good. The honourable member for Rockdale thought it would look good. There was no other reason: it was simply because it looked good. The previous Government put cosmetic government ahead of real government. It was like the Detroit car

manufacturers of the 1950s who produced their gargoyles, fins, and so on, on the back of the De Soto de Ville's just so that they would look good. Here there was no relationship to the performance of the Tangara.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: The Tangara was a brand new train, but this was to be an intercity train which the honourable member for Rockdale decided to make seem right by putting on it a plastic nose.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Unsworth: On a point of order. I ask that the Minister for Transport withdraw that statement for I made no decision, either personal or otherwise, in respect of the intercity trains. I am offended by the implication of the Minister that I made a decision about them and communicated it to the State Rail Authority. I ask the Minister to withdraw the statement because he has no basis for the implication he has made.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not want to hear more on the point of order. Last week I gave a ruling on such matters and on that occasion dealt most severely with the honourable member for Broken Hill as a consequence. Though such matters would not normally require the withdrawal of that type of remark, I accept what has been said by the honourable member for Rockdale as a personal explanation. He is entitled to that. That is the correct context for dealing with the matter raised by the honourable member for Rockdale. I draw the attention of the Minister for Transport to the amount of time he has taken to deliver this answer, and I ask him to conclude as soon as possible.

Mr BAIRD: We draw this sad episode to a conclusion. The Labor Government had a fetish for glossy trains and continued to defend the poor performance of public transport. This Government will not carry forward that indulgence. This Government will ask for this program of the special plastic nose to be deleted, and in the process we shall save the taxpayers of New South Wales \$500,000 by removing an extravagance that was not needed.

[*Interruption*]

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

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: We are going to save the community eight or nine minutes travel from Gosford to the city in the intercity train, and 17 minutes from Newcastle. This Government is concerned with substantive issues—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: —and real government in New South Wales.

LIBERAL PARTY FUNDING OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

Mr MOSS: My question without notice is directed to the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs. Is the Premier aware that the returns of his party disclose that the Independent candidate for Canterbury, Victoria Papadakis, received \$1,812 in assistance from the New South Wales Liberal Party? In view of her failure to declare this assistance, what action will the Premier take under the Election Funding Act?

Mr GREINER: I am unaware of the first part of the information conveyed to me in the question. I assume that the second part of it is a matter for the Electoral Office and I am sure it will be drawn to its attention.

RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Miss FRASER: My question without notice is addressed to the Minister for Education. Is the Riverside girls home science school to be closed and, if so, when?

Dr Metherell: I ask the honourable member for Balmain to repeat the last part of her question, with the name of the school.

Miss FRASER: The name of the school is the Riverside girls home science school.

Dr METHERELL: I am not even sure that there is such a school as that to which the honourable member is referring me. I believe she described it as a home science school. I will have the matter looked into and given attention. If it is Riverside High School to which she refers, there are no plans to close that school.

CATO PUBLICITY

Mr WHELAN: I address my question without notice to the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs. Who paid for the services provided by the business called Cato Publicity during the recent State election campaign? Was your former staff member, Susan Cato, involved in Cato Publicity during that campaign? What action do you intend to take in respect of the breaches of various Acts, including the Business Names Act, with respect to that business?

Mr GREINER: In regard to the last part of the question, if there are any breaches, the honourable member for Ashfield could take action. I do not understand that part of the question.

Mr Whelan: You are the Minister—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Ashfield to order and ask him to listen to the answer.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr GREINER: The answer to the second part of the question is that I am unaware who paid for her services if she was providing services.

Later,

Mr GREINER: I wish to give a supplementary answer to a question asked earlier by the honourable member for Ashfield. I have been advised that the services of Cato Publicity during the recent State Elections were paid for by the Liberal Party. Miss Cato was never a member of my staff. She did some work on a contract basis for the Liberal Party. The answer that I gave to the final part of the honourable member's question remains the same.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATES

Mr RIXON: My question without notice is addressed to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning. Is he aware of numerous complaints of anomalies, inequities and administrative problems in the local government rating system inherited from the previous Government? What actions does the Government propose to address these problems?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before the Minister for Local Government and Planning answers the question, I draw his attention to its wide ambit and request that he answer the question briefly.

Mr HAY: In my usual style I shall certainly answer the question briefly. I thank the honourable member for Lismore for raising—

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HAY:—this very important subject, a matter of great concern to local government generally and certainly to the ratepayers of this State. It gives me pleasure to inform honourable members of the significant package of rates reform agreed to by Cabinet yesterday and to be introduced into the Parliament shortly. The Government is committed to a system of local government revenue raising which protects ratepayers from excessive increases and also promotes equity between ratepayers.

Mr Dowd: On a point of order. A conference is proceeding on the Opposition side. While the Minister is trying to answer the question, members are wandering up and down having some conference, with their backs to the Chair.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Dowd: It is patently obvious that it is deliberately orchestrated. If they wish to have a conference, they should go outside and not hold it in the Chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is the general custom of the House—

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Wyong will resume his seat while the Chair is addressing the House. It is the general practice of this House to allow only certain people to move round the Chamber during the course of business, other than for the purpose of entering or leaving the Chamber. Those persons are generally the Leader of the House and the shadow leader of the House, the Attorney-General—if he does not happen to be the Leader of the House—and the party whips. If honourable members wish to converse or to have conferences and gatherings of people unconnected with the business proceeding in this place, they should do so outside the Chamber.

Mr HAY: In the years since 1984 the Labor Government—

Mrs Crosio: On a point of order. Bearing in mind your ruling on my question addressed to the Minister yesterday, and the wide ambit of question 10 in *Questions and Answers* regarding any amendments to the Local Government Act, I put it to you that this question is out of order because all rate-pegging, rate structuring or costings are dealt with in the Local Government Act.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Smithfield is drawing rather too long a bow on this particular point of order. Her question yesterday related specifically to amendments to the Local Government Act. The question in the *Questions and Answers* paper was strictly about amendments to the Local Government Act. This is a question relating to revenue and the Government's actions on rate revenue. If I were to uphold the honourable member for Smithfield's point of order, it would mean that a member would only have to ask a question in similar form of the Minister responsible for each portfolio and there would be no question time.

Mr HAY: The honourable member for Smithfield has struck out three times in two days. As I said, since 1984 the Labor Government, through an exercise of political neglect, subverted any equity in the system of rate-pegging by requiring councils to continue to levy rates based on outdated land valuations. This is now 1988 and many of those valuations are in excess of ten years old. Consequently, the traditional relationship between property values and the level of rates has broken down completely. In recent years the average ratepayer in New South Wales has subsidized the rates of owners of properties which have enjoyed rapid increases in value. In fact, in many cases residents have been subsidizing the owners of commercial property. As well as being an administrative nightmare, the system of rate-pegging inherited by this Government is one which makes little sense to anyone, least of all the average ratepayers. If not properly reformed, the system was bound to become even more anomalous and even more administratively complicated. Yet, either due to a lack of political will or a lack of understanding, the previous Government did not make any effort to remedy the situation.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I call the honourable member for Smithfield to order.

Mr HAY: Under the legislative package to be introduced into Parliament shortly, from 1989 rates will be levied by councils on the basis of the most current valuations available. To implement this return to valuation-based rating, the maximum permissible increase of 6.5 per cent will apply to the total income that councils can derive from general purpose rates rather than individual rate assessments as in the past. This will mean that councils will be able to adjust the manner in which rates are gathered from individuals within their communities. It is recognized that some ratepayers will be faced with individual rate increases of greater than 6.5 per cent as a result of the return to valuation-based rating. However, such increases will relate to properties that have for some time been subsidized by other ratepayers. Properties subject to increases would include, for example, those that have had their zoning or use changed from residential to commercial but have continued to pay rates based on a valuation made when the property was in residential use—which was clearly anomalous.

To ensure that these changes do not cause any undue hardship, provision will be made for councils to waive, reduce or defer rates in certain circumstances. It is obvious that the return to current valuation as the basis for

rating is a significant equity measure. The package of rate reform to be introduced will include also a complete and much-needed overhaul of the system of pensioner rate rebates, to the benefit of both pensioners and local government. Under the system of pensioner rate rebates, as it was developed under the previous Government, a significant proportion of the funds set aside by the Government for rate relief for pensioners in New South Wales was swallowed up by a minority of councils operating voluntary rebate schemes. This provided a significant windfall for a small number of pensioners being within the few councils operating such schemes, at the expense of pensioners throughout the State. Under the legislative package to be introduced, as from 1989 onwards—

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr HAY: —the Government will increase the maximum mandatory rebate available to pensioners in respect of general purpose rates from \$175 to \$250. Furthermore, the full amount of mandatory concessions granted by councils will attract a 50 per cent government subsidy. This significant increase in the subsidy provided by the State will, in 1989, cost the Government an additional \$1.2 million over the funding allocated by the Opposition when in government last year.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning assured me his answer to the question would be brief. He has been talking for almost nine minutes. I rule that his answer is a ministerial statement, which he may conclude at the end of question time.

Miss KATE WENTWORTH

Mr HATTON: I direct a question without notice to the Attorney General. Why was Miss Kate Wentworth charged by the Crown as a vexatious litigant? Upon whose insistence was this done? In the light of His Honour Mr Justice Roden's detailed judgment in favour of Miss Wentworth, will the matter now be permitted to rest? If not, why not?

Mr DOWD: The decision to commence proceedings against Miss Wentworth—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I draw the attention of the honourable member for South Coast to question 178 in *Questions and Answers*. It seems to me to cover much of the material sought in the question he now asks the Attorney General. I am tempted to rule the question out of order.

Mr Hatton: Question 178 appearing in *Questions and Answers* refers to the necessity of a person to appeal to the High Court and the need for that person to be represented by counsel. It refers to persons who are impecunious being denied legal aid and therefore being denied the right to be represented. The question I now ask relates to vexatious litigant proceedings that have been dealt with and ruled upon. I submit that the question I now ask is entirely different from that which appears in *Questions and Answers*.

Mr SPEAKER: In view of the honourable member's explanation I shall allow the question.

Mr DOWD: It would be an appalling precedent for an Attorney General to disclose reasons for prosecutions. The reasons for prosecution and seeking to declare a person a vexatious litigant is a matter for the advisers of the Attorney General of the day. If proceedings were commenced by a predecessor of my office, it would be wrong of me to disclose his reasons, as it would be wrong to disclose my reasons, had I made such a decision to commence proceedings. The matter has been dealt with by the court and it would not be proper to canvass the court's ruling or the decision taken to commence the proceedings. There is an interesting view abroad that because proceedings have a certain result the validity of the decision to commence proceedings should be questioned. That is a completely invalid assumption. I do not wish to comment one way or the other about why a former Attorney General commenced the proceedings. They were commenced and the matter has been dealt with. The decision of the court should be respected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time for questions has expired. The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning may now conclude his ministerial statement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATES

Ministerial Statement

Mr HAY: As I mentioned earlier, the Government will spend a further \$1.2 million on pensioner rate subsidies in the coming year. It will also be funded by redirecting the subsidy at present available to those few councils operating voluntary rebate schemes to mandatory rebates to be operated by all councils. It is obvious that this measure will be of benefit to all pensioners. It is a significant equity measure and an expression of the Government's concern for pensioners in New South Wales. The third element of the Government's package of rate reform is the amendment of the rural rating provisions. Under the legislation to be introduced the definition of rural land will be revised to make it simpler, clearer, and more easily understood. The administrative and legal problems long associated with identifying the granting of rural rating concessions will, as a result of the significant reform, become a thing of the past.

I should like particularly to thank the Local Government and Shires Association, and Alderman Barry O'Keefe, Q.C., and Mr Bill Henningham and their colleagues, for their assistance, support and encouragement in the preparation of that legislation. The significant initiatives I have outlined will clearly result in a workable, more equitable rating system for New South Wales. I expect to introduce this fresh approach to rate reform to this Parliament in the near future so that 1989 will herald a fairer and more equitable era for the local government community and the ratepayers of New South Wales in particular.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

Mr DOWD (Lane Cove), Attorney General [3.15]: I move:

That the report on the future structure of higher education in New South Wales by the Office of Higher Education, dated September 1988, be referred to the Printing Committee for reconsideration.

Mr J. J. AQUILINA (Blacktown) [3.15]: The Opposition supports the motion, which was necessary because the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs did not get it right in the first place. He tabled the wrong report. The

Minister's office was informed that the report dated September 1988 was at variance with the report that was publicly distributed. The report should have been dated October 1988. It had dramatic consequences for the western Sydney university, or, as the Opposition will continue to call it, Chifley university.

Mr DOWD (Lane Cove), Attorney General [3.17], in reply: On behalf of the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs I thank the honourable member for Blacktown for the responsible way he has dealt with this matter and for bringing it to the attention of the Minister.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr DOWD (Lane Cove), Attorney General [3.18]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill has been drafted in keeping with the Government's election promises to effectively combat delays within the courts, increase the efficiency of the administration of the criminal justice system, and review and reform the law regarding various criminal offences. There are four main changes effected by this bill, all of them significant. The first is to abolish the common law offences of riot, rout and affray, and enact certain statutory offences. The second is to amend the law regarding the finding of *ex officio* indictments in relation to the offences of culpable driving and culpable navigation. Third, the bill will amend the law regarding common assault and other forms of assault and summary procedures in regard to these offences. Finally, the bill will create a new offence of car stealing with a penalty of 10 years' imprisonment and will increase other penalties for related offences.

Reform of the offences of riot, rout and affray is urgently needed. At present they are common law offences, and as such may only be dealt with on indictment, and carry maximum penalties of life imprisonment. They are offences relevant to public order but because of the onerous limitations imposed procedurally and substantively they are not often charged. For example, in 1985, 95 persons were charged with riot arising out of the Easter Bathurst motor cycle races. Considerable difficulties have arisen in the prosecution of these accused. The maximum penalty for the offences charged is life imprisonment, and there is a consequent inducement for a plea of not guilty. Additionally, the common law position is less settled than it could be if defined by statute. This has had an effect on the prosecution's ability to convince a jury about the guilt of an accused. Consequently several appeals have been made. The financial cost to the State has been enormous. Without mentioning specific cases, various of the committal proceedings are still pending.

In the United Kingdom the common law offences of riot and affray have been repealed and replaced with statutory offences. These reforms were based on a number of reports, including the "Law Commission Report on Criminal Law: Offences Relating to Public Order". The recommendations of the Law Commission in the United Kingdom sought to retain, for the greater part, the principal features of the structure and application of the common law offences while eliminating any uncertainties and anomalies. This bill will abolish the

common law offences of riot, rout and affray. Two new statutory offences of riot and affray are enacted. The offence of rout is not replaced. The common law offence of rout is similar to riot, but without the execution of the common purpose. The dividing line is vague between a rout, which is an act moving towards the execution of a common purpose, and a riot, which is an act done in execution of that purpose. In modern times, rout has not been charged as a separate offence, because a jury could convict a person of rout on an indictment for riot if the complete offence of riot was not proved.

The United Kingdom Public Order Act 1986 contains statutory offences of riot and affray. A separate offence of rout was considered unnecessary. The Law Commission took the view that the offence of rout was obsolete and recommended that it should be abolished and not replaced. I agree with this view and, accordingly, the offence is not replaced. The new offence of riot is found in new section 93B. For the offence to be committed, a group of at least 12 persons must use or threaten unlawful violence for a common purpose in a way that would arouse fear in a bystander of reasonable firmness. Each person in the group who intends to use such violence, or who is aware that his or her conduct may be violent, will be guilty of the offence.

The new offence of affray is found in new section 93C. Affray is similar to riot in that it involves the use of a threat of unlawful violence. However, it does not require the existence of a group, and a person who threatens violence without intending to use it may be guilty of the offence. This offence may be committed in private as well as in public places. If, for example, a fight breaks out in a private place between a number of people, some of whom spill out on to an adjacent road, it would be anomalous if only the latter were guilty of affray, even though the other elements of the affray were satisfied by all of the participants, and the serious fighting had actually occurred in the private place. The maximum penalty for riot will be 10 years' imprisonment. The maximum penalty for affray will be five years' imprisonment.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am sure that the Attorney General would be appreciative if Government members conducted their conversations outside the Chamber.

Mr DOWD: Both these offences are placed in section 476 of the Crimes Act 1900 to enable appropriate cases to be dealt with summarily. I shall not canvass the structure of that section but I ask honourable members considering that matter to look at the structure as it is crucial to much of the administration of criminal justice. The creation of these offences complements the new summary offence of violent disorder that I introduced as part of the Summary Offences Act 1988. As a result of these reforms, the law relating to public order has now been revised completely.

The next main reform the bill will achieve is to remedy an anomaly in relation to the offences of culpable driving and culpable navigation. At present, if an accused is discharged by a magistrate on a charge of culpable driving or culpable navigation and is then dealt with in a summary back-up charge, the indictable charges cannot be revived by way of *ex officio* indictment. In other matters either the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Attorney General may file an *ex officio* indictment in cases where, in his opinion, the matter ought to have been committed for trial. It is incongruous that in any case in which a defendant is discharged at a committal hearing for culpable driving or culpable navigation, the consideration of an *ex officio* indictment can be frustrated by a timely plea to, for example, negligent driving in the case of culpable driving.

The bill will amend the relevant sections of the Crimes Act 1900 to enable *ex officio* indictments to be found in appropriate cases.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I make a similar request that members of the Opposition not conduct conversations from a distance.

Mr DOWD: I am examining procedures to allow summary offences that are back-up charges to travel with indictable offences to perhaps solve some anomalies. The third main area of reform that this bill will achieve is to rationalize the law of assault. There has been increasing concern with the number of minor assault matters, particularly domestic matters, going to the District Court for trial. This results in a waste of court time and resources. Often a committal leads to a no bill application which wastes time and resources and the matter does not then go before a jury. The bill will repeal the summary offences of common assault in section 493, and aggravated assault in section 494. These sections provided for offences similar to the indictable offences contained in section 58, assault with intent to commit a felony on certain officers, and section 61, indictable common assault.

Accordingly, the bill provides that these indictable offences will be able to be dealt with summarily without the consent of the accused. The existing indictable offences found in section 56, obstructing a clergyman in the discharge of his duties, and section 59, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, will also be able to be dealt with summarily without the consent of the accused. The maximum penalty that may be imposed if an offence against section 56 or 61 of the Act is dealt with summarily under the new section is imprisonment for 12 months, or a fine of \$1,000, or both. The maximum penalty that may be imposed where an offence against section 58 or section 59 of the Act is dealt with summarily under the new section, is imprisonment for two years, or a fine of \$5,000, or both. As it is now possible to deal with these offences summarily without the consent of the accused, they are removed from section 476 of the Crimes Act 1900. This reform will prevent accused persons from manipulating the system and causing delays by opting to have their matters dealt with in the District Court. The magistrate can still in an appropriate case—and this is an important part of the structure—remit the matter to the District Court. The offence of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm will, of course, still be dealt with under the present Crimes Act.

The bill will also revise the maximum penalty for an offence under section 58, assault with intent to commit felony on certain officers, by increasing the penalty from two years to five years. This reform of the law of assault was much needed. A more rational scheme is provided. The final major reform the bill will achieve is to create a new offence of car stealing. The creation of this offence implements an election promise. At present, car stealing is charged under the general larceny provision, section 117 of the Crimes Act 1900. Larceny carries a penalty of five years' imprisonment. The new offence of car stealing found in section 154AA will carry a penalty of 10 years' imprisonment. This offence will also be placed in section 476 of the Crimes Act 1900 to enable appropriate cases to be dealt with summarily.

Car stealing offences range from the most minimal, which may be only a technical car stealing, to the maximum, which may be the stealing of a motor vehicle worth considerably more than an average domestic dwelling, and obviously attract a complete range of penalties. The new penalty of 10 years' imprisonment is a 100 per cent increase in the present penalty. The 10-year level ensures that the penalty, though being increased greatly, remains consistent

with the sentencing regime of the Crimes Act 1900. It is important to separate the seriousness of that form of behaviour—that is stealing—from the behaviour of those who, knowing that the car has been taken without the owner's consent, drive it or allow themselves to be driven in it or who take the car with the intention of abandoning it later. This type of offence is commonly known as joyriding—a most unfortunate term. The intention to permanently deprive the owner of the vehicle does not have to be proved. It is necessary, therefore, to retain a separate offence for this category of offenders. That is done in section 154A and it will continue to carry a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. There is a summary offence in section 526A of the Crimes Act 1900 in similar terms to section 154A. The existing maximum available penalty is 12 months' imprisonment, or a fine of \$1,000, or both. To ensure our strategy in this area is consistent, the maximum penalty will be increased to a fine of \$5,000 and or imprisonment for two years.

There also exists in the Motor Traffic Act 1909 an offence of illegal use of a motor vehicle. The concept of use in this section is wider than in the Crimes Act 1900 and includes sleeping in a car without an owner's consent and various other minor interferences, or doing other more inelegant things in a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. It is a relevant charging alternative for a police officer faced with a less serious transgression. The existing penalty is a fine of \$500. This will be increased to \$2,000. This package of reform achieves a number of significant measures that will enhance considerably the efficiency of the criminal justice system in New South Wales. A number of key problems have been identified and addressed. Again, the Government has moved swiftly to reform the criminal law where reform is required. The favourable impact of this legislation on the system as a whole will no doubt be quickly felt. I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned on motion by **Mr Whelan**.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN TRUST (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr T. J. MOORE (Gordon), Minister for Environment and Assistant Minister for Transport [3.30]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

In early 1942, the Commonwealth Department of the Interior, through the State war effort co-ordination committee, made a request to the trustees of the domain for the right to use certain land at Woolloomooloo under their control for the purpose of installing two underground oil storage tanks for the use of the navy. The land in question lies adjacent to the Finger Wharf between Mrs Macquarie's Road and Lincoln Crescent. In order not to impede the war effort, this request was granted, the tanks were duly installed and the surface of the area was restored to make it available, as far as practicable, for public use.

The Commonwealth has continued to use the fuel oil storage facilities up to the present time. However, in 1987, the Prime Minister indicated in correspondence with the former Premier that the facilities are no longer required for naval purposes and that the Commonwealth intends to return the land to the care, control and management of the State. The Royal Botanic Gardens and

Domain Trust Act 1980 contains a provision that the subject land may be leased to the Commonwealth as follows:

For the purposes of, or for purposes connected with, the operation and maintenance by the Commonwealth of the fuel oil installations constructed on part of that land before the commencement of the Domain Leasing Act 1961 . . .

No such lease was ever executed. However, given the Commonwealth's expressed intention to vacate the site, it is proposed to amend the principal Act to repeal reference to lease of the land to the Commonwealth for purposes of the fuel oil installations and to substitute a provision enabling the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust to lease the subsurface, in which the oil tanks are presently installed, for underground car parking or such other purpose as may be approved by the Governor on the trust's recommendation. In addition, the bill provides that the trust will ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the surface area above any land leased by the trust will remain available for use as open public space or other purposes for which the trust may use land in accordance with the principal Act. I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned on motion by **Mr Rogan**.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [3.33]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The main object of this legislation is to amend the Motor Vehicles Taxation Management Act to provide for a concession on motor vehicles tax for vehicles used for school student driver education. The amendment will allow for reduced costs of vehicle registration charges on motor vehicles used by secondary schools for educating young people to develop better driving skills. The establishment of a student driver education scheme will augment the Government's school road safety program, which was launched in June of this year. The Traffic Authority, in close co-operation with the Department of Education, has developed a comprehensive road safety program that addresses a wide scope of road safety aspects for children from pre-school age right through to secondary school students. School student driver education schemes will complement that program.

At present about one in six secondary schools in the State provides some form of school student driver education. These schools are making a contribution to road safety. A reduction in registration charges for the vehicles that they use will encourage more secondary schools to introduce driver education schemes. In the longer term these schemes will contribute to achieving a better standard of driving by the community generally. The cost to the Government will not be significant. The major consideration in this proposal is safety: to encourage a generation of safer road users. The legislation provides also for the continued allowance of a concessional rate of tax on motor vehicles owned by police-citizens' youth clubs. This concession has been administratively allowed for more than 40 years. I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned on motion by **Mr Brereton**.

MOTOR TRAFFIC (DRIVING HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [3.37]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The object of this legislation is to amend the Motor Traffic Act; to repeal the current hours of driving requirements for heavy vehicles; and to provide for revised driving hours to give effect to an agreement with Victorian and Queensland transport authorities, which has been endorsed by the Australian Transport Advisory Council. The amendment will allow driving hours to be introduced by regulation, which is consistent with other aspects of traffic legislation. The Motor Traffic Act and regulations are arranged so that, except for major offences such as drink-driving, details of requirements for drivers, vehicles and vehicle operators are set out in the regulations. This concept permits the better implementation of the provisions of the Act. The present inclusion in the Act of specific details regarding permitted driving hours is inconsistent with the purpose of the arrangement of the Motor Traffic Act.

Drivers engaged in interstate transport work very long hours, and driving hours requirements clearly need to be as uniform as is possible among the different States. The present driving hours requirements were introduced in 1952. These requirements had not been reviewed until late 1987. After 35 years there were concerns in all States that the requirements were inconsistent with present needs, and they were reviewed nationally. The review resulted in a recommendation that Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales should introduce a uniform hours of driving package. The agreement for a uniform east coast hours of driving package was reached at the Australian Transport Advisory Council's meeting in December 1987. The New South Wales representative and chairman of that meeting was the former Minister for Transport, Mr Sheahan.

At present, drivers of heavy vehicles are exempted from hours of driving requirements where their journey takes them less than 80 kilometres from the vehicle's depot. This exemption will be repealed. How far the vehicle travels from its depot is not a factor contributing to fatigue. Drivers can get just as tired making many short journeys as they can on a long journey that takes the same time. Drivers on journeys within areas near Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong will become subject to hours of driving requirements. This will not mean an extension of the hours of driving requirements to all drivers of the relatively small delivery vehicles that operate in metropolitan areas. The hours restrictions will apply only in relation to vehicles whose recommended maximum laden weight is more than 12 tonnes. This is an increase from the old criterion of two tonnes unladen. The changes in driving hours requirements include an increase in maximum daily driving hours from 12 hours to 15 hours. This is to be accompanied by requirements for longer and more regular rest periods.

At present drivers are required to have five consecutive hours of rest in the 24 hours preceding driving. Under the revised arrangements drivers will be required to have nine hours rest, including a continuous period of not less than six hours in the preceding 24 hours. Under the current arrangements drivers may drive for 12 days in a row, so long as they then have two days off. In the revised package drivers will be required to have one continuous period of 24

hours rest within the seven days prior to driving. Under the present requirements a driver of a heavy vehicle could drive for as much as 84 hours in a week. The revised package will limit weekly driving to 75 hours. A shortcoming of the current arrangements regarding driving hours is that the enforcement system is not as effective as it should be.

At present officials from all State and Territory authorities are completing the development of a new enforcement system. The new system will include a logbook that is written in plain English and simple to complete. A logbook will only be issued in the State where the driver's licence was issued. This is to prevent drivers having several logbooks by obtaining them from other States. Information about logbook issue and driving hours offences will be shared between States. It is planned that drivers obtaining or using multiple logbooks will have their logbooks cancelled. Better compliance with driving hours requirements will result from improved arrangements for enforcement. Also it is expected that better compliance will result from the fact that the new driving hours requirements more realistically reflect conditions and practices in the road transport industry. The effects of the planned changes to hours requirements will be properly monitored—in particular the effects on safety. This monitoring may indicate the need for further changes. Any required changes can then be readily implemented by regulations, which will be possible as a result of the legislation which is before the House. I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned on motion by **Mr Brereton**.

MOTOR TRAFFIC (PENALTY DEFAULTS) AMENDMENT BILL
TRANSPORT (PENALTY DEFAULTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Bills introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [3.43]: I move:

That these bills be now read a second time.

The object of the proposed legislation before the House is to amend the Motor Traffic Act to remove an inappropriate provision which, in some cases, impedes the application of penalty default sanctions, and to amend both the Motor Traffic Act and the Transport Act to clarify the fact that all monetary components of court-imposed penalties are to be included in the determined amount in default. The penalty default legislation introduced last year includes reference to the laying of an information among several prerequisites to the issue of cancellation notices as a sanction against the non-payment of traffic or parking penalties. The clause concerned mirrors a provision of the Justices Act, which applies only to matters dealt with by the courts and was inappropriately included in that section of the Motor Traffic Act which relates specifically to enforcement by infringement notices. In short, as informations are not laid in respect of infringement notices the clause is both unnecessary and irrelevant. It also significantly impedes the effective administration of default cancellations.

Unless repealed, the offending clause will preclude the issue of cancellation notices in all cases where the offence occurred more than six months previously. Consequently, licence or registration cancellation cannot be taken in respect of the considerable backlog of traffic and parking infringements that have already proceeded to commitment warrant and remain unpaid. This

unnecessary constraint prevents also the imposition of cancellations on those defaulters who have received several months additional time to pay, because of the initial moratorium on cancellations, and who have still failed to meet their obligations. Progress of the scheme is being closely monitored and I am pleased to announce that by the end of September, more than \$4 million in previously unpaid penalties had been collected. About 130,000 notices of intended cancellation had been issued at that time, with an invoiced value of \$7 million. The recovery rate has climbed from 37.5 per cent in February—March, when the first notices were issued, to an encouraging 57.1 per cent in September. Furthermore, police have advised of an improvement in the early payment of traffic and parking penalties generally. Clearly, the sanctions are having the desired effect.

However, the anomaly in the present legislation will limit the effectiveness of the scheme, despite the early success. If that success is to continue, it is imperative that the public's perception of cancellation sanctions as a flawless enforcement measure be maintained. The proposed amendment will remedy the situation and enable the Government to reduce the present unacceptable backlog of longstanding traffic and parking penalty defaults. The other amendments to the Motor Traffic Act and the Transport Act are in respect of those monetary components of court-imposed penalties other than a fine or costs. These minor amendments will remove any doubt that elements of court-imposed penalties such as witnesses' expenses or compensation awards are valid grounds, if unpaid, for penalty default cancellation sanctions. I am confident that the proposed amendments will enhance the effectiveness of the penalty default scheme, and I commend the bills.

Debate adjourned on motion by **Mr Brereton**.

MOTOR TRAFFIC (BLOOD SAMPLES) AMENDMENT BILL

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [3.50]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The legislation before the House will enable the analysis of blood samples taken in hospitals in a bordering State or Territory, from victims of road accidents which occur in New South Wales, to be used for evidentiary purposes in drink-drive prosecutions in this State. It is also proposed to ensure that the existing indemnity provisions of the Motor Traffic Act provide indemnity for a medical practitioner in New South Wales taking a blood sample from a person injured in a road accident, irrespective of the jurisdiction in which the accident occurred. The proposed amendments will provide that a certificate issued by a doctor or analyst engaged in the taking or analysis of a blood sample in accordance with a provision of the legislation of another State or Territory, which substantially corresponds with the drink-driving provisions of the Motor Traffic Act, shall be admissible evidence in a drink-drive prosecution in this State. The legislation will also leave no doubt that the existing indemnity provisions for doctors in New South Wales taking blood samples from accident victims apply, irrespective of the jurisdiction in which the accident occurred.

Honourable members will be aware of the need for the Government to use every reasonable and available means to reduce the needless carnage on our roads. They will also be aware of the significant role that alcohol plays in traffic accidents. The Government is not acting unilaterally in introducing these legislative changes, which will increase the chances of drinking drivers facing legal proceedings. Consensus for the proposal was reached by a national committee, convened under the auspices of the Australian Transport Advisory Council, to examine measures to overcome current difficulties with drink-driving prosecutions where a road user, injured in a traffic accident in New South Wales, is treated at a hospital in another State or Territory.

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that adoption by all jurisdictions of a uniform policy in this regard would go a long way towards eliminating the difficulties being experienced. In so far as New South Wales is concerned, the amending legislation will enable the acceptance in this State of samples taken in Victoria, which has a compulsory blood testing program in hospitals, and also in Queensland, where a police officer may require a sample to be taken. New South Wales police at several locations along the Queensland border have been appointed as special constables in that jurisdiction and, as such, could accompany road accident victims to a Queensland hospital to request the taking of a blood sample. A certificate of a person's blood alcohol content will be accepted as evidence irrespective of whether the analysis is carried out in the other jurisdiction, and in accordance with its law, or at the New South Wales Department of Health's division of analytical laboratories at Lidcombe.

Honourable members may be aware that legislation along similar lines has recently been introduced in Victoria. Unfortunately, the amendment proposed will not completely resolve the present difficulty with the Australian Capital Territory because the taking of a blood sample from a person in that jurisdiction currently requires the consent of the person concerned, and the federal Government has declined to remedy that situation. However, any blood samples voluntarily supplied in the Australian Capital Territory will now be admissible evidence in New South Wales. As mentioned earlier, the legislation will now also make it clear that the existing indemnity provisions for doctors in New South Wales apply, irrespective of the jurisdiction in which the accident occurred. The New South Wales branch of the Australian Medical Association sought clarification of the effect of section 4F of the Motor Traffic Act concerning the provision of indemnity for doctors taking blood samples from persons transported to New South Wales hospitals following road accidents in bordering jurisdictions. The branch expressed concern that the protective legislation may apply only in respect of accidents which occur within New South Wales and that a doctor could be liable for assault if a blood sample were taken from a victim of an accident which occurred in another State.

This matter was also considered by the national committee I mentioned earlier and it is proposed that a simple amendment to the existing legislation be made to clarify that the indemnity applies in all cases irrespective of the location of the accident. I am sure honourable members will fully appreciate the importance of establishing effective drink-driving enforcement procedures, supported by appropriate legislation. The proposals I have outlined are evidence of the Government's continuing commitment to lowering the road toll and to removing the drinking driver from our roads. I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned on motion by **Mr Brereton**.

**CHILDREN (CARE AND PROTECTION) FURTHER AMENDMENT
BILL**

Bill received and read a first time.

DARLING HARBOUR AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

In Committee

Consideration of Legislative Council's amendment.

Amendment referred to in Legislative Council's message

*Page 2, clause 7, lines 33 and 34. Omit "accommodated within the Development Area".
insert instead "re-accommodated with minimal reduction in stall size, level with Hay
Street throughout that site and with adequate vehicle access points".*

Mr HAY (Manly), Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning [3.54]: I move:

That the Committee agree to the Legislative Council's amendment.

Mr DOYLE (Peats) [3.54]: The Opposition regards the amendment moved in the other place as being largely superfluous in that it simply restates, in different words, the fairly clear and specifically stated objectives outlined by the Opposition and the Government. As such, this amendment bears all the hallmarks of grandstanding and jumping on the bandwagon in order to gain publicity, for which the minor parties elsewhere have become notable. The Government has acted responsibly in this matter. In its short term of office this is probably the first issue of a planning or heritage nature in which the Government can be regarded as having acted in any way that could be construed as even remotely competent. If the Government is willing to accept the amendment moved in the other place, the Opposition has no objection.

Ms MOORE (Bligh) [3.55]: I support the amendment, but I should like to add that I do not believe that this is grandstanding at all. If this amendment had not been accepted by the Government, a great deception would have been perpetrated on the stallholders. A clear outline of how they are to be accommodated was necessary if the bill was to achieve for the stallholders even the little that will be achieved.

Mr HAY (Manly), Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning [3.56]: I thank the honourable member for Peats for his comments in leading for the Opposition in this debate. I agree with what he has said about the amendment. The amendment moved in the upper House does nothing more than reflect the intention of the Government and the Opposition in the debate in this place. As the amendment spells out clearly the intentions of both the Government and the Opposition we have no objection to it. I thank the honourable member for Peats for his support. At least the debate on the adoption of the amendment in the other House brought light banter, which I am sure we all enjoy. We were able to discover some of the interests of members of the upper House. The Government supports the bill, with the amendment from the Legislative Council.

Motion agreed to.

Legislative Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolution reported from Committee and report adopted.

FIRE BRIGADES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 18th October.

Mr AMERY (Riverstone) [3.58]: I lead for the Opposition on this bill. As was emphasized by the shadow minister in the other place, the Opposition in this House will support this bill, though with a number of reservations. The Minister in the Legislative Council said that one of the principal reasons for the formation of this legislation was to improve the method of receiving calculations or contributions from local government which amount to 12.5 per cent of the total running costs of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The formula for running the board is that 75 per cent of its funds come from the insurance industry—a substantial contribution from that source. The State Government provides 12.5 per cent, and local government also provides 12.5 per cent.

The problem has arisen as to where contributions came from in local government areas; they often overlap a number of fire districts. There are some six areas where local government has more than one fire district. That is the reason for bringing forward the change in these calculations. The Opposition supports the change in the calculation. Labor can take some credit for the change proposed in this legislation. I shall substantiate what I am saying by referring to a document published by the former Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Peter Anderson. The document was prepared in July 1985. At page 20 he said:

Many concerns have been expressed by local government in relation to the effect of land revaluations on the contributions payable by local councils to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Hon. K. G. Booth, M.P., Treasurer, has now established a Working Party to consider this issue. The Working Party consists of representatives of the Treasury, Environment and Planning and the office of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

For that it is clear that as far back as 1985 the Labor Government had received representations in regard to this matter and was establishing a working party to formulate a solution to it. This legislation is obviously the aftermath of that early work by the previous Labor Government. *Hansard* records a number of speeches on this bill dealing with the break-up of the contributions of the 75, 12.5, 12.5 formula. The 1986 annual report indicates that the New South Wales Government's contribution was \$15.305 million. The insurance companies put in \$91.831 million and local government \$15.305 million, and other miscellaneous sources \$6.2 million. The Board of Fire Commissioners operates on a large budget, and the insurance industry contributes a substantial amount of the funding for that budget. I return to the achievements of the previous Labor Government in bringing forward a number of proposals in this bill. The report of the former Minister indicated that the annual budget of the board had increased from \$35 million in 1976 under the previous coalition Government to an estimated \$114 million three years ago.

Mr Dowd On a point of order. On two occasions the honourable member has referred to and read from an unidentified report. It may be an important report, and the matter may be of great moment to him. However, members should make their own contributions to parliamentary debate and not read material which could probably be found in a library or readily obtained from some other source. If the honourable member makes passing reference to a report, he should identify it. If he is not making a passing reference to a report, he ought to make his own speeches rather than talk about some matter of ancient history or a matter that happened three years ago.

Mr Amery: On the point of order. Obviously the Attorney General has been distracted by his other duties. It is obvious from the notes in front of me that I have been making a passing reference to a number of reports. Most of my contributions have been made from notes I made on a pad. If the Attorney General had concentrated on what I was saying, and how I presented this to the House, he would not have raised the point of order.

Mr Dowd: Further to the point of order. I have not missed one of the pearls cast by the honourable member. My point of order is not that he is not referring to his notes—which clearly he is—but that twice he has referred to one or two reports. The House should be apprised of the document to which he is referring, when it was published or will be published, and what it is. That is my point of order; not that he is not making reference to his own notes.

Mr Amery: Further to the point of order. I identified the document. I am sure that tomorrow the *Hansard* record will record that. Early in my speech I identified the document as outlining the achievements and initiatives of the Labor Government in 1976 and 1985, prepared by the Hon. Peter Anderson, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in July 1985.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is certainly pertinent for members to refer to documents and to canvass them in their speeches. However, it is generally not acceptable for them to quote long passages from any document. The safer way for a member to deal with documentation is to paraphrase, rather than read long sections of it. The problem with reading long sections is that that allows someone outside the Chamber to take over the role of the member who is speaking. The honourable member for Riverstone has clearly indicated that he understands the rules. I ask him, in future, if he wishes to refer to more than one or two lines, to use the paraphrasing method. That will ensure that he keeps within the guidelines.

Mr AMERY: The previous Labor Government substantially increased the allocation to the Board of Fire Commissioners. That is a record of which the Opposition is proud. Another purpose of the bill is to down-grade the role of the Deputy President of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Opposition accepts that the recently elected Government has the right to determine whether senior officers within its departments should work either full-time or part-time. Under the Labor Government, the Deputy President of the Board of Fire Commissioners was elevated from his previous part-time position to a permanent position. The Opposition does not intend to take any action about that. It accepts the Government's decision. However, I see it as a symbolic and backward move by this Government, which contrasts to the high priority that the former Government placed on the Board of Fire Commissioners. Honourable members of this House, and I am sure honourable members of the other place, will note that other emergency services in the State, and I mention the police force, does not have part-time members as senior officers. It is disappointing that this position has been down-graded by the Government.

The Opposition does not support the concept of applying the user-pays principle to the advice and services given by the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Minister for Police said that he feels it quite appropriate that wealthy architects, to use his term, should be charged for the advice given by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Wealthy architects and builders of the large buildings round Sydney would, by law, have to approach the Board of Fire Commissioners to obtain clearances and advice on the appropriate fire prevention measures to be adopted in those buildings. The user-pays concept means that the architect or the builder will pay for such services that were

previously provided free of charge by the Board of Fire Commissioners. We do not agree with applying the user-pays concept to emergency services like the Board of Fire Commissioners.

In his comments about wealthy architects the Minister suggested that the builder or the architect is the main beneficiary of the services. All members would agree that the main beneficiary of safe building is the public, and the public should be able to expect that one of its emergency services will provide the advice and back-up service to ensure that buildings are safe for the public to use. A contrary system would only add further to the cost of buildings. As a matter of principle it is a shame that the Government considers that the only beneficiaries of safe buildings are the architects and builders. The Opposition does not agree with that.

In his second reading speech the Minister in the other place said that the fee for services supplied would apply to all profit-making organizations. That raises an interesting matter. Privately-operated child care services will be liable, according to the Minister, to pay for services provided by the board. Obviously the beneficiaries of child care centres are not the architects or the builders of the centres. The beneficiaries would be those who use the centre. This is yet another retrograde and uncaring step by the Government to implement the user-pays principle. The Opposition did not invent that argument; the Minister in the other place raised that objectionable matter. The bill seeks to clarify the issue of which officer would be in charge at a fire. At present the responsibility rests with the senior ranking officer at the scene of a fire irrespective of whether a more junior officer was in charge for some time prior to the arrival at the scene of that more senior ranking officer. Should a more senior officer of the brigade arrive at the scene of a fire in a supervisory or other capacity, automatically responsibility for that fire situation passes to the senior officer. The proposal is a well-intentioned move on the part of the Government to correct this anomaly.

The New South Wales Fire Brigade Employees Union expressed some concerns about this aspect in a letter to the Hon. R. D. Dyer, M.L.C., which letter was incorporated in *Hansard* in another place. The union requests that the wording of the amendment be changed or that it be withdrawn for further consideration. As honourable members realize, the scene of any fire is a dangerous situation and the actions of the officer-in-charge at that scene are often the subject of probing investigations by the coroner and other tribunals. The Government intends that the more junior officer continue to have responsibility for the fire even though a more senior ranking officer is present. The bill provides for the delegating of responsibility by a senior officer to a less senior officer. I hope that the instructions received from the Board of Fire Commissioners set out clearly the authority of that senior officer to delegate responsibility. The Minister's assertion in the other place that the delegation does not have to be in writing raises a problem.

If an investigation into a fire were to be conducted and a senior officer's actions were questioned, it would be easy for that senior officer to say that he had delegated responsibility in the matter to a junior officer. Unless some proof was available, by way of documentation or oral evidence, a dispute could arise between the two officers concerned. The Opposition suggests that if the union's concerns cannot be addressed, at least the Government should ensure that the board makes it clear just how responsibility to a less senior officer should be delegated. The Opposition will not move for amendments to be made to the bill, but seeks to have the matters I have referred to recorded. I hope that the Government will ensure that regulations or instructions about the delegation of

responsibility are carefully considered before the bill is enacted. I support the bill.

Mr RUMBLE (Illawarra) [4.15]: The Opposition supports this bill, but it has some reservations about it. Although no reasons have been given, the position of Deputy President of the Board of Fire Commissioners will revert from a full-time position to a part-time position. The position was created in 1970 as a part-time position and remained so until 1983 when it was made a full-time position. The Government has decided that the position should now be part time and the Opposition does not oppose that proposal. The Government intends to overhaul the method of the valuation of properties within fire districts. The sources of revenue for expenditure by the Board of Fire Commissioners are made up as follows: 75 per cent from the insurance industry by way of a brigade levy on insurance policies; 12.5 per cent from the State Government; and 12.5 per cent from local government.

Principally the bill affects contributions from local government in respect of fire districts that overlap more than one local government area. Within the Sydney fire district in the three years from 1986 to 1988 contributions fluctuated from minus 6.19 per cent in the first year, to an increase of 78.39 per cent in the second year and an increase of 1.61 per cent in 1988. The intention of the Government is to obtain each year from the Valuer-General estimates of land values and rateable properties within fire districts. The estimates will reflect current market values of land within fire districts that comprise more than one local government area. The Opposition supports this proposal, which will have the effect of producing more stable property valuations arrived at in essentially the same way as are valuations for land tax purposes.

A matter of concern to the Opposition is the Government's intention to authorize the board to charge for furnishing fire protection advice to the building and construction industry, for the inspection of hospitals and child care facilities, and for conducting fire prevention courses. The Government intends that the charge will place the board on a more business-like footing. In reality, the measure is but a further example of the Liberal Party's policy of user pays. Though the Opposition will not vote against the bill, the public should be mindful of the actions of the Greiner Government in this regard. Item (13) of schedule 1 to the bill seeks to amend section 29 of the principal Act, which specifies the powers of the chief officer and other officers attending a fire. The basis for the change may be found in the following example: if a fire is being brought under control by a particular officer and a more senior officer arrives at the scene, the control of the firefighting operations will rest with the more junior officer who was at the scene first and had assumed control of the situation. The Opposition does not oppose that proposition providing proper records of the delegation of any authority are kept.

I am advised that on 10th October the New South Wales Fire Brigade Employees Union was not aware of this proposed legislation. In other words, the union that represents those who will be vitally affected by these amendments was not consulted by the Government. This action of this North Shore Government is hardly surprising. The Opposition supports the Government's proposal for the delegation of authority provided that the decision to delegate is relayed immediately to control upon the arrival of the more senior officer at the scene. The delegation must be clearly noted and recorded in the event of subsequent coronial inquiry, to establish the circumstances of the delegation of authority as authorized by this bill. I support the bill.

Mr DOWD (Lane Cove), Attorney General [4.19], in reply: I thank the honourable member for Riverstone and the honourable member for Illawarra for their support of the bill. I realize, having regard to the importance of various aspects of this legislation, that many members, both from the Government and the Opposition side of the House, would have liked to participate in the debate. However, as it is important for this legislation to be passed as soon as possible, many members did not contribute to the debate; and it is right and proper that the record shows that the lack of contributions from members does not reflect the lack of care of either the Government or the Opposition.

I wish to mention certain matters in reply. The honourable member spoke of the "you beaut" achievement of the previous Government in setting up a working party in 1985. The Opposition should not raise that matter as it underlines how inertial forces applied for about three years. It is easy to set up a working party; it is not so easy to draft legislation and actually do something. The Opposition should be ashamed that, in an important area such as this, members of the working party sat on their hands. There is little evidence that they actually worked. One can set up as many working parties as one likes, but this Government introduced the bill. It is extraordinary that the Opposition criticizes the bill, claiming that it will down-grade the office of Deputy President of the Board of Fire Commissioners; but for 10 months under the former Labor Government the position was vacant. The duties of the position were so onerous, and the former Government was so concerned, that the position was not filled.

I realize that the Opposition is being opportunistic—that is a trait of some oppositions. But it is silly to say, "Shock, horror, the Government is down-grading the position of Deputy President of the Board of Fire Commissioners" when the former Government did not even bother to fill the post. This issue calls for sensible comments. Because a position is filled on a full-time basis it does not necessarily mean that that is essential. An appraisal of the duties of the office of deputy president makes it clear that a full-time appointee is not necessary. In any case, it is assumed that the Opposition supports the amendment as it has not opposed it. If the working party had been working, one would have expected some results.

Mr Amery: They are before the House now.

Mr DOWD: The results are before the House because this Government took that action. If a working party existed, it should have worked. On the question of emergency services and consultants obtaining advice, local government supervisors have responsibilities on public safety matters. In many cases, it is part of the development costs. The Government provides many services and advice on safety. Most of these things are done with a view to profit—which is laudable—and for the public benefit; but there is a limit to the extent to which governments can continue providing services. That is why this State has a deficit of around \$46 billion. If people can afford to pay for our services, they should do so. To say that child care centres exist for the protection of children—

Mr Amery: The Minister in the other place said that.

Mr DOWD: Many child care centres exist because the operators want to make a profit. That is a laudable motive. But to maintain that the centres should be provided with free advice is another matter. The centres must obtain advice from architects and construction engineers, and on matters such as local government planning and financing. There is no reason why the Government should subsidize those activities. Of course the Government wants child care

centres to have proper advice, but local government and child welfare authorities cover that field. The question is whether the centres should be given free advice or should pay for it. Unless there is some concept of economic responsibility in this State, we face a serious situation.

Understandably, the Fire Brigade Employees Union raised concern about the question of responsibility at the site of a fire. One needs little imagination to picture a crisis situation where a senior officer arrives on the scene. Though a junior officer may be in control and have instituted certain procedures, it would be appalling if he had to leave the scene to brief the senior officer who may be there simply to check certain matters or have been called in to advise as he had specific technical expertise. It would be manifestly inappropriate to have an automatic change of command at that stage. If no formal handing over of control takes place, questions of responsibility arise; more important, questions of confusion arise. As stated in another place, this position will be dealt with by giving clear instructions. Records will be kept of who was responsible at a particular time, but surely it is not necessary to ask, "Who is responsible? Am I, or is someone else?"

Emergencies should be handled by a proper chain of command. The honourable member for Riverstone, as a former member of a paramilitary service, would understand that. Proper structures must exist in emergency situations. This can be done by clear instructions being given. However, the Government does not want to see disruption caused by some doubt about who is in authority. That is why the discretion is necessary. Many honourable members would have liked to participate in the debate on this bill. I thank the Opposition for its support for the legislation so that the important matters in the bill can be brought into law during a time of potential serious bushfires in this State.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time and passed through remaining stages.

BILLS RETURNED

The following bills were returned from the Legislative Council without amendment:

- Constitution (Governor's Salary) Amendment Bill
- Industrial Arbitration (Adjustment of Awards) Amendment Bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL

In Committee

Consideration resumed from 18th October.

Clause 12

[Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism]

Mr K. G. BOOTH (Wallsend) [4.28]: I wish to speak on this clause dealing with the operations of the State Lotteries Office which has been in existence since the 1930s. Over those years it has stood the test of time and has been very lucrative for all governments. Everyone has a vested interest in the continued successful operations of the State Lotteries Office. To ensure that those operations were conducted efficiently, the previous Government

established a management and audit division. Part of that division's duties was to conduct an efficiency audit into the State Lotteries Office, only one of many audits arranged by the previous Government to attempt to improve the efficiency of many government operations.

Though the audit report is available to the Government, unfortunately it is not the Government's policy to provide it to the Opposition. I believe that the report recommends the closure of nine lottery ticket selling branches, and that agencies should fill the selling void that will result from those closures. Throughout its history the State Lotteries Office has stood the test of time; but never before has it been under such a threat as at present. That threat has come from the introduction and recent changes to Lotto, the introduction and many refinements to the Totalizer Agency Board, the installation of amusement devices in hotels and progressive poker machine jackpot links and other incentives for clubs; and keno. Together they represent a grave threat to the operation of the lotteries office.

Over the years that threat has been acknowledged. The previous Government introduced instant lotteries, under the control of the State Lotteries Office, because it considered that instant lotteries would bolster the operations of the office. The lottery office's advertising budget was increased to allow it to compete with the various new gambling devices. Recently the State Lotteries Office adopted an on-line lottery system. Given all those threats, if the Government is contemplating closing down branches—though I do not understand why it would—this is certainly not the time to do so. I understand that no decision has been made and that consultations are continuing with the Public Service Association; but I impress upon the Chief Secretary that, because of the circumstances I have mentioned, the branches should not be under the threat of closure. That threat is undermining their operation, and the sooner a decision is made the better.

In spite of the efficiency audit's recommendation, I do not believe it castigated the branches. The branches are efficient, and I do not believe that efficiency is in question. Their skill, speed of operations, understanding of customer needs, and ability to service large numbers of the public indicate that they fulfil a worthwhile role within the community. The existence of the branch network, at which draw lottery tickets and instant lotteries tickets are sold at face value, is certainly an effective buffer against pressure placed upon the Chief Secretary for an increase in their commission. I was subjected to that pressure when I was the Minister responsible for the lotteries office. The branches provided a buffer between those demands, and had a useful role in relation to those representations. The 1986-87 annual report of the State Lotteries Office states:

The branch network was responsible for 32 per cent of Draw lottery sales, 10 per cent of instant lottery sales, and 5 per cent of all Lotto sales.

Those statistics prove the value of the branches, and that the community looks to them as an avenue through which to purchase lottery tickets. Total revenue transferred from the branches was \$20,230,449. Using as a yardstick the operating cost of \$3.4 million, the net sum transferred was \$16,830,499. That is a good result, representing a considerable amount of money transferred from the operations of the branches. Again those statistics prove that the branches attract a good percentage of the lottery ticket sales, bearing in mind that this year the overall profit from the lotteries office is anticipated to be about \$83 million.

I shall refer particularly to two branches among the nine to which I have referred, and about which some time ago the honourable member for Charlestown spoke. I refer to the Kotara and Newcastle branches. I suggest to the Chief Secretary that those branches form an important part of their respective business districts. They attract customers not only to those branches but also to surrounding businesses. I suggest further that to close the branches and use the service of agencies scattered throughout the Newcastle area would not be good business practice. In one year the commission charges transferred from the Newcastle branches was about half a million dollars. For those reasons I ask the Minister to reconsider the closure of those branches.

The assumption that business conducted at the branches would be maintained at the same level if the branches were replaced by agencies is dubious. I instance two branch closures, one in 1985 at Wollongong and one this year at Wynyard, which do not support the argument that if a branch is closed, all its business will be picked up by agencies. If I am correct, that revenue is lost to the Government. I have always found the State Lotteries Office to be conducted by most competent administrators. Pamela Grant, who recently retired as the director of the lotteries office to take up a position with the Department of Health, was a most efficient director, very much alive to her responsibilities. I recall the role she played with problems encountered on the introduction of the instant lotteries, and her having to go overseas to ensure that the right type of ticket printing was introduced in New South Wales. I pay tribute to her for the role she played.

I turn to staffing within the Chief Secretary's Department. I notice that the number of policy support staff provided to the Minister has been increased from last year's figure of four, to 14 this year, an increase of 10. Though the number of staff last year was relatively low, that is a rather large increase. I acknowledge that those staff provide advice to the Minister on liquor and gaming matters. I wonder whether the introduction of keno is partly responsible for that increase in staff. In the Estimates no reference is made to keno. If revenue is derived from keno, it will be available to the Government, though it is not mentioned in the Estimates. Ticket selling staff at the State Lotteries Office has been reduced from 298 to 265, that is a reduction of 33 people. Perhaps that reduction pre-empts the Minister's contemplated closure of branches. However, Lotto selling staff has been increased by 26. Perhaps the Chief Secretary might make some comment about that alteration to staff numbers.

Mr TURNER (Myall Lakes) [4.39]: It is gratifying to note the total budgetary allocation for tourism, which I shall predominantly address, is \$21.56 million. That is 36 per cent more than last year's figure of \$15.49 million. That figure excludes the operation of Jenolan Caves, which is specifically referred to in this clause. Jenolan Caves is to be commercially sold or leased by tender. I understand that 150 tenders have been received and are being considered by the Government. This is a forward step for the New South Wales tourism industry. This commercial arrangement will save recurrent and capital expenditure of approximately \$1 million. The Minister is to be congratulated on bringing this matter to the attention of the Government and arranging for the possible commercialization of the Jenolan Caves area.

The Budget Papers contain the program description for promotion of tourism which is "Marketing and development of the State's tourism industry and tourist opportunities through professional support and a system of regional and overseas representatives. Provision of assistance in planning, marketing, financing, selling, promotion and tours development." There is a substantial

increase of funding in this Budget for the promotion of tourism. The main increase is for the promotion overseas of the principle of Sydney as the gateway to New South Wales and the rest of Australia on the basis that Sydney is the premier capital of Australia. As the nation's oldest city Sydney will have an influx of tourists, in particular if the bid for the 1996 Olympic Games is successful. The funding for overseas promotion is important. The tourist dollar is incredibly important to the economy of Australia, and in particular of New South Wales. In August the highest influx of tourists into Australia was recorded. That reflects the importance that has been attached to tourism by this Government.

I give due credit to the former Minister for Sport and Recreation who placed a great deal of emphasis on tourism. Tourism is the second largest industry in the world. By the year 2000 it will be the largest industry. Australia, and in particular New South Wales, is set to capitalize on tourism. A new job is created in the community for every \$50,000 expended on tourism. The provision of funds under this clause will go a long way towards the promotion of tourism. Funds have been allocated towards maintaining New South Wales representatives in the United Kingdom, Europe, United States of America, Japan and New Zealand, all prime tourism targets and areas from which we draw our tourists. The overseas allocation will allow a flexibility for overseas representatives to develop their product to fit the climate with which the people to whom they are selling can best identify. That flexibility was not given by the former Government. It will help to educate potential tourists on what to expect when they come to Australia. Prior to this initiative the overseas postings were dependent mainly on the provision of information, brochures and so on from the New South Wales Tourism Commission. The vote of almost \$900,000 for overseas promotion will allow a great deal of latitude for overseas operators of the commission.

On a local basis the substantial amount of \$1.3 million has been allocated for the promotion of Sydney. Sydney is being marketed as the gateway to Australia. Sydney is the area with which tourists identify Australia. The days of Brisbane, Melbourne, Coolangatta and Surfers Paradise are truly gone. Again I give an accolade to the former Minister for Tourism for the promotion of Sydney as the gateway to Australia. The present Minister has identified with that and is capitalizing on it by increasing funding for the promotion of Sydney. It is important that that promotion continue. I am sure that the Minister acknowledges that the promotion of Sydney as the gateway to Australia is an important aspect of our bid to host the 1996 Olympic Games.

The allocation of funds for the promotion of Sydney by the Government must be applauded. Not only is the Government providing funds, it is doing so on the basis that private enterprise will be asked to contribute as well. The Government is encouraging private enterprise to match the public funding by putting their money up front and helping with their own promotion. It is to the benefit of all people of New South Wales that tourism is enhanced in a bigger and better way.

The Government's initiative on locally based and overseas tourism will entice the expenditure of tourist dollars in Australia. Added to that is the provision for marketing on a product basis, which is a change from the regional based marketing. This is a new and exciting innovation by the Minister. Products will be put before the people so that they can easily identify beach areas, wine growing areas, deserts, industrial areas or where to go ballooning if they wish. The increased funding will enable the Government to embark on that product based initiative. The Minister for Tourism, has exhibited great vision

as to where New South Wales is going in relation to tourism. In this record Budget, the largest since the tourism commission was introduced, he has allowed funding that will enable the tourist industry in New South Wales to blossom and bloom, and provide employment in New South Wales, and in particular in country areas.

Tourism is not restricted to city areas. I use the word gateway as meaning just that: Sydney is the gateway to the rest of New South Wales. The government is allowing people to flow through that gateway. Through the product based initiatives we will take them into the country areas like Myall Lakes, the most beautiful electorate in New South Wales, where they can utilize the wonderful beach areas, mountains, rivers and lakes. I congratulate the Minister for his appropriation. It will put Australia, and in particular New South Wales, on the map as the leading tourist destination in the world.

Mr CLEARY (Coogee) [4.47]: This is a day for platitudes and I am very grateful for them. I too pay a compliment to the Minister for Tourism. I shall speak about the tourism industry, a subject of which I have some little experience. In the Estimates an amount of \$21,056,000 is the total Tourism Commission allocation. However, no appropriation has been included in the Estimates for the management of caves and resorts. When that is taken into account one is speaking of a budget in excess of \$27 million. The Minister must be complimented; he really must have the ear of the Treasury. I constantly fought and battled to try to get that level of allocation. I am delighted to give the Minister and the Government due credit for recognizing the importance of tourism. I have a few concerns and hope the Minister will be able to dispel all of them. The tourism industry is very important to the economy of New South Wales. When I was speaking to the Budget I referred to the importance of tourism to the State and how we should endeavour to continue the tourist flow to improve our economy. I mentioned then that the carrot at the end of the stick would be the granting of the 1996 Olympic Games for this city.

From information to hand I understand a proposal has been made to lease the Jenolan caves resort. That proposal has my wholehearted support. It was a pet aversion of Percy Allan, in Treasury, that a leasing of that resort did not take place while the Labor Government was in office. On each occasion when I would enter the Treasury rooms to request funds the first thing he would ask was when the Jenolan caves resort would be leased. He did not understand that a proposal had been made to that end, but that nothing could be done until a plan of management had been completed. Whenever a plan of management is afoot, the greenies come from everywhere. They pop out of the ground. The Jenolan caves resort was starting to make money. A great deal of capital had been invested in the resort to fix the sewerage and the water supply; and as soon as that had been done the greenies came out of the woodwork.

They found that some caves held rare reptiles and that others contained Aboriginal carvings. The greenies wanted us to block up those caves because it would have been insulting to the Aborigines to have their historical antecedents put on show. It makes one wonder whether we should not close our own cemeteries in case others want to come along and see our bones. However, the plan of management was completed. The environment was protected. The Minister may remember Tom Lewis, a former Liberal Party Premier of this State. Tom Lewis wanted to construct a cable car from the top to the bottom of the gorge. He would have had a lot of fun trying to do that. I could not even get the water works fixed at the bottom, much less get a cable car installed. However, I compliment the present Minister for what he has achieved. I hope that all those who have expressed their interest in the leasing of the resort will

continue to press their claims, for it is a wonderful place and I am sure whoever gets the lease will do exceptionally well.

I am concerned, however, to know that the caves at Abercrombie and Wombeyan are to be run on a commercial basis. I hope they can be. It is obvious that no increase has been made in their staff, for that has been removed from the Estimates. But I do not understand how Wombeyan caves and Abercrombie caves can operate commercially. To reach Wombeyan caves one must use a four-wheel drive vehicle, and, when one arrives, a couple of old converted caravans are all that is available for accommodation. I hope the Minister does not have to return to Treasury looking for supplementary funds, although, even if he were to do so, I feel confident he would be as successful in those endeavours as he has been in others earlier. I offer him my congratulations for what he has achieved with the Jenolan caves complex so far. The enterprise should be leased fairly easily and quickly, perhaps finalized by December. If it is not, he may require, as I say, further supplementary funds from Treasury.

The Government Travel Centre is an outstanding organization. When I relinquished the ministerial portfolio for tourism the travel centre was writing about \$11.5 million in tickets. During the past few weeks the queues of those seeking information have stretched past the door and into Spring Street. A small increase has been made in the staffing of the travel centre, but it has become so busy that it has stopped writing tickets for those who look for overseas travel. The centre concentrates on travel within Australia. The centre does a good job looking after Ministers and members of Parliament but is limited by staffing levels and the demands placed upon their time. The bullet must be bitten. A decision must be made about whether the commercial aspects of ticketing should be hived off to a private organization and the travel centre retained as an information and service organization for the influx of tourists. A proposal was made by the State Bank along these lines but a gentleman who was working at the commission and who has subsequently moved to the State Rail Authority was not, from the first day, interested in the proposal. We had almost reached the finishing line when the State Bank decided to get out of travel all together.

The travel centre is probably writing \$12 million in tickets a year, an obvious attraction for someone with a travel agency. The Spring Street centre could then concentrate on providing information for our influx of tourists. About two million tourists visit New South Wales from overseas, and 2.6 million from Victoria and 1.2 million from Queensland. Most of these tourists congregate at the Spring Street travel centre to seek information. The marketing side needs attention. The travel centre offers a range of products and services. For the visitors from Brisbane and Melbourne services are provided at Tweed Heads and Albury. These centres are mentioned in the estimates. The Minister is negotiating to get rid of the centres at Tweed Heads and Albury, after first seeking co-operation from the respective shire councils. It is hoped that the staff in those centres can move to other work. They are not doing much there now, as the Minister would know. The girls are working extremely well but a couple at the other end are caught up in other activities and their time would be better spent away from the travel centres at Tweed Heads and Albury. I hope the negotiations with the councils and other bodies are successful in that respect and that the active staff are used in a way that will be beneficial to the tourism industry.

Next I turn to the provision of tourist information, sales travel, and so on. The rental of New South Wales House in Brisbane was mentioned. Last year the Estimates allowed \$140,000 for rent but the actual figure was \$122,000. This year \$155,000 is sought. Perhaps negotiations have been made for a new

lease, but I point out to the Minister that this Government owns that site. At the last valuation of that site, about two and a half years ago, the property was worth approximately \$3 million. I would be deeply concerned if that property was sold. I realize that proposition has been investigated, but I would regard the sale of that asset as a short-term gain and a long-term loss. The property is a prime real estate area. Although it is a narrow building, it could be possible to establish a joint venture with the building owner adjacent, because buildings surrounding the site are of 15 to 20 storeys. The site could be redeveloped under a deal in which the ground floor office space in the joint venture could be retained for the travel centre. The centre has an important tourist drawing power for New South Wales. An outstanding job is being done. I am afraid that if the building is sold, the enterprise might be moved to another site where the rent would be unknown, and the promotional spot in the mall of Brisbane would be lost.

I raise this matter for the information of the Minister and ask him to consider withdrawing from any short-term advantage of asset sale in order to investigate a joint venture with a corporation that would pull down the building, redevelop the site and, on a strata plan, return to the centre the two floors they at present hold for the promotion of tourism in this State. The promotion of Sydney has received an appropriation of \$1.3 million. I support that wholeheartedly. Nevertheless, I am a little concerned that incorporated in that promotion of Sydney we have the amalgamation of the Sydney Promotional Board and the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau. Also involved in that is the payment of salaries to two fellows who are probably often at each other's throats because each must ultimately justify his position. These people are Barnes, in his position as executive officer of the Sydney Visitors Bureau, and Steve Howes, in his position on the Sydney Promotional Board.

In answer to a question the Minister replied how successful he was in getting these two bodies together and keeping the Sydney Convention Visitors Bureau. The former Government tried. We had many negotiations with the last chairman, Keith Lewis, to try to come up with an advantageous deal in regard to the bureau. The indications to us and to the chairman of the commission were that that body was not a progressive or smart organization. Its members were good at talking but lax about taking action. Figures indicated that it was nearly broke. When I was Minister it wanted the Government to prop it up to the tune of about \$1 million, but did not want the Government or the Minister to have any oversight of its activities or how money was to be allocated. The figures showed that that body did not have all the members it said it had. Much of the contribution that was made was made in kind.

When the present Minister became Minister for Tourism he also realized the organization was not completely honest with him about its financial position. If the election had not taken place on 19th March, the former Government would have given the organization only another few weeks, and it would have folded. The Sydney marketing team, chaired then by the managing director of McDonalds, would have been able to take over. I deal now with the contribution to the tourist development fund of \$2.7 million. There is about \$300,000 to spend. The fund is almost bankrupt. Most of the money utilized to assist, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, the regional areas in promotion is taken up in repaying borrowings. I keep telling Treasury, "If you were in private practice, they would hang you for doing that". Even with a grant of \$2.5 million that full sum is taken up in interest repayments on moneys borrowed—up to about \$14 million.

I put this to Norm Oakes and Percy Allan, now a city commissioner. With Norm Oakes, it was like getting blood out of a stone. All he wanted to do was spend money on tourism. When I tried to get money out of him, he was critical. It is amazing how leopards change their spots when they get out in the real world. I hope the Government can use its influence to ensure that it writes off that debt. Then the regional areas and the marketing program will flourish better than in the past. I did have some other points to make, but my time is limited. I am pleased that the industry has been recognized. I wish the Minister success in his endeavours with the Treasury, and hope that he does not have to ask for budgetary supplementation.

Mr D. L. PAGE (Ballina) [5.4]: As a new member it was refreshing to hear the former Minister for Tourism, the honourable member for Coogee, making such an honest and humorous contribution to the debate. We on this side of the House recognize his contribution to the growth of tourism in this State and in Australia. It is encouraging to see him expressing support for the present Minister, who I believe should be congratulated for producing Budget Estimates against the run of play, as one might say. After all, the Budget is not only a social, economic, and political document, but one that should be relevant to the times. The 36 per cent increase in funding for tourism is a reflection of the times. We are at present enjoying a boom in the tourist industry and it would be false economy to cut back in this area where so many economic benefits can be derived for the people of New South Wales.

I am pleased to see the marketing and promotion side of the Estimates being increased by 82 per cent, from \$2.8 million to \$5.1 million. An important component of that is the \$1.3 million allocation to the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau, which is an amalgam of the old S.C.V.B. and the Sydney Tourism Marketing Board. Without going into the history of that particular problem I congratulate the Minister on being able to bring about a resolution when there was a lot of animosity. He is to be congratulated on the way he handled that issue and for the constructive contribution that the amalgamated organization will make to the future development of Sydney as the tourist gateway to Australia.

The other important component of these Estimates is the \$4 million that will go towards the new marketing and promotion strategy. The previous strategy was based on the concept of regionalism. Though 10 years ago that seemed the logical way to go, it became obvious to people in the regions that regionalism was not working. That occurred for a couple of reasons. It was not working because tourism is better promoted in terms of a product. Research today shows that people are seeking more of an experiential holiday, rather than wanting to go to a particular region. Consequently the new strategy is designed to highlight and promote product-oriented holidays rather than regionalism.

The other important aspect is that the new strategy is designed to incorporate a sort of joint venture approach with the Tourism Commission providing a guide to the private sector in conjunction with local tourist bodies. The idea is that the Tourism Commission sets up the marketing framework and the private sector is invited to participate. In this context we are talking about everything from product brochures to television advertising. The Government is proceeding full speed ahead with the Newtracs computerized system, which will be of great benefit to the promotion of tourism in the region. It is important to remember that 77 per cent of overseas tourists to Australia come through Sydney, but only 3 per cent of those visit regional New South Wales. It is important to those people who live out of Sydney and whose economies depend on tourism to ensure that we maximize the dollars that can be generated by overseas tourists.

An aspect of the estimates which needs to be considered and applauded is the increased funding for overseas marketing. For example, the intention is to set up a Singapore office in January 1989. Also there will be a 100 per cent increase in the funds allocated to the New Zealand marketing budget, and a 140 per cent increase in the funds allocated to the United Kingdom and European marketing budget. For the first time ever, the local overseas managers will have their own marketing budget. Previously the overseas managers had to rely on information put out by the Australian offices; that information was not always suited to local conditions. When they have their own budgets they will have the flexibility to adapt to local conditions.

Tourism is a multifaceted industry. We are increasing the amount of money to be spent on roads. The North Coast is important. Of the tourists who arrive on the North Coast, 85 per cent arrive by road. We will spend a record \$1.1 billion in road funding this year, particularly on the upgrading of the Pacific Highway, and in my part of the world the funding of \$26 million next year for the Pacific Highway from Hexham to the border is most welcome. I applaud the initiative of the Minister for Transport in putting in 21 new overtaking lanes in the region between Hexham and the border. That is a most innovative and progressive step and it will benefit the tourist economy of the North Coast electorates.

The Government is moving to implement deregulation of long distance coaches and air services in New South Wales, which will improve tourist potential. As New South Welshmen we must realize that we are still the market leaders in tourism but that leadership is being seriously challenged by Queensland. The 36 per cent increase in allocation, from \$15.49 million to \$21.56 million, is a most welcome and necessary stimulus to the growth of tourism in New South Wales.

I now comment on the Chief Secretary's allocation. This year the Government expects to receive \$636.8 million from soft gambling and expects to spend approximately \$50 million to generate that sum. That will result in a net contribution of \$586 million to the Consolidated Fund. Those who are concerned about money and where it goes should remember that the Consolidated Fund provides funds for building schools, hospitals and roads. A major initiative by the Minister has been the fulfilment of campaign promises to the club and hotel industry, especially the introduction of keno. The honourable member for Wallsend asked about the expected revenue from keno. The expectation is that this year \$300 million will be earned from the introduction of keno. Another major Government initiative is the introduction of linked poker machine jackpot systems. Honourable members opposite seem to be disposed to the argument that the National Party is not pulling its weight in the coalition. I remind those members that the Chief Secretary is a National Party Minister who has been able to secure from the powers that be a fantastic deal for tourism in this State. I congratulate the Minister wholeheartedly.

Mr WEST (Orange), Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism [5.12]: I thank all honourable members in this House who contributed to the estimates debate. They have acknowledged that the Government regards tourism seriously. In this debate they have applauded the Government's decision to recreate the position of Chief Secretary and to bring together a significant part of the financial administration of the State. The honourable member for Wallsend mentioned the State Lotteries Office and expressed his support for the work done by that office and the recommendations made in the efficiency report commissioned by the former Government. I acknowledge those comments and

support them. The honourable member will not find that any of my actions have undermined the efficiency of the State Lotteries Office.

I note the honourable member's concern about the Government's proposals for nine lotteries office branches. However, the efficiency audit showed that though those branches were operating as efficiently as could be expected, considerable savings could be achieved by transferring the work to agencies. I have initiated discussions with the Public Service Association on the matter. Those discussions are continuing. At the first meeting with the association I asked its representatives to think about the action that might be taken and to notify me of any constructive suggestions. I have not yet made a decision. The consultative process that I have set up, and the rapport I have established with the PSA will be of value to the Association and to its members working in those nine branches. The honourable member for Wallsend referred to the need for a quick decision. Though it is important that the decision not be delayed interminably, I do not want to rush into it. I want to conduct continuing consultations.

The PSA has written to me and I will write back to them. I have considered what they suggested to me and have arranged a meeting so that we can examine those suggestions. The problem is well understood by me and the officers of my department. We are sensitive to the issue, but by the same token the honourable member for Wallsend should appreciate that the Government has to consider where savings might be implemented constructively without destroying employment opportunities and the having in mind any impact on the lotteries office. I respect what the honourable member said about Pam Grant, who has recently transferred from the office. The parting involved a promotion for her and was amicable. I am sure the honourable member understands that. I believe that we had—as we still have—a good working relationship with Pam Grant in the time that I have been a Minister.

The honourable member for Wallsend expressed concern about a substantial staffing increase, from 4 to 14, in the co-ordination unit. The co-ordination unit is a policy unit that resulted from drawing together several previous departmental functions, including the lotteries office, the Liquor Administration Board, and the charities division, which previously were separated. The increased staff numbers are not new positions but result from a structural change in the way that those functions have been brought together. The co-ordination unit is a restructured, slim, refined body that does not have any excessive fat for the job it does. That unit does not run departments but fulfils a co-ordination role, which it does very effectively.

The honourable member for Myall Lakes, the honourable member for Ballina and the honourable member for Coogee spoke about tourism. For four years I enjoyed serving in this House as shadow minister for tourism. During that time I learnt a lot that has enabled me as a Minister to implement the policies that I gleaned from the industry. The honourable member spoke of my battles with the Treasury. All that is required is to approach Treasury in a professional manner with some performance indicators. That is what it is all about. The increased allocation is a clear indication that our Government and Treasurer, strongly support tourism and understand its importance to this State.

Mr Cleary: The Minister no longer has to contend with Percy Allan.

Mr WEST: Mr Allan, who was a member of the Treasury team, was most receptive to the constructive submissions placed before him and Treasury. Treasury has responded because of the need to provide proper performance indicators. The honourable member for Coogee referred to the Jenolan Caves.

I am positive about the future leasing proposal. The \$300,000 loss in the operations of Caves House for the previous financial year has been turned around by the implementation of a plan of management, so that this financial year a profit will be realized. The Government and the Tourism Commission have negotiated with various people who have come forward with expressions of interest as a result of advertising. The honourable member for Myall Lakes referred to 150 expressions of interest, in relation to five of which the Tourism Commission is conducting negotiations. The submissions were well prepared and will significantly benefit the operation.

The honourable member for Coogee referred also to the Wombeyan and Abercrombie caves and to staffing allocations for those caves. Discussions have taken place at officer level to transfer the employment of officers at those caves to another department. The operation of those caves has not been of significant financial benefit to the Tourism Commission for a number of years. It was a quirk of fate that the commission began to manage the caves. I hope that in the future the necessary services will be made available and preserved. It was suggested that some commercial considerations should be given to the travel centre at Spring Street. That is an interesting suggestion, coming from the Opposition. It may be a reflection of the Opposition's willingness to climb on board with the Government to have government-owned organizations operated solely by the private sector. The matters raised by the honourable member for Coogee, and other options, will be considered. No single direction can be taken at this stage.

The honourable member for Coogee when he was Minister for Tourism took a decision not to sell overseas travel to other than government departments. I am aware of some of the background of that decision. We must remember that the charter of our travel centres and Tourism Commission of New South Wales is to promote tourism in this State. The Government would suffer recriminations from the private sector if it were to compete in the sale of overseas travel. It would be hypocritical of the Government to sell overseas travel to the public when the charter of the commission is to promote New South Wales.

The decision to sell the offices at Tweed Heads and Albury was not taken lightly. Clearly, the Government is willing to make tough decisions. When those offices were set up many years ago, few other information offices existed. Those that were operating provided specific services. Since then about 50 information centres have been established around the State, and the necessity for the Government to manage those operations lessened as time went by. The sale of the offices at Tweed Heads and Albury has been negotiated successfully. The Albury council has taken over the operations of the office at Albury and, at Tweed Heads, Kirklands have moved back into the undertaking and will manage the information side of things as well. No losses were sustained, although I did receive some local flak from individuals who thought I was doing the wrong thing. I am sure that in time the locals will understand that the commercial decision that was taken will benefit their community and the State as a whole. The staff of those offices will be looked after. They are perfectly accommodated.

The honourable member for Coogee referred to the various options available, and the possible redevelopment of the Brisbane office. Any development of that proposal would have to take into account the height restrictions that are applied in that area. Some limitations are imposed. Mention was made of the location of the office in the mall of the Brisbane plaza. The

office is ideally located. Any negotiations that take place will ensure that the office's presence in that part of Brisbane is maintained.

The honourable member for Coogee referred to the amalgamation of the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Sydney Tourism Marketing Board—my most successful achievement since becoming Minister for Tourism. It was ludicrous that two organizations should compete in the promotion of Sydney. The Sydney Tourism Marketing Board was even competing with commissioners and arguing about many tourism policy issues. They all get their backs up. The market-place was becoming fragmented. The private sector should be running tourism in this State. I have informed SCVB, the representative of the private sector, that it now has the opportunity, and the challenge before it, to pick up the ball and run with it. Its function is to market Sydney; the function of the Tourism Commission is to market New South Wales, which includes Sydney as a destination.

The package will ensure that more funds than ever before are spent on the promotion of Sydney. The Government has allocated an amount of \$1.3 million. It is expected that a minimum of \$1.1 million will be received this financial year for the private sector. A minimum of \$100,000 is being sought from the Sydney city council. Almost \$2.5 million will be spent to promote Sydney. A board has been established to protect the Government's investment. The board comprises three ministerial representatives, eight private sector representatives, and one representative from the Sydney city council. I hope that in the future the Government's contribution to this operation will be minute. In that way the private sector will grasp the opportunity to engage in a co-operative marketing effort and get on with the job.

Interestingly the honourable member for Coogee referred to the Tourism Development Fund and the debt that exists in this regard. I was saddled with the debt incurred by past mismanagement. The honourable member for Coogee may not have been solely responsible for that, but throughout the years he took many decisions that I certainly would not have taken. My job is to ensure that that debt is eliminated so that funds may be spent to benefit the industry. As has been said, not much is left of the allocation; only \$300,000, when capital and interest reductions are taken into account. The honourable member for Ballina referred to overseas offices. Today I announced at a convention luncheon that \$900,000, an increase of 150 per cent in funds have been made available to establish an office in Singapore, which will greatly benefit tourism in New South Wales and Australia.

Clause agreed to.

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It being 5.30 p.m., pursuant to sessional orders the debate is interrupted.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

MIGRANT EDUCATION

Mr NAGLE (Auburn) [5.30]: The electorate of Auburn has a large ethnic community with about 2 800 Turks, 3 000 Lebanese, and 2 500 Vietnamese, as well as many Yugoslavs, mainly from Croatia. It could be said that Auburn is a multicultural electorate. As I said in my maiden speech in the House, the electorate has much unemployment. The question is how to resolve the problem.

The only way that migrants and their children will have an opportunity to obtain employment and progress in the community is to have adequate education, particularly in the use of English. I illustrate this with the example of a young man by the name of Ibrahim who has all the attributes to become a good police officer but, though he came to Australia at the age of 10 years, has difficulty in reading and writing English.

The estimates for 1988-89 for the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs include a broad program for the ethnic community. Budget Paper No. 2 states that \$45,000 will be allocated for the Board of Adult Education to provide education programs for people of non-English speaking backgrounds; more than \$19 million for the Adult Migrant Education Service; and \$8.2 million for the continued employment of 260 specialist teachers in the subject of English as a second language, and 31 support staff. The problem is exemplified in an article in the *Daily Mirror* of 11th October headed "Urgent Health Boost Demand for West", in which the Hon. J. P. Hannaford spoke about problems facing the area and the reason for the poor state of health of many members of the community. One cause is the frustration of attempting to deal with day-to-day society. If Australian-born members of the community are facing those problems, what will happen with members of the ethnic community?

Electorates such as Auburn, Bankstown, Lakemba, and as far west as Parramatta and Blacktown, urgently need an intensive program to teach English to migrants. That is the only way that these people will become better citizens. Department of Corrective Services records show the high number of people of ethnic backgrounds who are serving terms of imprisonment, or who appear before the courts. In many cases these people's problems stem from being unemployed or unable to cope with running their own business. They must be trained if they are going to run their own businesses successfully. If they cannot read, write or speak English, they will have great difficulty in coping with daily requirements.

This is a major problem for our society. These people came to Australia under the migration policies of federal governments of all political persuasions. They cannot be brought from places like Turkey and Vietnam, dumped into the Australian environment, and expected to cope. It is a function of governments, particularly through the education system, to teach these people to adapt themselves to Australian society. That does not mean they should abandon their own culture; but alcohol abuse, the consumption of fast foods, and the stress of living on low incomes have turned the residents of the western suburbs into the State's unhealthiest citizens. These people need help. They have been brought here to become Australian citizens and for their children to grow and prosper in this country.

Some members of this Parliament are children of migrants. We have the first migrant Premier to be elected to this Parliament. He had the opportunity to receive a good education; the people in the west deserve the same opportunity. If that is done they can be successful in whatever occupation they follow. This is a matter of deep concern in the western suburbs. Instead of spending \$1 billion on law and order, perhaps we should spend more on educating migrants. If that is done we would have fewer problems with drug abuse. It is an indictment on society that the western suburbs are said to have the unhealthiest citizens in this State. The Government's proposal for teaching English to migrants does not go even half way to providing adequate services to protect them and give them the opportunity to advance and become good Australian citizens.

Mr SCHIPP (Wagga Wagga), Minister for Housing [5.35]: It is a pity that the honourable member for Auburn did not keep to the positive comments that he made at the commencement of his private member's statement when he acknowledged the broad educational policies in the Budget. If the honourable member had been following the present education debate, he would know that the Government has put a lot of emphasis on the needs of the western suburbs of Sydney, particularly in special education. However, I am sure that the honourable member's recognition of the Premier's migrant background will reassure all migrants in this State that they will be given as many opportunities as possible. Some time ago I spoke in this House on the topic of multiculturalism. The Premier has a much healthier approach to the subject of multiculturalism than that emanating from the federal Government, in which arena the present community debate on Asian immigration commenced.

Many people blame the federal Leader of the Opposition, John Howard, for raising this topic. However, if the honourable member for Auburn considered the remarks of his federal Labor Party colleague, Mr Clyde Holding, he would be ashamed that Mr Holding was a former Minister for Immigration. His dumping by the federal Government was a recognition of its concern. This Government will be sympathetic to the people of the western suburbs of whatever background. If the Government's education package can be put in place, the money will be available to do something positive. So far in the education debate, people have not focused on where the funds are coming from. I realize that, for political purposes, the Government's actions have been described as cuts to education, but it is really a question of the transfer of priorities. The issue raised by the honourable member for Auburn needs to be addressed but the Government will honour its obligations to those people of whom he speaks.

HEAVY VEHICLE SPEEDS

Mr SCHULTZ (Burrinjuck) [5.37]: I raise an issue of deep concern to my constituents and to motorists who travel on the State's highways. I refer to the speed of road transports on the Hume Highway, particularly articulated vehicles driven by irresponsible drivers at speeds of up to 140 kilometres an hour. In most cases these vehicles are fitted with CB radios and radar detectors and often they are able to avoid detection by police. In 1987 articulated vehicles were involved in 147 accidents on the Hume Highway in New South Wales. About 130 of these accidents occurred at speeds in excess of the legal limit of 100 kilometres an hour. In the Burrinjuck electorate alone, 23 fatalities occurred on the section of the Hume Highway between Yass and Tarcutta in the period from 17th October, 1987, to 16th October, 1988. Seven of those fatalities were attributed to articulated vehicles, and 10 to trucks of various other sizes.

A massive 74 per cent of the deaths on that section of the Hume Highway were identified positively as being truck related. This must be sending a message to the Government; this madness, this carnage created by trucks with motors of up to 300 horsepower, carrying freight weighing up to 40 tonnes and travelling at speeds, must be addressed. Because of deaths resulting from collisions with cars, buses and other trucks, in many cases encasing victims in twisted metal as a result of speed, the State and the public are faced with enormous costs. Compensation payments, insurance settlements, extensive use of government resources such as police, rescue units, ambulances, volunteer organizations, and in many cases the closure for long periods of the State's major arterial highways, are just some of the enormous costs created by these horrific smashes.

The speed of trucks in convoy and the frightening practice of tailgating, particularly on the Hume Highway, are some of the concerns expressed to me by many of my constituents. These people and the other members of the public, including responsible truck operators, are genuinely concerned about the frightening situation created by truckies pushing themselves physically and mentally to the point where they are putting their lives and the lives of others at risk. Last weekend my wife and I were subjected to the nerve wracking experience of having to accelerate to 140 kilometres per hour to avoid being killed or maimed when an articulated truck tried to pass us on a single lane bridge, with traffic coming towards us from the opposite direction. This is one of a number of truck-related near misses that I have personally experienced from time to time when driving on the Hume Highway.

It has been argued that many truckies are forced to travel at speed to maximise the number of loads they can carry in a given week because of financial problems they face in keeping up payments on rigs that in some cases cost \$250,000 to put on the road. Others are simply driving in this dangerous manner because they are competing to see if they can better the time it has taken other drivers to travel from Melbourne to Sydney and vice versa. No matter what the argument for exceeding the legal limit, there is absolutely no justification for placing the lives of other road users at risk. I request my parliamentary colleagues, the Minister for Transport, and the Minister for Police to consider this very serious matter in the interests of public safety, and to take some positive action to address this irresponsible and dangerous practice of exceeding the speed limit on the Hume Highway.

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [5.42]: I thank the honourable member for Burrinjuck for raising this matter. Obviously truck speed is a major problem. The communities served by the Hume Highway have complained volubly to me about that problem. Trucks do travel at excessive speeds, at 130, 140 and occasionally 160 kilometres per hour. Drivers travel on the wrong side of the highway if they can see sufficiently far ahead and believe there is no danger. Drivers employ radar jammers, radar detectors and every other available measure to avoid speed detection. Convoys travel with the driver who has incurred the least loss of points driving the lead truck.

My department will crack down on speeding and will impose significant penalties. Major speed offences will incur a loss of licence. Unmarked police cars will be used, and logbooks will be examined carefully. This is a long-standing problem and the solution is not easy. However, the problem will receive major attention by the Traffic Authority, and recommendations are being formulated. The Australian Transport Advisory Council has proposed concessions for uniformity of conditions throughout Australia. However, those concessions do not obviate the need for truck operators to be much more responsible about speeding on our major highways. I assure the honourable member for Burrinjuck that my department will take positive action about speeding on New South Wales highways.

STATE RAIL AUTHORITY BOOKINGS

Mr J. H. MURRAY (Drummoyne) [5.44]: I draw the attention of the Minister for Transport to a disastrous train journey that a constituent of mine, Mr Louie Di Palma of 22 Barton Avenue, Haberfield, recently undertook as a direct result of a double-booking error on the overnight train, the Brisbane Limited. The sorry saga of the trip on which Mr Di Palma took his party of eight started three months prior to departure when he first made the booking at Burwood railway station. Thankfully the forward trip went ahead according to plan. However, the return trip proved to be a traumatic experience for all concerned.

Immediately on boarding the train at Brisbane it became apparent that a double booking had occurred and Mr Di Palma and his children were required to return to the platform while train staff attempted to unravel this shambles. This included trying to contact the head conductor, pacifying the children, removing their luggage from the racks, reboarding the train in great haste before its departure, standing in the corridor for two hours, only to discover that the whole train was fully booked, and waiting while the conductor opened each window with a key, due to the failure of the air-conditioning system. Understandably, that all proved so exhausting that the conductor graciously allowed them all to sit in his cabin.

The Casino station master was contacted to make arrangements for a transfer to another train. Unfortunately, that train also was fully booked. Eventually, after leaving Casino in the Brisbane Limited, the conductor was forced to place three children in one carriage, one child on his own, two adults in another carriage and the remaining two in other carriages of the train. The parents were naturally distraught that their children were separated from them, not only because they were unable to supervise them, and in particular comfort one child who was an asthmatic, but also because they could not share with the children the joy of their holiday trip. Further, as the passengers' luggage was not with them, it was difficult to get blankets for the late cool evening.

I commend the airline company practice that would require passengers to confirm return journeys be undertaken by the State Rail Authority. Mr Di Palma was informed by staff at Burwood railway station that that was not necessary. I understand that the conductor on the Brisbane Limited expressed his concern and embarrassment over the whole episode. The conductors, who are at the front line of dealing with passengers have indicated that the computers "were stuffing things up on a regular basis". That is making their job extremely unpleasant and distressing to many passengers.

I further understand that when the original booking was made at Burwood station, the booking clerk acted in a rude and discourteous manner. My information is that this incident is not an isolated example, and that there is a regular history of overbooking on the Brisbane Limited. Finally I should like to emphasize to the Minister that Mr Di Palma had pre-booked this trip three months ahead. Also, I compliment both conductors on the train for their understanding of the situation and for providing a first-rate service under very difficult circumstances. In light of recent pronouncements from the Minister for Transport about shake-ups in the State Rail Authority, I ask that he address the inadequacies of the State Rail Authority computer booking facilities.

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [5.48]: I thank the honourable member for Drummoyne for advice that he would raise this issue today. Too many complaints of this nature have come to my attention. I am concerned about the way passengers are being treated by State Rail Authority

staff. It is all too common, and totally unacceptable, to receive complaints from passengers throughout the State. A shake-up is under way. I have appointed Mr Ross Sayers, who at present is in my parliamentary office, as the chief executive of the SRA. I shall provide him with a copy of the honourable member's speech and ask him to look into the problem. The SRA passenger service section has introduced a new computerized system that was developed by the gentleman who developed the Qantas program. There are many problems with staff reluctant to man the computer because they do not like the way in which they have been rostered. Indeed, it is more a staff than a computer problem.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much audible conversation on the Government benches.

Mr BAIRD: I shall heed the comments raised by the honourable member for Drummoyne and shall raise that problem with Mr Sayers.

F5 FREEWAY

Mr WHITE (Earlwood) [5.49]: I rise on a matter of concern to the constituents of my electorate of Earlwood regarding a recent Department of Main Roads document on the F5 freeway which would run through my electorate. Submissions from residents and interested parties closed yesterday, Tuesday 18th October, though I believe an extension of one day has been granted to councils to finalize their submissions. The confusion, concern and fear generated by the document has been exacerbated by a group calling themselves the Earlwood-Rockdale Traffic Action Group—ERTAG—which originated out of the Bexley chamber of commerce. This group have taken up the cudgel to represent the residents of Earlwood, in particular those affected by the C1 and C2 options of Moorefields Road, William Street, Homer Street and Bayview Avenue.

One option is the upgrading of existing roads, and clearly that is the least viable of all the options. Almost 1 000 homes, several churches and numerous commercial properties will be affected. The cost benefit ratio is less than one to one and that option would never come to fruition under a responsible government in any circumstances. ERTAG held a series of meetings for residents living near or alongside areas who would be affected by this option. Residents, including aged persons, have been scared out of their wits. They have been instructed by this group that they will lose their homes if they do not go out and doorknock, make letterbox drops and circulate petitions for signature. That action has generated more than 7000 signatures supporting the proposal that the road go back through the Wolli Creek Valley north of the railway line. That was an option rejected by the previous Kirby inquiry, and is not included in the present Department of Main Roads document.

The fear and anxiety campaigns that have been generated in the community border on public mischief and must be defused promptly. Now that the time for submissions has closed, I seek the Minister's support. I ask him to instruct the Department of Main Roads to attend to the submissions without delay and to eliminate options C1 and C2 and other options affecting the many houses situated along the rail corridor through Bexley North and Bardwell Park. I ask him to do that as quickly as is physically practicable. Even if the elimination of options is done on a progressive basis, it would be preferable to waiting for a drawn-out final analysis of the preferred options. I cannot sufficiently emphasize how concerned I am for my constituents, especially the

elderly people and those who come from non-English speaking backgrounds. They have been panicked beyond belief. This confusion must be curtailed for the benefit of my constituents.

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [5.51]: I note the honourable member for Earlwood's comments. The issue of Wollie Creek has been going on since 1948 when the original road reservation for the area was introduced. As time has gone by residents have regarded the area as a greenbelt. As a result, the Kirby inquiry proposed that containers be sent through the corridor by rail, to relieve the tremendous volume of road traffic passing through the Rockdale, Bexley, Bexley North and Bardwell Park areas. Since then there has been pressure from the federal Government to build the F5 Freeway. Much attention has been given to that matter. The previous Government proposed using this road corridor through the middle of the bushland. That created enormous divisions in the community. This Government has promised that the bushland area will be retained and the road reservation will be lifted. The Department of Main Roads has given a range of options to examine alternatives where a road could be placed in the area.

Many of these options create difficulties but they focus the attention of local councils and communities on ways in which the traffic problem can be solved. No one suggests that it is an easy problem to solve. That is one of the reasons the problem has been a long standing one. The Government is mindful of the community's interests and concerns. For those reasons it has asked for submissions and input from various community groups and councils on the appropriate way to deal with this matter. The DMR has been charged with examining a whole range of alternatives, such as the provision of tunnels and the use of the corridor for rail services to the Cooks River area and so on.

The time for presenting those submissions has expired. I have asked the DMR to come up with two final options that they see as the most viable and for an environmental impact study to be undertaken. If the community will not accept the alternatives, the matter will have to be further addressed. At the moment we have competing groups. I assure the honourable member for Earlwood that the Government is mindful of local community concerns. Nothing will be done without full consultation. In the next month or so it will advise on what it sees as being the preferred option.

LAWSON STREET OVERBRIDGE

Mr IRWIN (Fairfield) [5.54]: I raise a matter of great concern to the residents of Fairfield, a matter which affects traffic congestion in the area and the exciting redevelopment of the Fairfield town centre. The town centre redevelopment was a major factor in Fairfield city council winning the local government Bluett Award for 1987. I acknowledge the presence in the gallery this evening of the mayor of Fairfield, Alderman Sam Barone, and the Town Clerk, Mr Terry Barnes. Both these developments require the urgent construction of the Lawson Street overbridge to replace the existing level crossing at North Street and to divert traffic from the town centre. The demand by this Government for an additional \$1.3 million from the Fairfield city council toward the cost of the construction of the overbridge is nothing less than extortion. The Government has refused to honour the commitments of the former Labor Government to the council, which acted in good faith in proceeding with this project.

The Government made a grab bag of promises for western Sydney projects before the election, but now refuses to meet its obligations to projects that are already under construction. These additional funds must now be found by the Fairfield city council, which either must increase its borrowings or reduce the level of other urgently needed works in the city of Fairfield. The city of Fairfield is undergoing rapid development that places great demand on funds for capital works. There are pressing needs for funds to be allocated to road works, to drainage and flood mitigation projects. These projects may now have to be deferred as Fairfield city council suffers from the beggar-thy-neighbour approach of this Government. I sympathize with the aldermen of Fairfield city council when they sit down to finalize their works allocation. They will be about \$1.3 million short. Many problems have been brought to my attention where drainage works need to be carried out to assist in alleviating the many problems that the city has suffered, in particular the flooding that occurred in April this year. Seven hundred homes were inundated by those floods. The city of Fairfield will not have access to the \$1.3 million to carry out urgently needed works.

On the basis of assurances of funding from the previous Government, the Fairfield city council proceeded to expend \$625,000 on property acquisitions, \$340,000 on alterations to public utilities, and \$44,000 for the acquisition of railway land, as well as significant costs in design fees. On 25th May the tender evaluation report was submitted and it recommended the acceptance of the Boulderstone Hornibrook Pty Ltd tender at a final cost of \$6.4 million for the bridgeworks. Without confirmation of the State Government's commitment, the Fairfield city council deferred its decision to accept the tender. On 29th June a deputation from the council to the Minister for Transport was assured that a final decision would be made by the end of July, but no assurance was forthcoming.

In a mayoral minute dated 27th September the former mayor, Alderman Maria Heggie, stated that she had received unofficial advice that funding had been approved. However, an amount of \$1.3 million less than previously agreed would be provided. Funding for the project of \$4.3 million would be made from the State level crossing fund; \$4.6 million from the Fairfield city council; and \$778,000 from the Department of Main Roads. The Department of Main Roads contribution was a Commonwealth urban local roads special works subsidy. On 4th October the time for placing tenders for the bridgeworks expired, despite the fact that the tenderer had indicated that work could be commenced immediately. Through the inaction of this Government the people of Fairfield will face undue delay in the completion of this much needed overbridge. Fairfield city council now faces substantially increased costs resulting from these delays. However, of greater concern is the demand from this Government for an additional \$1.3 million as the council's contribution to this project.

Mr BAIRD (Northcott), Minister for Transport [5.58]: What hypocrisy from the honourable member for Fairfield. He had three years in government to fix the problem, but his mates would not give him the money. The honourable member makes great claims in this Chamber of how this Government, after only a few months in office, has not given him the money. He should get his perspective right. When a delegation from the Fairfield city council came to this Parliament the honourable member did not attend. Alderman Maria Heggie led the vanguard to speak to the Government about the problem. The honourable member has not picked up the telephone to speak to me about this issue. He should not try to take any credit for any action that has been taken. He is a total failure in regard to getting the money. He did not convince any of his mates he should get the money. Maria Heggie presented

the case in a logical way to this Government, and as a result, because we are a reasonable Government, we listened to what Maria Heggie had to say.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: Maria Heggie put the arguments, which is more than the honourable member for Fairfield ever did. I am pleased to announce that the Government will meet the requirements of the council. It was in 1985 that the interdepartmental level crossing committee stated that the cost of an overbridge should be shared on a one-third basis between the State Rail Authority, the council, and the ministry. In March 1987 the then Minister for Transport announced, in a media release, that planning had commenced. I find it amazing that the honourable member for Fairfield should criticize what has been done when in fact this matter first came to the attention of his Government in 1985. This Government is grasping the nettle.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr BAIRD: The State Rail Authority and the Ministry of Transport will, in proportionate funding, make funds available to allow work on the project to commence on 1st November. We are a can-do government. We will make it happen for the people of Fairfield, which is more than can be said for the poor, miserable member for Fairfield.

Private members' statements noted.

[*Mr Speaker left the chair at 6.1 p.m. The House resumed at 7.30 p.m.*]

APPROPRIATION BILL

In Committee

Consideration resumed from an earlier hour.

Clause 13

[Minister for Corrective Services]

Mr TINK (Eastwood) [7.30]: One of the most important and hotly debated issues in the lead up to the elections was law, order and public safety. I am pleased to see that the capital spending allocation for law, order and public safety has been increased by 160 per cent and for corrective services by 94 per cent. The corrective services component is an integral part of overall Government strategy, including substantial increases in expenditure on police and law, courts and legal services. Those functions have been integrated into an appropriate way to deal with law, order and public safety. Corrective Services experienced more difficulty and trouble than the other components I mentioned. Under the former Government, drug taking was rampant in the prison system, prisoners were no longer required to work; work shops were closed down; and prisoners were allowed to do just about anything they wanted. That resulted in a bare custodial prisons system that lacked any strategic planning or overall policy of custodial services. It was very much catch-as-catch-can—and there were plenty of people to be caught.

This Budget discloses a carefully thought out corrective services strategy to deal with a number of fundamental problems that have developed. For example, great emphasis is being placed on manufacturing and the expansion of prison industry with a view to prisoners being gainfully employed and in that sense properly rehabilitated. I commend and encourage that step and am pleased to see that sort of emphasis in the Budget. Drug and alcohol dependency is a difficult problem in the prisons. Under the previous Government corrective services was approached essentially as a holding operation: a garrison around the perimeter of the gaol. This Government has allocated a substantial amount for providing specialist facilities and services for drug and alcohol dependent inmates. We are engaging in a positive and assertive campaign in an effort to rehabilitate prisoners and reduce the problems affecting them. An important by-product of that policy has been that as those problems are tackled positively discipline improves in the prison system, which is better for prisoners and prison officers and for long-term rehabilitation.

Since 19th March the Minister for Corrective Services in debates in this House has outlined an appalling situation that pertained when he and his predecessor, Ray Aston came to office. In the 12-year period ending 19th March more than 2 000 escapes had occurred. When the Minister spoke in this house some weeks ago, 103 prisoners were still at large. That problem had to be met. Some extraordinary items had to be financed in allocations to corrective services. The Minister gave graphic illustration in past debates and answers to questions of programs to mend fences at Silverwater, that is, literally repairing holes in fences in institutions that ought to be properly secured for the retention of prisoners.

Mr Cruickshank: Possibly they were made by escapees.

Mr TINK: Perhaps made by the wind. Anything is possible in light of what went on during the past decade. One item of expenditure at Emu Plains prison is \$750,000 for a perimeter fence. Those very basic needs are being met by the Government. The condition of our prison system is no better encapsulated than by the story told by the Minister about the sign in the pub, a sign that was not directed to under-age drinkers but prisoners, asking them to please bring their prison officer with them before they could expect service in the bar. Hopefully, that is a thing of the past. I am amazed that in this Budget the Government has had to allocate \$750,000 to put a fence around a prison. The capital works allocations, symbolic of major works under way, are to be commended. In addition to expansion of prison industries, provision is being made for two maximum security prisons, a number of industry buildings that reflect the new emphasis of the Minister on prison industry, the upgrading of cells and the building of new cells in existing prisons. I remember graphically the speech made by the Minister for Corrective Services when he came to office. He said that when visiting some prisons he discovered prison cells being used as storerooms and for many purposes other than the incarceration of prisoners. It is to the Minister's credit that he found extra capacity in the existing system.

I mention one development, particularly relevant to Eastwood, that will upgrade the morale and career prospects of prison officers. A correctional officers' training college will be set up at Brush Farm in Eastwood to achieve the most important task of training prison officers in an environment that maximizes their interest, capacity to learn, and morale. The training college will give them relevant skills and *esprit de corps* to do a most important job, one that is not recognized as it ought to be. Training of prison officers thus far has been done in a hotchpotch fashion, in facilities that are less than attractive, rendering those officers less than able to achieve necessary goals. The

development of appropriate facilities for prison officers will enable the important task of training to be carried out.

The role of a prison officer is not necessarily always pleasant or easy. We talk about law and order in this House, almost as a motherhood issue. It is crucial that prison officers are treated properly, recognized as they should be, and given appropriate training and career paths so that they may have the same sort of training, relevant to them, that police officers receive for what is in another context a very difficult job. I am confident that a proportion of that vote will be spent on the restoration of Brush Farm. Much has been and will be said of the role of the Government regarding prison officers, their remuneration, and other matters but this step is in the right direction and will be a change for the better, bearing in mind what has happened in recruitment in the past. The former Government placed an advertisement which said that a person did not have to be young, too fit or smell like a rose, to be recruited as a prison officer in New South Wales. I do not suggest for one moment that the job of a prison officer is easy or that it is the sort of work everyone would like to do; but that sort of advertisement to which I have referred needlessly downgrades and insults the potential people who ought to be recruited to that task. The Minister emphasized prison industry, the positive rehabilitation of prisoners and drug addicts which can turn corrective services into a positive program, as it should be. I support clause 13.

Mr LANGTON (Kogarah) [7.40]: I shall be brief in speaking to clause 13 for I know that other members desire to speak in this Committee debate. Additionally, I do not want to add to the woes bedeviling the Minister for Corrective Services, or the problems burdening him. The Budget will provide for a 16 per cent increase in funds for prison officers but that, taken in conjunction with pay rises, will allow only for an increase of 150 prison officers in maximum security institutions. The present shortage of prison officers in the New South Wales prison system, particularly in maximum security, is at absolute crisis point. The extra 150 prison officers to be provided for within this Budget will come nowhere near providing the sort of staffing that is required in prisons. In the report of Mr Justice Bauer, which was delivered to the former Minister for Corrective Services on 10th June, Mr Justice Bauer stated:

The difficulties of recruitment and retention of prison officers, especially in the context of the future needs of the Corrective Service Commission, on a conservative estimate by Mr Crossley [of the department] amounted to in excess of 900 additional officers in the next two years.

Mr Justice Bauer added:

Counsel submitted that the amount of overtime now being worked within New South Wales prisons was leading to a situation where the system was in danger of breakdown due to serious understaffing.

Mr Justice Bauer outlined in detail the number of prison officers short, and why there was that shortage. He stated:

The prison system may be bordering on serious upheaval and disruption because of the lack of staff. That lack of staff appears to be getting worse.

He listed the shortage of prison officers at a particular date and talked about the committed increase to December 1988, which amounted to 781 officers. He then moved to the commitments for the opening of Mulawa stage 1, Mulawa stage 2, and Parklea which, by June 1990, will mean a shortage of 980 prison officers. He said:

Consequently, within two years from the date of this report, without any increase in gaols or in prison population, 980 prison officers will have to be recruited, trained, and retained over and above the existing staff level.

Later, Mr Justice Bauer added:

The addition of 980 officers, when added to the 750 officers who will have to be recruited to make up for resignations over the next two years until June 1990, will mean that a further 1 730 officers of probationary rank will have to be added to the existing staff.

Prison officers are resigning from the system at a rate that is absolutely alarming. They do not trust the Minister. They do not believe him. They do not want to work for him. They are leaving the corrective services system in droves. This Minister has embarked upon a new recruitment campaign. I have no objections to that. The honourable member for Eastwood spoke about how we should be upgrading the role of prison officers. Again, I have no objections to that, for it was a Labor government that instituted the Bauer inquiry so that that might be achieved.

The problems of staffing New South Wales gaols will not be solved until such time as we completely change the role of prison officers and, hopefully, have their pay rates, conditions, training, recruitment, and status in the community raised to the level of police officers. The initial Bauer inquiry was the start of that. I hope that the present Bauer inquiry, which is continuing now, will achieve that. No matter who we are, or from what side of politics, I hope we genuinely want to see secure prisons for prisoners whom the courts determine should be there. At the moment prison officers are sick and tired of being overworked, underpaid, and understaffed, and facing overtime cuts. The shortages have meant that posts, particularly security posts, have been stripped on almost every shift in every prison in this State.

The honourable member for Eastwood spoke of a budgetary increase in corrective services capital works. I was interested to hear him speak about that, for \$53.6 million has been allocated for those works. Of that sum, \$40 million is for work in progress, work that was instituted generally by the previous Government. This leaves only \$13.6 million for new works, which is less than would have been required by the former Minister in the Labor Government in doing projections for capital works in future years. Of that \$13.6 million for new work, \$5.5 million is for two new maximum security gaols, comprising \$5 million to start one at Lithgow, to which we have no objection, and \$500,000 for the start of the prison at Windsor. The new special purpose prison at Windsor, Daruk, proposed in the Budget announced by the Premier, is a most interesting case.

Prior to the State election the Premier said on radio and in statements to the press that there would be no more prisons for the west because the Government was sick and tired of putting all the rubbish into the western suburbs. The Minister also said that no prison would be established without prior consultation with the local community. Where was that acceptance at Windsor? Where was the consultation with the people surrounding Daruk? Where was the consultation with the Penrith city council? Where was the consultation with the people of the electorate of Londonderry? There was absolutely none; neither a desire nor a feeble attempt by the Minister to get public acceptance of the Daruk prison. Unless a proposed prison first has community acceptance, local citizens will find all sorts of social problems that this Minister will also discover soon enough.

Another problem is that there is no allocation in this Budget for AIDS testing. In the past couple of days the Minister has said that there will be compulsory AIDS testing of all prisoners in New South Wales gaols. Anyone with half a brain would know that AIDS testing is very expensive. With 4 200

prisoners in New South Wales gaols at any particular time, and with about 10 000 or 11 000 coming into the prison system in any 12-months period, the problem becomes apparent. The most common sentence is a period of imprisonment for three months to six months. Prisoners who need to be tested for AIDS require testing twice in a period of three months. An extraordinarily large number of AIDS tests would be required. I can find no allocation within this Budget for the additional extraordinary expenditure that will be required. I cannot see where the staff will come from to do all the work.

Mr Yabsley: The honourable member should look more carefully.

Mr LANGTON: If the Minister is able to point out these things for me I shall be delighted to hear, and he might also tell me from which other programs he will take the funds to do the AIDS testing. The Opposition is concerned also about protection. The shortage of prison officers and cuts in overtime payments have brought about an increase in violence in prisons among prisoners and between prisoners and prison officers. Some inmates are at risk from other inmates and require protection, and prisoners who assault prison officers must be isolated. Although this problem will never be eliminated from our gaols, it may be alleviated if the desired number of prison officers are employed. The staff of the Probation and Parole Service has been reduced by six. In May the former Minister for Corrective Services wrote to the Corrective Services Commission, as it then was, and sought advice on how to reduce the staff complement of the Probation and Parole Service. This cutback is the first step in the downgrading of services. There must always be a strong and effective Probation and Parole Service, the officers of which—as are prison officers—are highly motivated. The Opposition seeks an assurance from the Minister that the Probation and Parole Service will be affected minimally by staff cutbacks so that prisoners legitimately on parole will continue to receive treatment that will enable them to be rehabilitated and return to society, and will ensure their proper security and supervision on parole. I congratulate the Minister on the allocation of \$340,000 for the Aboriginal ex-prisoners post release program, the one bright light in the corrective services budget.

Mr PARK (Tamworth) [7.52]: The estimated recurrent vote for the corrective services budget is \$166.38 million, which, when compared with actual expenditure last year on recurrent services of \$150.67 million, is an increase of \$25.7 million, or 17 per cent. The estimates for capital works and services are \$53.1 million, almost double last year's actual expenditure of \$27.3 million. I wish to refer to the capital works program of this portfolio in general. Buildings are being constructed on 18 sites, which includes new work on 14 gaols. The new building developments will provide 240 additional cells. As the honourable member for Eastwood mentioned, \$2 million will be allocated to redevelop Brush Farm to provide a much needed corrective services academy. Overcrowding in our gaols is a significant problem and the prison building program will help immensely. Greater attention must be paid to alternatives to prison sentences; for example, community service orders and home detention.

Mr Amery: The honourable member was not saying that last year.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Tamworth needs no assistance from the honourable member for Riverstone.

Mr PARK: For many years I have talked about community service orders, and during the past couple of years I have called for an evaluation of the home detention concept.

[Interruption]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member for Riverstone and the honourable member for Blacktown wish to contribute to debate, they should seek the call.

Mr PARK: Substantial reductions should be made to the number of prisoners held in high security gaols awaiting trial. The Attorney General is addressing this matter. The Minister for Corrective Services is looking to the future and has announced plans to construct new gaols at Marrangaroo near Lithgow and Daruk near Windsor to accommodate 250 prisoners each. As the honourable member for Kogarah said, some funds have been allocated to commence those projects. In recent weeks the Minister announced the Government's intention to build a new gaol in a country location. The Minister has written to a number of rural local government authorities seeking their co-operation in the selection of the most suitable sites. I commend the Minister for that initiative, which is a move towards decentralization. A rural environment would be advantageous as land is cheaper, and large rural centres would provide a suitable work base for prison officers. There are positive and commendable features to constructing prisons in rural areas. Matters such as adequate communications, and suitable road, air and rail services must be borne in mind.

I now turn to morale among prison officers and its relationship to a problem the Government is seeking to address: the level of wages and salaries for prison officers, and their job status and training. The previous Government relied principally on the recommendations of the Nagle report, which now is more than 10 years old. The previous Government implemented many of the recommendations but failed to upgrade wages and salaries. The Nagle report recommended that wages and salaries of prison officers in New South Wales be brought into line with salary levels for prison officers in other States. The honourable member for Kogarah referred to a crisis. If a crisis exists, as the honourable member contends, it did not occur on 19th March and has not occurred since. The Government inherited the crisis from the previous Government's 12 years in office. The honourable member asserted that prison officers do not trust the Minister. For a time I was shadow minister for corrective services and at the moment I am chairman of the coalition committee on corrective services. I take a keen interest in these matters. From my observations prison officers have every confidence in the Minister and are providing him with a great deal of support for his endeavours. But prison officers are human beings and realists and their salaries and wages concern them deeply, as they concern me, the Minister, and the Government.

Recent news media reports have highlighted this problem. In an article in the *Sun-Herald* of 16th October, Mr Pat Armstrong, president of the Prison Officers Vocational Branch, spoke of the seriousness of the situation with the present level of pay for prison officers. It is true that recently a net loss of prison officers has been recorded. That is of major concern to the Minister. However, with the Minister's recently launched recruiting campaign and his positive approach to this problem and others, the bottom line in prison officer resignations may have been reached. From this point on we can look forward to an improvement. Once that begins it will gain impetus as the Government introduces constructive arrangements.

I wish to refer briefly to the inquiry before Mr Justice Bauer of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, referred to in the article in the *Sun-Herald*. The subject of the inquiry was referred to Mr Justice Bauer by the Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment in conjunction with the Minister for Corrective Services. It is an inquiry into rates of pay and the award

structure of prison officers; and a decision is due by 30th November. In my opinion a substantial pay rise for prison officers is long overdue; such a rise would correct an anomaly that has existed for too long. If a pay rise is granted, the Government will have to find the increased recurrent funds. I am unsure how the Government will handle that; it may be necessary to make an interim arrangement, and in due course the full effect of Mr Justice Bauer's decision can be implemented for budgeting purposes. I compliment the Minister on his positive approach to the problems inherited from the previous Government on 19th March. I hope that more equitable rates of pay for prison officers will soon become a reality. The Minister has my full support, that of members of the committee that liaises with him, and of all members on this side of the House.

Mr YABSLEY (Vaucluse), Minister for Corrective Services [8.4]: I thank honourable members representing the electorates of Eastwood, Kogarah, and Tamworth for their contributions on the estimates for the Minister for Corrective Services in the 1988-89 Budget. It is a fact, which will withstand any objective test of scrutiny, that this Budget has been a landmark for corrective services, predicated on a recognition of a serious crisis in the administration of law, order, and justice in this State. It is a recognition of being able to make an adequate response to the policing and sentencing policies that the Government is in the process of implementing. It flows from that that it is an absolute prerequisite that prison facilities be adequate to compensate for the shortcomings of the past and to cater for the dramatically expanded law and order activities which are being implemented and will continue to be implemented during the Government's term in office.

The honourable member for Eastwood made some valid observations about expenditure on capital works. I suspect that if one examined the history of New South Wales, one would realize the extent of the corrective services capital works program now under way. Three gaols will be constructed over the next three or four years. The honourable member for Kogarah seems to take exception to the fact that the Government is able to embrace in this Budget the figures relating to ongoing capital works. As the Premier has said time and again, by the very nature of government 90 per cent of capital works expenditure relates to projects already under construction. It is worth mentioning that the proportion of capital works that are new initiatives of this Government exceed by a considerable amount what one would expect. It is not a question of saying that only \$13.6 million relates to new works; that is a significant proportion of the capital works allocation for the Department of Corrective Services.

The other salient points arising from the Budget concern an allocation for prison industries. This again flows from the Government's firm attachment to the importance of creating circumstances where all prisoners will be able to participate in work. One of the most negative of a series of negative developments in corrective services over the past 10 or 12 years was the closure of one workshop after another, all under the banner of letting prisoners do their own thing. In other words, if they did not want to work, they did not have to work. This Government will have no truck with that approach. It has a firm attachment to the idea of making every prison a factory. Traditional prison industries, whether woodwork, metalwork, plastics manufacturing, or market gardens in suitable circumstances, will be revived. There will be no limit to what will be achieved through rehabilitation, by allowing prisoners to participate in meaningful, productive activity that is measurable in the output of the prison system.

The Government anticipates at the end of the day even having an operating surplus that will put something back into the system. At present it costs about \$700 or \$800 a week to accommodate a prisoner in a New South Wales prison. A new prison industries building will be constructed at Bathurst costing \$372,000, and another at Berrima costing \$160,000. Additional infrastructure at Emu Plains will cost \$220,000; redevelopment of the workshop area at Maitland will cost \$212,000, while those at Oberon and Silverwater will cost \$212,00 and \$376,000 respectively. Though some might say that is a minor item in an overall budget of \$170 million, I refer to it because the Government has the high priority to have all prisoners working.

I refer briefly again to the capital works program and to new prisons to be built. Let me make clear that the Government does not puff out its chest and take the macho approach of saying it is building three new gaols because it is getting tough about law and order. The construction of those gaols is an acknowledgement of the inhumane and substandard accommodation that exists particularly at Long Bay, within the Central Industrial Prison, the Metropolitan reception prison at Long Bay, and at Parramatta where in some cases two or three prisoners share a cell no larger than a small bathroom. Despite one's approach to prisons, corrective services, and the whole correctional program, it could only be negative and destructive to accommodate prisoners under those circumstances. That has been the pattern for the past 10 years. The Government is determined to provide the necessary infrastructure to overcome that problem.

The \$2 million allocation for the renovation and restoration of the property at Brush Farm referred to by, and in the electorate of, the honourable member for Eastwood will be a turning point for the morale of prison officers in New South Wales. It will be a place of which prison officers will be proud and where the Department of Corrective Services' flag will fly high. Prison officers will be able to look to that institution in the same way that police officers look with pride at the Police Academy at Goulburn, which is so well-known to you, Mr Chairman. That sort of facility for prison officers has been lacking. It is with particular pride that I acknowledge the \$2 million allocation. I acknowledge particularly, and with considerable feeling, the involvement and swift action taken by my predecessor, the late Dr Ray Aston, the former member for Vacluse and Minister for Corrective Services. He made sure that that property was obtained from the Department of Family and Community Services and, further, that the necessary resources were devoted to it to ensure that it will be on stream in the shortest time possible and will perform the very important function of a training academy for prison officers.

I wish to put paid to some misconceptions about the difficulty experienced in the recruitment of prison officers. There is no doubt that that has happened. I have acknowledged repeatedly that there has been an alarming rate of attrition of prison officers. The circumstances that have caused that are complex. I should have hoped that the honourable member for Kogarah at least would have had a sufficient spirit of, if not bipartisanship, common sense to realize that there is no point blowing fire in this House and pretending that that attrition rate is a development entirely since 19th March. Clearly it is the end result of very difficult circumstances over a long period. If the honourable member for Kogarah had been at all sincere in his contribution, he would have acknowledged the absolute futility of the recruitment advertising campaign run by the previous Government. I have referred to that campaign on a number of occasions.

To set the record straight once and for all, there is no question of inadequate government resources that will present an increase in the number of prison officers. Between now and 19th December the number of prison officer trainees attending training schools will total just under 200. That is purely the result of my department's getting out and promoting the position of prison officer in a positive way. Last Friday I attended a passing out parade at the training school. In the superintendent's office I saw the extraordinary number of enrolment applications to be taken between now and October 1989. There is no question that the Government will achieve its aim of recruiting an additional 500 prison officers into the prison system. The difficulty we are experiencing is accommodating trainees in appropriate facilities and the necessity to have additional training schools. So, measurable progress is being made to improve the cycle of low morale among prison officers.

I shall refer briefly also to the learned comments of the honourable member for Tamworth, a member who has extraordinary knowledge and understanding of corrective services and everything that that implies. The honourable member referred to the provision of an additional 240 cells, especially as a result of the capital works program to be implemented at Parklea, Grafton and a number of other institutions round New South Wales. The honourable member again reinforced his and the Government's firm attachment to alternatives to imprisonment. There can be no suggestion that the Probation and Parole Service has in any way been diminished in importance or in the support it receives. As my department implements the strategy of making the punishment fit the crime, and of truth in sentencing, there will be even further demand on the Probation and Parole Service to administer an expanded community service order program, a pilot program for home detention, expansion of the introduction of bail hostels, periodic detention, weekend detention, and other imprisonment options that are the means by which we can make the punishment fit the crime. Quite clearly that does not mean custodial punishment only. In conclusion I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the budget allocation for corrective services. I return to where I started: we will withstand any objective analysis. This is a landmark budget for corrective services that recognizes the importance of rehabilitation, imprisonment of offenders in our society, and the need to create more law-abiding citizens and therefore a more lawful society.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 14

[Minister for Education and Youth Affairs]

Mr J. J. AQUILINA (Blacktown) [8.18]: On face value one may presume that the budget allocations for education and technical and further education is something about which this Minister might crow. However, in keeping with everything else that the Minister and his Government have done with public education, this Budget is a sham. There is no other word for it. It is a sham that hides severe restrictions and cutbacks to public education in this State.

I have studied the Budget Papers in considerable detail. I have made a note that Budget Paper No. 3, volume 1, contains substantial detail about the Budget. Yet, nowhere in the Estimates can I find a specific allocation for the money to be saved from the cutback of 2 500 teaching positions. I wonder if the Minister can enlighten me as to where in the Estimates is there reference to the specific savings to be made from the axing of 800 ancillary staff. Also, what about the cutback in the number of teachers supervising swimming classes?

Where in the Estimates are those savings referred to? Do the Estimates outline the dollar savings to be made from changes in face-to-face teaching at primary schools? What about the money to be saved from the closing of schools? Already we have had the first instalment of 15 schools to be closed. Where in the Estimates is there reference to the special allocation of money to be saved from the day-to-day expense of running those schools? Even more to the point, where in the Estimates is there reference to the special allocation of money to be made from the sale of those school sites? How many millions of dollars will be made from selling those sites? Will they raise \$10 million, or \$20 million, or \$50 million or \$100 million?

The Budget plainly indicates that the increase in expenditure on education is estimated to be about \$393 million. However, one needs to examine this estimate a little closer. Like everything else in this Budget, it is very deceptive. One variation from past budgets is that school cleaning is now part of the education estimates; it is no longer part of the administrative services estimate. School cleaning accounts for \$162 million of the \$393 million that has been allocated for education. School cleaning is a new factor that has been introduced into the estimates for education.

Mr Andrews: This is a new broom.

Mr J. J. AQUILINA: The honourable member for Ryde says it is a new broom but also I perceive that the Minister will try to tell honourable members, as has no doubt been trumpeted in the publicity that this Budget has received, that education is receiving an increase of \$393 million. Nothing of the sort. The \$393 million must be reduced by \$162 million for school cleaning. In the past payroll tax was always a Budget allocation against the Treasurer's estimates. In this instance, payroll tax is a budget allocation against the Department of Education. It accounts for \$80 million so that the estimate for education must be further reduced by that amount. The real increases in the education allocation now start to look a little thin.

The Minister did a lot of heeing and hawing about the \$90 million to be spent on public school maintenance. It took me a long time to discover where that \$90 million was to come from but a detailed study of these estimates shows that \$52 million of the public school maintenance comes from last year's allocation; a transfer of \$52 million from the 1987-88 estimates into the 1988-89 estimates. More than half of the money allocated for public school maintenance in this financial year has been a transfer of unexpended moneys from last financial year.

The allocation in the education estimates for special education has caused some confusion. The total enhancements for primary and secondary schools are allocated \$4.678 million, which I commend. However, honourable members should recall that shortly after the 2nd June mini-budget the Minister said that special education would be boosted by \$20 million. More than 200 000 parents of students in this State were told by letter that special education in 1988-89 would be increased by more than \$20 million. However, the allocation in the Budget is not even 25 per cent of that amount. The Minister went on further in that letter to say that the provision in the estimates for special education would be increased each financial year for the next four years to an overall increase of \$80 million within a four year period. The Premier went on air publicly at that time and told the people of this State that there would be a \$20 million increase each year so that in the fourth year the increase would be \$80 million. No wonder the people involved in special education were jumping with glee.

Mr Andrews: That is not what he said.

Mr J. J. AQUILINA: That is what the Minister said, but the Premier had it wrong. He went on air and told the people of this State that special education would be increased by \$20 million a year so that in the fourth year it would be increased by \$80 million.

Mr Nagle: What would you expect from them?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr Wotton): Order! If the honourable member for Auburn wishes the call, he should seek it later.

Mr J. J. AQUILINA: The allocation of \$4.678 million for special education is very much needed but is a far cry from the hoo-ha that one heard after 2nd June when the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs stated in 200 000 letters mailed to parents of pupils in this State that he would be increasing the amount by \$20 million.

Mr Photios: Over a four-year period.

Mr J. J. AQUILINA: No, it was over one year. It was to be \$80 million over a four-year period. The honourable member for Ryde should read the letter that was sent out to the parents. The estimated increase in the education allocation has been further inflated by \$4.7 million for the "Start to Life" program. Again I ask: where is this money coming from? It has not been obtained as an overall increase in the education budget. It has come from the scrapping of the youth employment scheme. In previous years that scheme was funded by the Department of Industrial Relations. A vote from industrial relations is transferred to education and the Government says it is increasing education spending in New South Wales by an extra \$4.7 million. A further inflationary factor affecting the real increase in the education allocation has been the \$5 million appropriated for the new education and training foundation. Furthermore, this year the State's share of higher education superannuation costs has now increased from \$4.2 million to \$11 million. If the amounts of \$162 million for cleaning, \$80 million for payroll tax, \$4.7 million for the "Start to Life" project, \$5 million for the new education and training foundation, and \$5.8 million for higher education superannuation costs are totalled, the \$390 million that is supposed to be an increased allocation to public education in this State is whittled away.

It is disquieting to note that the allocation to the Aboriginal education consultation group has been reduced from \$155,000, measley as that amount was, to \$70,000, a reduction of more than 50 per cent. That is what this Government thinks of the needs of Aboriginal education. Teachers in technical and further education would no doubt also be amazed at the supposed increase in the allocation of funds for technical and further education. However, honourable members should not forget that \$21 million of that increase will come from the new administration charge that this Government will levy on students at TAFE colleges next year: \$100 a person a course in initial courses and \$263 for diploma courses.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Blacktown does not need any assistance from members on the Government benches.

Mr J. J. AQUILINA: That charge will raise \$21 million, which eats up substantially the so-called increase in funds allocated to technical and further education. These Estimates are as deceptive as the Minister has been in trying to explain and justify just how he is emasculating public education in this State.

The true position about public education can be gleaned from an examination of these estimates. To try to compare these estimates with those of last year to get some guidance as to real increases is like comparing oranges to apples. The comparison is meaningless.

Why does not the Minister come clean and thoroughly brief the teachers in schools and TAFE colleges on the real financial situation of public education? How many times has the Teachers Federation tried to get the accurate figures from this Minister. The Minister, even when locked in discussions with the Industrial Commission, will not give accurate figures because he knows the estimates are as full of holes as is his ministerial code of conduct. He sends out correspondence to parents and to those who write to him which are nothing more than meaningless pamphlets, financially outdated and factually incorrect. These estimates are a deceit, as is the Minister's entire education package.

Mr ANDREWS (Heathcote) [8.32]: The honourable member for Blacktown, a former teacher, is obviously not an accountant. He might be better advised to go back to his playdough rather than deal with figures. I speak from this side of the House without the bias of being a former teacher or partner or member of the Teachers Federation. I speak on behalf of the parents, students, employees and the rest of the community who kicked the rabble on the benches opposite out of office seven months ago. This Budget is all about repairing the finances of New South Wales and paving the way for significant benefits to the taxpayers of the State, as mentioned by the Premier. Education funding will be \$3130 million, or 8 per cent higher than last year. That gives the lie to the statement by the honourable member for Blacktown that the Government is cutting spending on education.

Savings in recurrent services of \$140 million in a full year are sought in education. A substantial part of that saving will come from changes in restrictive work practices. The Minister for Education and Youth Affairs will receive an allocation of \$71,073,000 for recurrent services, \$2,522,432,000 for the Department of Education, and \$563 million for the Department of Technical and Further Education. In addition, the capital works and services allocation will amount to \$198 million for the Department of Education, and \$93.7 million for the Department of Technical and Further Education. One does not have to look far through the estimates for capital works or the Budget to realise the impact the Government will make on the community in public education.

The capital works program includes allocation for new schools, upgrading additions to schools, libraries, gymnasiums, multipurpose centres, additional classrooms, replacement of schools, and many other items. I am pleased to note that the Minister for Education has included expenditure for the Heathcote area which has a rapidly increasing population. But schools in parts of the Heathcote electorate, built some years ago, are in disrepair and almost falling down round the ears of teachers and students. The best example of the previous Government's neglect of schools in the whole southern area of Sydney is Heathcote High School. The allocation for upgrading special facilities at Heathcote High school is \$234,600, \$1,425,000 for upgrading stage four of that school, \$874,000 for additional classrooms at Illawong, \$18,000 for completion of the Hall Drive Public School, and \$482,000 for completion of the new Menai High School.

That is just in one electorate, whose population is increasing greatly, where the student population is bursting at the seams; but at the other end of that electorate the number of students is diminishing. The best part of this

Budget is that for the first time the department is taking that factor into account. Why cannot schools be closed when there are hardly any students left, and it is impossible to justify having a school? This is not an across the board closure of schools. The honourable member for Burraborang spent more time in the Heathcote electorate than in his own, smearing and telling lies, saying that the schools at Scarborough, Otford and Coledale were going to be closed and warning people to watch out for this Government. We quickly put an end to that. The Minister came to the electorate and declared outright that was a pack of lies and was not to be believed. I hope the honourable member for Burraborang realizes that people are waking up to honourable members opposite who tell nothing but lies.

This is an appropriate time to explain to the people what happened. Much of the hot debate and confusion round the State resulted from innuendos and lies in statements by teachers and members of the Teachers Federation. I have been to every parents and citizens meeting, teachers meeting, to every school and parents and students meeting that I have been asked to attend; I have still to attend more meetings. I have taken all the information I have gathered back to the Minister, and the Minister has replied in every respect. I shall read a letter that I received recently from the Engadine West Parents and Citizens Association:

Dear Mr Andrews,

Thank you for your letter of 21 September regarding your representations to Minister Metherell on changes to education system. The issues in question have been fully discussed at a number of P and C meetings. The document forwarded by yourself has greatly assisted members of the P and C to understand the complex issue at hand. Following these detailed and somewhat emotive discussions, the principal Mr Smith has allayed the majority of fears that existed amongst many parents about the overall effects of the changes on their children at Engadine West. In hindsight I guess considerable more consultation was necessary to explain the proposed changes so as to minimize the uneasy anticipation and natural resistance to change. On behalf of Engadine West P and C we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the representations you made to Minister Metherell on our behalf.

That is a perfect example of what has happened. Though the Labor Party, the Opposition, and the Teachers Federation have told people that the Government's proposal cannot work and cannot be done, here is a person who said that it can be done and went to the principal and worked it all out. This is a perfect example of the confusion that honourable members opposite are putting in the minds of the people of the State.

The Government is committed to restoring excellence to the public education system in New South Wales. We are meeting the real concerns of parents about the standards of basic excellence and discipline in our schools. Can any member on either side of this House say he has not been approached by a parent, student or teacher at some time during the election campaign where that person has not said there should be a return of discipline in our schools, that we should get the three R's back? That is what the Government is committed to doing. The Government will dezone all metropolitan primary schools next year to provide parents with an opportunity to select the most appropriate schools for their children. Eight new selective high schools will be opened for the start of 1989. In Sutherland shire no student had access to a selective high school. The only way in which any of the students of my electorate could attend a selective high school was through sibling rights, where their mother or father attended such a school. St George Girls High School is one of the most sought after schools for girls in my area, but the only students who go there did so because their mothers had been students there many years earlier.

All of a sudden, this Government will provide them with access to a selective high school. The first government senior high school will be opened at St Marys this year. A school for the performing arts will be developed at Newtown. That was never even thought of by the previous Government, yet that will be open in term 4 of next year.

What I see as the main education advantage is the joint school and technical and further education college program. This will give students going through to year 12 the right to go straight into the technical and further education program and later straight into meaningful employment, instead of suffering stopgaps between school, commencing at a technical and further education college and then moving from that college to employment, with a gap between each. It does not work. The closer links between industry and schools will mean they will work together to assist students. Industry will help. We are already helping Hawker de Havilland with East Hills Boys High School, and we are redeveloping Randwick Girls High School and Randwick Boys High School to work in with the Department of Technical and Further Education, building on the same block of land so that they can work together. On top of that, the Budget will provide a record \$90 million for school maintenance.

Dr Metherell: That is not bad for the first six months of office.

Mr ANDREWS: It is not a bad record. This Minister for Education is the first Minister who has been told that he is not doing what is his right, but I want him to keep doing what he has been doing. I would be most happy for him to keep not doing the right thing if it means he will continue following the same line.

Ms ALLAN (Wentworthville) [8.42]: My talking points touch upon the estimates for education. Clause 23.1 refers to an amount of almost \$5 million that is to be spent on the Start to Life program. The Government deserves congratulations for introducing this program. Certainly, that amount reinforces the Premier's comment in his speech when he described the Start to Life program as one that will ensure all school leavers have the choice of either securing employment in a recognized training scheme or in higher education. When the Minister is considering the actual expenditure of funds on the Start to Life program I ask him to take into account the needs of volunteerism. In the State electorate of Parramatta, an electorate neighbouring my own, which has the second largest central business district in Australia and which actually services my electorate as well, is the Parramatta branch of the volunteer centre of New South Wales.

The volunteer centre is under threat because the current federal Government, through the federal Department of Employment, Education and Training, is considering no longer taking into account the important fact of volunteerism when it implements its skills share program from 1989. It is obvious that there will be problems for the volunteer centre of New South Wales, both at its Sydney branch and at the Parramatta centre. This is particularly relevant to the Parramatta branch because that centre is under threat of closure if the federal Government pursues its current intention of removing volunteerism from the skills share program. Almost 500 unemployed young people have passed through that volunteer centre in Parramatta since April of last year. Of the 472 people who have been through the centre, 90 per cent have in fact been able to secure permanent employment following their stint of volunteerism. Those members who have not experienced the services of the volunteer centre should be told that it has been in operation since 1976. It has operated basically as a referral service for the young unemployed who have

been seeking to enter voluntary work to prepare themselves for subsequent permanent employment.

My other comment relates to the general cutbacks in education. I do not intend traversing the ground that has been covered already by the shadow minister for education but we shall have many opportunities, as the year progresses, to debate this subject in a general sense. In view of the statements made by the Minister for Education I do not see any difficulty obtaining opportunities to debate matters. Prospect Public School lies on the periphery of my electorate. It has been listed by the Minister and the Government as one of the schools to be closed at the beginning of 1989. The school has a significant local history and has been operational since 1871. The present enrolment of Prospect Public School is 15 children only, and from the beginning of next year it is expected that the operational enrolment will be no more than nine. In that context it is a school that will be closed justifiably. However, the bald figures of enrolment—15 pupils now and nine at the beginning of next year—do not fully reflect the true situation. At this time last year that school had an enrolment of 15 children but because of a process of misinformation by the Department of Education in the western Sydney area many parents were led to believe from a recent announcement by the Minister that this school is being closed.

Unfortunately, it was not necessarily the case that that school should close. I am concerned at the policy of the department during the past three or four years in relation to Prospect Public School. That school has run down to the extent that it is fairly obvious that it must close. If we are to have school closures as a general rule, which I do not want, we should not do it in a way that will gradually wear down the significant reputation of a school that has produced outstanding students.

Another reason why I am concerned about the closure of this school relates to some of the comments made in this debate by the shadow minister for education. What is going to happen to the site on which this particular school stands? Some honourable members on the Government benches may well have passed this school on their trips to the Blue Mountains to enjoy the wonderful tourism features. The building is rather lonely, and stands on the Great Western Highway near Blacktown. It is an optimum site for redevelopment. I imagine it will be one of the sites that will be targeted by this government as being suitable for resale, and will be sold as soon as possible after the school is closed in December.

Adjacent to the school is a rather delightful teacher's residence which has been there since the nineteenth century. I have a particular concern about the resale of this site for the school could be used for valuable community activities in an area where community services are sorely lacking. There are severe flooding problems in my electorate. One of the many flood groups operating in the area has argued strongly that a number of redeveloped areas in the Blacktown manufacturing centre have been responsible for the local flooding. I suggest to the Government that if it is seriously considering flogging off the site of Prospect Public School at the beginning of next year it should first consult closely with the Department of Water Resources. Selling the site to gain millions of dollars through redevelopment will make the flooding problem of Toongabbie Creek worse. I shall be putting this Minister on notice, and also the Minister for Natural Resources, that we will be campaigning strongly in the local area so that we do not exacerbate the flooding problem. It may be unfortunate, but the Minister has to wear the brunt of the decision to close this school. He is responsible for the closure of Prospect Public School,

not the former Minister for Education. The Minister and his departmental officers managed to wear down that school's enrolment.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Interruptions are disorderly. Honourable members on the Government side of the House will have ample opportunity to contribute to debate in due course.

Ms ALLAN: Government supporters are comfortable talking about the requirements of the Sutherland shire, but things become more difficult when they have to assess the needs of the people of western Sydney.

Mr DOWNY (Sutherland) [8.50]: I should like to answer some of the matters raised by members of the Opposition. The honourable member for Blacktown referred to hoo-ha. This evening we have heard much hoo-ha from the Opposition. The honourable member for Wentworthville conceded that the previous Government, of which the honourable member for Blacktown was a Minister, made the decision to close Prospect Public School. Now the honourable member says that the Minister for Education must wear that decision. She said she would campaign strongly against him to have the school reopened. What a load of rubbish. The honourable member, in all self-righteousness, has attempted to place the blame upon the Government. It was a Labor Government that, last year, made the decision to close that particular school.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Drummoyne will have an opportunity to contribute to the debate, if he remains in the House long enough.

Mr DOWNY: The honourable member for Blacktown has criticized the Government. It is the same old story. The Opposition does not say what it would do if it were in government. As has been said previously in education debates, the Opposition would never go back on a decision that this Government has taken. That is interesting. The Opposition offers much criticism but does not come up with any solutions or options to overcome problems that have arisen as a result of the past 12 years of Labor Party Government mismanagement. The honourable member for Wentworthville referred to the volunteer centre in her electorate. The Minister for Education and Youth Affairs made a grant of \$50,000 to assist that centre to cope with Commonwealth cuts in funding. Opposition members should ask their mates in Canberra what happened to Commonwealth funding for that centre.

The Opposition frequently talks about cutbacks. It ignores the fact that for the first time in four years the education budget has been increased—by 8 per cent. A record \$3.13 billion will be spent on education this year. In addition, expenditure on technical and further education will increase by 12.5 per cent. Apart from the health portfolio, expenditure on education is the second largest expenditure in the entire Budget, totalling 22 per cent. The secondary text-book allowance has been doubled to an amount of \$8.3 million. Significant increases are provided in funding for computer education. Last week in the budget debate I informed honourable members of the computer education system that operates in Tasmania. Tasmania leads New South Wales in this regard. That computer system has operated in Tasmania for 12 years. When the Opposition criticizes the Government on this score all it is concerned about are the teachers. The Opposition has forgotten about the real matters that require attention. To provide a school link computer education system \$4.02 million will be spent in

secondary schools and more than \$2 million in primary schools in 1988-89. The leading teacher concept is innovative. Next year Kirrawee High School will benefit from the appointment of a leading teacher.

The Labor Party was notorious, when in Government, for failing to update security systems in schools. This Government is contributing significantly to security of primary and secondary schools. School security measures are being upgraded. Teachers, students, and parents of students at Jannali Boys High School will be grateful for that upgrading. Over the past few years that school has had to endure numerous attacks involving arson and vandalism. The Government has set aside record funds for school maintenance. On school maintenance, in the primary sector \$166.86 million will be spent; and in the secondary school sector \$173 million will be spent. There must be a massive infusion of funds for school maintenance throughout my electorate. In this regard I mention Jannali Girls High School and Jannali Boys High School. As the Minister is aware, on numerous occasions Jannali Girls High School complained to the previous Government demanding new flooring and upgrading of the gymnasium. I have made representations to the Minister about adequate floor coverings at Sutherland Public School and Grays Point Public School. The former member for Woronora paid scant attention to those complaints. In the past many requests have been made for adequate floor coverings at those schools. The floors are bare boards in these schools. That is nineteenth century working conditions for the staff and students in the twentieth century. In this day and age that is not good enough.

The allocation of priorities has been overlooked in this debate. An examination of the estimates reveals that 79 per cent of funds allocated to primary schools is set aside for the payment of salaries. For secondary schools funds set aside for the payment of salaries make up 74 per cent of the allocation. If significant changes are to occur in the education system, priorities must be determined. It is an age-old debate that has been around in this country for many years. The only area from which funds could be obtained, apart from increased allocations that have been made, is from a decrease in the amount allocated for salaries. Surely it is about time that the Opposition and the New South Wales Teachers Federation acknowledged that the education system will benefit from a small reduction in staffing complements. Many features of the education system have been neglected. In today's budgetary climate it is not good enough to increase the allocation for education without finding extra money from within the system. If that is not done, an education system that is adequate for the twentieth century and the twenty-first century, and a system that is at least the equal of that in Tasmania, will not be achieved.

Mr J. H. MURRAY (Drummoyne) [9.0]: Despite the assurances of the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs that no teacher would lose his job as a result of the abolition of 2 000 teaching positions, a departmental memorandum was recently issued to all regional directors and principals advising them of arrangements for retirements to be effective immediately. This action will pull the rug from under 255 teachers, principals, and occupants of promotion positions within the State. The cream of the teaching profession will be asked to leave.

[Interruption]

Mr J. H. MURRAY: Government members may laugh but those teachers provide leadership in their profession within this State. They are the ones who received lowly wages when they were 20 or 30 years of age, who served at bush schools and moved around the country areas of the State. They

are the people who dedicated a lifetime to the teaching profession. But the Minister has said to them, "Sixty years of age and you are out". He does not say that to members of this House; when they are 60 years of age, they will still receive a salary. But this Minister says to teachers, "If you are a school principal, a person of substance, a leader in the community who has worked for others, at the age of 60 you are out".

That is the philosophy of this Minister. He will take the money from his electorate office but will not look after those who have served this State well. Most of these teachers were only 18 years or 20 years of age when they began their careers. They have given a lifetime of service to the students and people of this State. It was teachers like them who educated the Minister when he was at school. Now, in the twilight of their careers, with all their experience and background, he has pulled the rug from under them and will dismiss them. They will be thrown on the employment scrap-heap. But the Minister is at odds with the head of his department.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Drummoyne does not need any help from Government members.

Mr J. H. MURRAY: This Minister says to the teachers, "Once you are 60 years of age, you are out". But if one is a member of Parliament representing a coalition party, the Minister says, "You can stay there as I may get a vote out of you". If you are working for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or the Department of Health, you are not out; but if you are a teacher and you are 60 years of age, you get the axe. This Minister does not understand human nature. He has no loyalty for the teaching profession—an honourable profession accepted throughout the world. I refer to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* headed "School heads doing a fine job, says Dr Sharpe". The Director-General of Education, Dr Fenton Sharpe, is obviously at loggerheads with the Minister. The article said:

In sharp contrast with the recent requests of the Minister for Education, Dr Metherell, to focus the curriculum more stringently, Dr Sharpe praised its diversity. . .

Secondary schools were flexible, successful and exciting, Dr Sharpe said, and had worked sensitively with young adults on such issues as identity and sexuality, values and personal development, drug abuse, cultural and ethnic pluralism, changing family structures and the potential for nuclear holocaust.

Those are the issues of the day. We need people with experience in those fields. Many school principals fought for this country during World War II in a bid to retain a democratic society. But at the age of 60 years they will be thrown on the scrap-heap.

Mr Tink: You are misrepresenting the situation.

Mr J. H. MURRAY: I am not. I am simply reading the remarks of the head of the Department of Education.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Eastwood and the honourable member for Carlingford must desist from interjecting.

Mr J. H. MURRAY: The article continued:

The president of the N.S.W. Council of High School Principals, Mrs Ruth Readford, said Dr Sharpe's words of praise were sorely needed in the face of the "massive onslaught" on schools by the Government.

Aged people are not covered by the provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Young people, migrants, those who are racially different from Caucasians, are covered by the Act, but the aged are not. No other public servant is discriminated against in the way that high school principals are being discriminated against by the memorandum which this Minister has ordered regional directors and principals to read to the teachers of this State. He is exploiting a weakness in the Anti-Discrimination Act which is detrimental to a fine body of public servants who have served the people of this State honourably.

Mr Merton: Who passed the legislation?

Mr J. H. MURRAY: I am not talking about that. I am talking about the Minister abusing his position and taking advantage of a loophole in the legislation. All honourable members should realize that if the Minister discriminates in this way against highly trained professionals, the teaching profession will not be able to attract the recruits that it needs. My son and my daughter were considering becoming teachers. I do not say that they are the best young people in the world but they are typical of university graduates of today. I was a teacher; it was an honour to follow one's parents in the profession, but there is no way in the world that my children would ever become teachers because of the imposts that this Minister is placing upon the profession. One of my children has completed a university degree, the other is half-way through. I tell the Minister straight from the shoulder that their attitude to a teaching career is echoed by other young people throughout the State. The other day the Minister told the House that there will be a shortage of teachers in the future. I tell the House that the shortage will be dramatic as there is no inducement to enter the profession. When one reaches the pinnacle of one's career, one will be thrown on the scrap-heap.

I turn now to the difficulties that Mortlake Public School will face next year with a reduction in teaching numbers. At present the school has 11 class teachers with an average class size of 26. Next year the school will have 10 class teachers with an average class size of 29. One full-time relief face-to-face teacher will be reduced to 10 hours a week. The school did not have a library until my election as the member for Drummoyne. I am disappointed that the library will not be able to be used effectively. It will be used for only three days a week. Educational opportunities for the pupils will decrease and they will be disadvantaged. I shall raise one other matter. I am particularly upset that for the very first time there has been no provision for capital works program for any of the 17 schools in the Drummoyne electorate. I shall tell the House why. Political nepotism has been introduced by this Government. The honourable member who preceded me in this debate introduced that concept. The previous Government and the Parliament always predicated capital funding on a needs basis.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is far too much audible conversation on the Opposition benches.

Mr J. H. MURRAY: In other words, money was allocated where there was a need. However, that is changing. The Government has adopted the Queensland system: if you are a member of the Liberal Party, your electorate receives funding; if you are not, your electorate misses out. I shall tell the House who is missing out. The children—the future of New South Wales—are missing out. One fine principle in New South Wales is that if you are the best teacher in the State, you might finish up at Bourke, Broken Hill, or Sydney High. There

has never been any inequality of education for rural, inner city, or outer city schools. Education has been provided on a needs basis. However, this Government is introducing a system based not on needs but on nepotism. The Minister for Education is not saying anything, but he knows what I am talking about. At present in court Justice Macken is hearing arguments advanced by senior officers of the Minister for Education. When one reads the comments of Justice Macken one finds that they echo the comments that the honourable member for Blacktown has made in this House week after week, that there is a total injustice—

Mr Kerr: Very weak.

Mr J. H. MURRAY: Mr Justice Macken, a learned judge, has said that there is a total injustice in what the Minister is trying to railroad through this House; that the Minister has conned members on the Government backbenches into believing that teachers will accept his changes, but that the quality of education will not change. Justice Macken put the lie to those statements when he said that there will be a gross injustice if the Minister's program is introduced; and that the education of New South Wales children will suffer if the Minister's philosophy and educational program is implemented. I trust that honourable members have listened intently to what I have said. Previously I have made certain statements, as a result of which the Minister later has readjusted his program. I shall venture one further comment: when Justice Macken's determination is handed down, the Minister will again change his educational philosophy.

Dr METHERELL (Davidson), Minister for Education and Youth Affairs [9.13]: I thank the honourable members on the Government side of the House for their substantial contributions to this debate, for the common sense and incisiveness with which they have approached these issues, and how they have swept aside the quite irrelevant and hysterical claptrap from honourable members opposite. Rather than waste more time on the Opposition's arguments, it would be more appropriate for the House to proceed with the next clause in the Estimates.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 15

[Minister for Environment]

Mr ROGAN (East Hills) [9.14]: I shall make some brief remarks on the estimates for the Minister for Environment. I shall address my remarks first to the overall allocation to the Minister's office. When the Budget figures were first published the Government, commendably, announced what each department's allocation would be. As the media is wont to do, it examined the figures to see which Ministers were the winners and which were the losers. The Minister for Environment would appear to have been a substantial winner. However, the media did not look at the fine print. The Minister's allocation was increased from \$13.791 million in 1987-88 to \$17.184 million in 1988-89, an increase of 24.6 per cent. However, the Minister has been given the added responsibility of the Sydney Water Board and the Hunter District Water Board, and included in his allocation is a figure for the pensioner rating concession.

I am pleased that that figure reflects a decision taken by the former Government, by which the overall subsidy was increased from \$150 to \$175 for both water and council rates. Though that figure did not appear in last year's Budget, it will appear this year. Hence there is a substantial increase this year of 24.6 per cent in the allocation for the Minister for Environment. Also the

allocation for the National Parks and Wildlife Service has increased. However, that reflects the Minister's added responsibility for Bicentennial Park, the Royal Botanic Gardens, and Lord Howe Island, about which I shall make brief comments in a moment.

I turn to the office of the Minister for Environment. The average staffing in his office this year is 13. The Opposition does not agree with the Department of Planning having been split from the Department of Environment. In essence that move has gutted the former combined department's staffing. Planning is so integral to environment that it is foolish to separate those two functions. However, the Government has made that decision, and will have to live with it. When the Labor Party is re-elected—as I expect it will, given that this Budget will not ensure the re-election of all honourable members on the Government side, particularly those in marginal seats—it will again amalgamate the two departments. Already up and down the coast battle lines have been drawn on planning. Today a large meeting of various groups voiced concern about the way the Government is proceeding with developments along the coast.

Mr T. J. Moore: On a point of order. It is with reluctance that I suggest that the matters to which the honourable member is referring relate to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and fall within clause 20 of the bill, dealing with the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning.

Mr Rogan: On the point of order. I was making only a passing remark and upon resuming my speech I shall—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for East Hills has been a member of this Chamber long enough to know that he is expected to speak to the clause before the House. I ask him to return to that clause.

Mr ROGAN: I simply wanted to make a point. It has been made and I shall not continue further with it. I was speaking about the pensioner concession applicable to water rates. I wonder how the concession will be affected by the promise of the Government that those unsewered areas in the Hunter district will be connected to the sewer. The Hunter District Water Board has indicated that if it proceeds with the program, there will be an increase of \$15 a year on the rates of those residents presently connected to the sewer, and it could be \$350 a year for the next ten years for those living in unsewered areas. That will put the Government to the test. The Government has made a promise that there will be no—

Mr T. J. Moore: On a point of order. Again it is with reluctance that I point out that the administration of the Hunter District Water Board, through falling under my ministerial supervision, is not provided for in the Appropriation Bill. The Hunter District Water Board and the Sydney District Water Board are known as outer Budget bodies and are not dealt with in this process. The general rating policy or the construction activities of the Hunter District Water Board, which the honourable member is now traversing, do not fall within the scope of clause 15 (1) or clause 15 (2) of the bill before the House.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister's point of order is well taken. The honourable member for East Hills has only to read the Appropriation Bill to see that he should confine his remarks to the office of the Minister, to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and to the State Pollution Control Commission. I ask him to address his remarks to those matters or else resume his seat.

Mr ROGAN: I shall not canvass your ruling, Mr Chairman. By way of explanation, I was concerned about the rate rebate and how the increase in rates may affect that rebate. Again I believe the point has been made and I shall therefore not continue with that matter. As outlined on page 316 of Budget Paper No. 3 the Minister now has the responsibility for the Bicentennial Park, the Royal Botanic Gardens, and Centennial Park. The Bicentennial Park was undertaken with bicentennial funds. It is appropriate that those areas are within the portfolio of the Minister for Environment. I have confidence in him to administer those areas in an environmentally sound way. On page 325 of Budget Paper No. 3 funding for recreational area management has been increased. An increase in staff has been provided for the development and maintenance of recreational settings. This includes the national parks historic sites and State recreation areas. The increase in staff reflects again the very innovative program of the former Government of a substantial expansion of national parks and State recreation areas. It is appropriate to mention that the Minister and I have discussed both formally, by way of correspondence, and informally the question of the trusteeships of State recreation areas.

The former Government made the decision to remove the power of the State recreation area trust to control budgets and give direction to the rangers who operate and manage State recreation areas. I disagreed with that decision. I was in the process of convincing the former Minister that the decision was incorrect prior to the change of Government. It is only proper that these trusts, which administer the State recreation areas on behalf of local communities, should have the power to control budgets and direct staff. I note that the Minister has established a committee to look into that matter. I hope that when the committee makes its report the Minister will change the system back to the way it had previously operated.

Mr T. J. Moore: Tell us whose April Fool's Day trick it was.

Mr ROGAN: While the Minister was speaking I said it was the previous Government's decision. I said that when there was a change of government I was in the process of convincing the former Minister that the system should be changed. I hope that the present Minister, in his wisdom, will revert to the old system. Only by doing that will we be able to bring forward people with talent who are willing to assist and give their time to administering the State recreation areas. However, they would not be willing to do that if they were merely to be advisory bodies. They want some real control, and indeed they should have it.

Recently I visited Lord Howe Island. It has been agreed between the Opposition and the Government that Lord Howe Island should be a bipartisan issue. Certainly from our side it will remain that way. The last item I mention is the decision to impose an entry fee on the Mount Annan and Mount Tomah gardens, both bicentenary projects. That decision discriminates unfairly against people in the west. I hope that irrespective of how the decision came about the Minister will take on board the concerns of the people in those areas and reverse the decision.

Mr PHOTIOS (Ryde) [9.28]: Contrary to what the honourable member for East Hills has contended, the Minister for Environment has successfully given effect to a very real and determined effort on the part of the coalition Government to protect the environment in the way that it promised the people of New South Wales. It has been contended by the honourable member for East Hills that members in marginal seats would be concerned because of the amount of money this Government has allocated in the Estimates for this purpose; no doubt he would contend that they would have been concerned and are concerned with the rhetoric of the Government in regard to the portfolio.

The stark reality is that this Government has made every effort to increase financial assistance for various programs administered by the office of the Minister for Environment. That has been achieved especially in the \$12.8 million increase in allocation to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, regardless of Opposition attacks and a projected 6.5 per cent inflation rate, at a time when the austerity tactic forced on the Government has led to severe cutbacks in other areas. That increased allocation has been made available for development works and land acquisition for the operations of the service and management of State recreation areas. The appropriation includes new and innovative projects which give credit to the work of this Government in its initial stages and its determined approach to protect the environment, as we have it, for future generations of Australians. These new projects will be welcomed by all members of the House.

I was pleased especially to hear the honourable member for East Hills commend and express confidence on behalf of all Government members in the efforts of the Minister. As a direct result of the representations made by the honourable member for Blue Mountains there will be further development works in that electorate. The honourable member for Blue Mountains is keenly aware of tourist development and the capital that can be injected into his electorate by further national park development. The Minister has listened to the representations of the honourable member for Blue Mountains in relation to that project. There will be road and facility upgrading in the Myall Lakes National Park, establishment works in the Yengo National Park and the Parr State Recreation Area at Wisemans Ferry. The honourable member for Hawkesbury would welcome those new initiatives. The Oxley Wild Rivers development is one more example of new initiatives being undertaken as a consequence of substantial financial increase in the allocation to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

We will be undertaking fire suppression and communication equipment purchases to better facilitate the service at this crucial time of considerable bushfire danger in the State in its endeavours to provide better facilities to prevent those sorts of occurrences in the future. The Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park development and restoration works are another exciting new initiative that is part of the Minister's determined effort to provide for better national park development. The Government will be undertaking considerable road maintenance and reconstruction, at a cost of more than \$1 million, in the Kosciusko National Park, which is one of the most beautiful national parks in this State. The Minister has determined that the Kosciusko National Park will be protected, contrary to allegations from honourable members opposite who have sought recklessly to change what had been achieved, without effect or clear understanding, which they now have in the information provided to them, and as they should have realized previously from the statements of the Minister. The Government is determined to protect what the former Government was determined to destroy. As a result of that determination, a significant increase has been provided in the allocation for road maintenance and construction.

It is interesting to note that the Commonwealth funding contribution for the national rainforests program is down to \$1.3 million. That funding program should be increased if one is to give any credibility to the rhetoric of the federal Labor Government or honourable members opposite. The federal Government should be matching the reality of the actions of our Minister by making increasing funding available for support of national parks. But sadly this is not to be. The national rainforest conservation project is one more failure to achieve a sensible conservation and environmental approach by the Labor Party, which was rejected on 19th March in marginal seats in this State. I know

how soundly that approach was rejected because the Australian Democrats in my seat afforded me the privilege of allocating their preferences, as a result of their disillusionment with the previous Government's policy on urban and environmental issues. This important area has been restored in the budgetary allocations of this Government, by a Minister who is determined to liaise and give effect to the reality of the Government's financial commitments.

Substantial contributions have been made in other areas in this Budget that fall within the parameters of this portfolio. Funds of about \$500,000 have been allocated to complete works in the Bicentennial Park, especially the visitor information centre and the children's playground. Those projects are important for two reasons. No good purpose is served by building a park without being able to explain its value and purpose. That is the reason for the new visitor information centre, which should have been allowed for when the park was planned. That is what communication is all about. The building of a children's playground expresses commitment to the family and family involvement in our national park projects. The Government has allocated \$6.3 million for the maintenance and development of the very special Royal Botanic Gardens, and also for the Mount Tomah Gardens and Mount Annan Gardens. I and other members on this side of the House, unlike Opposition members, attended the opening of the Mount Annan Gardens. I pay tribute to the former Government for its good work in that regard.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I call the honourable member for Drummoyne to order.

Mr PHOTIOS: The Government has again demonstrated its commitment to providing financially for development and maintenance of national parks by the allocation of \$679,000 for Centennial Park. The Budget demonstrates that commitment also in relation to the Zoological Parks Board. Approximately \$3 million has been provided for completion of the Athol Bay marine centre. The Government will go further and commence a new and exciting project that members on both sides had an opportunity to be briefed upon recently. At the request of the Minister we attended a briefing at the zoo. In this Budget \$1.3 million has been provided for the completion of the reptile house. The honourable member for Miranda reminds me that the commitment of the Government, so sadly lacking from the previous Government, has been demonstrated in the area of public research funds. As the honourable member for Miranda and the Chairman of the Government Committee on the Environment said, \$1 million is to be spent in general terms on showgrounds, caravan parks and other reserves.

This Budget reveals a real and determined effort by the Government to put into practice the rhetoric that was exercised in opposition, the rhetoric that this present Opposition exercised in government but was not able to fulfil monetarily. I am pleased and proud, as I know are my fellow members on the Government benches, to say to this Minister, at a time of austerity, a time when the Government is determinedly trying to reduce the debt burden on the State, that he has done his job well in getting from Treasury an increase in funds, in real terms, for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mr T. J. MOORE (Gordon), Minister for Environment and Assistant Minister for Transport [9.41]: I thank both members who contributed to the debate on the estimates for my administration. I was a little surprised to find the whole tenor of the remarks made by the honourable member for East Hills was an attack on the administration of his own parliamentary leader while he

was Minister for Planning and Environment in the former Government. The remarks of the honourable member for East Hills related to State recreation areas, charging admission to Mount Tomah botanical gardens and the miserable failure of the previous Government to address any of the environmental problems of Lord Howe Island. This tenor of the honourable member's statements starkly demonstrates the failure of his leader and the ready admission by the honourable member for East Hills of those failures.

Two important matters arise out of this Budget for the future of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in New South Wales in the administration of sensitive areas. First, I had the privilege and pleasure of meeting for the first time last Friday in Canberra my loyal and devoted senatorial constituent, Senator Graham Richardson, to discuss matters of mutual concern about areas listed on the World Heritage. We have agreed, the New South Wales Government has agreed, to work for the establishment of a joint ministerial council for the management of the World Heritage listed areas in New South Wales, completing the bipartisan approach to World Heritage listing within this State.

The second matter is of great symbolic importance, as well as real financial importance, to people in the community who are suffering hardship. The matter is of particular importance to my colleagues who represent electorates on the North Coast. The matter I have to finalize is in regard to a number of longstanding and neglected land acquisitions in environmentally sensitive areas of the North Coast. It is not often that this Government will use its resumption powers to compulsorily acquire land, particularly large and important areas of land. In three cases on the North Coast I have taken that step as the best available measure to expedite the finalization of land acquisitions for national parks in that area.

There was considerable consternation, particularly among my National Party colleagues, but shared by my Liberal Party colleagues in the previous Parliament, at the use by the former Minister for Planning and Environment of orders under the Heritage Act to set aside private landholdings for environmental conservation reasons. Financial compensation for acquisition of those properties was not provided—the owners being left without the ability to use the properties and without the benefit of funds for the acquisition of that land by the State. It was with some reluctance that the steps for resumption were taken. It was done only after consultation with my two affected colleagues, and was done deliberately by me to remedy injustices to the landholders concerned.

I am pleased to be able to announce that in conjunction with my colleagues the honourable member for Murwillumbah and the honourable member for Clarence I anticipate being able to make interim payments to those landholders on the New South Wales North Coast by the end of this year, substantially removing the financial burden that was imposed upon them by the previous Government, while, at the same time, through the resumption process, acquiring for the national parks system those areas of environmentally sensitive land. No longer can we tolerate that sort of failure to complete, the failure to carry through that acquisition process. It is to the credit of my two colleagues on the North Coast that together we have been able to finalize those processes and make it possible for a humane and environmentally acceptable end to be reached in those two matters.

The honourable member for Ryde spoke at length about the general philosophy of some specific items contained within the budgetary provisions for my administration. However, in his usual quiet and modest fashion he

omitted one significant matter within my estimates that was of importance to his own electorate. The honourable member for Ryde spoke at some length about the provision of funding for Bicentennial Park but failed to address the significant issue being pursued by this Government, the eradication of mosquitoes along the Parramatta River. These are causing considerable problems to constituents in his electorate, particularly in the Ermington area. The honourable member for Ryde has arranged for me, at an early hour of the morning, to inspect the problems of mosquito infestation in Bicentennial Park and in the naval ammunitions depot at Newington.

[*Interruption*]

The **CHAIRMAN**: Order! I call the honourable member for Drummoyne to order for the second time.

Mr T. J. MOORE: I can well understand the honourable member for Drummoyne pointing out that no one in his right mind would do other than flee the electorate of the honourable member for Auburn. Even the mosquitoes should have that good sense. The trouble has been that in that process they have caused difficulty for the constituents of the honourable member for Ryde. This Government, following the vigorous representations of the honourable member for Ryde, is determined to address that mosquito problem. Provision is made in the estimates for mosquito eradication measures in the Bicentennial Park. These are matters of considerable importance. In the presence of the honourable member for Camden and the House I would like to record my disappointment over the drawing of a particularly important lottery in the Domain recently. The honourable member for Camden had been gracious enough to provide part of the prize for the citizens of his region. Those of use who were able and gracious enough to attend the opening of the gardens at Mount Annan were pleased—

Mr J. H. Murray: We were not invited.

Mr T. J. MOORE: That is because we wanted to give more than half the invitations to local residents, assisted by some additions nominated by the honourable member for Camden and the honourable member for Campbelltown. The gardens at Mount Annan will provide a worthy and significant addition to the open space values of the Macarthur region. They are in fact a tribute to the vision of the former Premier, Neville Wran, and it would be churlish of this Government not to acknowledge that.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 16

[*Minister for Family and Community Services*]

Mr A. S. AQUILINA (Mulgoa) [9.48]: The figures in this Budget, particularly for family and community services, are as rubbery as Nicky's rubber ducky, a rubber ducky that can be expanded, stretched and blown up as easily as it can be drowned in the bath water of arrogance and deceit. My son Nicky's rubber ducky is as rubbery as this Budget, equally as rubbery as the estimates for family and community services. However, the difference is that Nicky's rubber ducky does not have the same far-reaching effects on the future of the children, and on the future of my two children in particular, as does this Budget. Capital funding is a matter of concern to my electorate, for it has decreased markedly under this Government. The rubbery figures suggest there has been an increase in the funding for family and community services but, particularly in the area of capital works, this Government has deceived the people again.

The Government deceived the electorate before the election and it is attempting to do so again with this Budget. Capital works expenditure on family and community services has been reduced by more than \$2 million. The Unsworth Labor Government cared for the people and showed it was willing to spend money for the benefit of the electorate, particularly children. Last year expenditure on the protection of children amounted to \$910,000. This year that amount will be reduced by \$100,000. A further reduction of \$100,000 is made for substitute care of children.

[*Interruption*]

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: Government supporters contend that the Government cares for families.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I call the honourable member for Carlingford to order.

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: In 1987-88 actual expenditure on family and children services was \$9.532 million. In 1988-89 only \$4.868 million has been allocated, yet the Government says that it cares for the family and has a warm approach for the future of our nation and community.

[*Interruption*]

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: No wonder Government supporters are calling out in unison. Their Government does not care for the people, particularly those living in the western suburbs of Sydney. The honourable member for the Blue Mountains should bear this in mind; these matters touch his electorate also. Eventually the electorate will discover the deceit of this Budget. Although the Government says it cares for family and community services, funds for those services have been cut.

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I call the honourable member for Carlingford to order for the second time.

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: As I said in my maiden speech to this House, I am most concerned about the lack of expenditure on capital works in the Mulgoa electorate. The new ambulance station at St Marys was commenced by the previous Labor Government, a government with a social justice strategy that cared for the electorate. This Government is simply continuing the good work commenced by the Labor Party—

[*Interruption*]

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I make a general call to order to all members on the Government side of the House and ask them to refrain from interjecting on the honourable member for Mulgoa. The hour is rather late and I am loath to remove members from the House at this time. However, I will if I have to.

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: The only significant capital works project the Government proposes for Mulgoa is a residential care unit at Cobham, Werrington. That unit will accommodate young people who have already committed offences against the community, knowingly or otherwise. No other capital works programs for Mulgoa are proposed. The same can be said for

many electorates throughout New South Wales. Funding for capital works has decreased. The Government does not care for the needs of the people. It is using rubbery figures and says it is doing what it can for the family given the present economic circumstances.

I now address recurrent funding, which I should have thought would be of concern to a caring government, and a government that has the future of our community at heart. I should have thought that such a government would spend significant sums on youth services in our community. I suggest that the Government should spend more on youth services, which may prevent young people from getting into trouble. The Government will spend more than \$500,000 on a residential care unit at Cobham, which is a negative approach to the problems that confront youth in our community. The unit will be just another gaol for young people, but this time in the electorate of Mulgoa. The Government should introduce preventative measures so that young people will not get into trouble in the first place.

Mr Gibson: Education facilities have been cut.

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: The Government has cut back on education.

Mr Gibson: And it is building a gaol in the Londonderry electorate.

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: That is so, despite the people of Broken Hill saying that they would welcome such an institution in their community. Staffing in family and youth services has increased from 568 in 1987-88 to 608 in 1988-89, but that additional staff will be involved with sentence implementation, monitoring and review. More funds are allocated to staffing but young people are being placed in another gaol. One would expect that a government that cared for the people and the electorate would increase expenditure on community youth projects and adolescent support programs in an attempt to prevent young people from turning to crime. But, expenditure has not been increased. As young people grow up, they can expect this Government to decrease expenditure. In the 1987-88 Budget \$5,687,000 was allocated for community youth projects and adolescent support programs. This allocation has been decreased to \$4,971,000—by almost \$1 million. If honourable members are concerned about the future of young people in our community, they could expect this Government to make an increased allocation to the area of drug abuse.

Mr Dowd: Exactly.

Mr A. S. AQUILINA: The Attorney General said, "Exactly". Last year's Budget allocated \$1,608,000 for the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse. That allocation has decreased by more than \$300,000 to \$1,370,000. A Government that cares for the community and the young people who will form part of it should be increasing expenditure on prevention of drug abuse and youth services and spending more money on capital works in the area of family and community services. This Government has not done that because it is not a caring government.

Mr DOWNY (Sutherland) [10.1]: I am at a loss to understand the intent of the remarks of the honourable member for Mulgoa in speaking on the estimates for the Minister for Family and Community Services. The honourable member said that there are rubbery figures in the Budget. Recently the Premier and Treasurer said that this Budget is a record for the Department of Family and Community Services. The allocation for recurrent expenditure for 1988-89 is \$382,362,000, an increase in real terms of 12.1 per cent. That is more than the social conscience members of the Opposition ever allocated to family and

community services when the Labor Party was in office. It never ceases to amaze me that the Labor Party considers it has a mortgage on social conscience. That could not be further from the truth.

The Minister for Family and Community Services has restructured her department so that services will be provided to those who need them, and the waste and extravagance under previous Labor administrations has been thrown out of the window. The Minister should be congratulated for the way she has gone about restructuring her department and has put more people to work at the coalface with fewer bureaucrats in head office. The honourable member for Mulgoa harped on the fact that capital works expenditure had decreased. Let us consider some areas. An additional \$2 million will be made available so that pre-school services can be expanded; \$500,000 will be allocated for capital grants of up to \$40,000 each; and \$1.5 million will be made available for new recurrent expenditure in this area. The one-off capital grants will be particularly welcome in those communities which have for many years wished to extend facilities to provide additional pre-school places that the previous Labor administration failed to provide.

The allocation for juvenile justice services has increased to \$5,322,000 for child residential buildings, and \$4,716,000 will be made available for child care buildings in 1988-89. It is incredible that the former Government made no provision for expenditure in this area in the 1987-88 Budget. I am unsure where the honourable member for Mulgoa gets his figures from. One area that I wish to deal with is that of juvenile justice. Despite what the honourable member said, that area was neglected by previous governments. Former Labor administrations had a trendy, social conscience, bleeding-heart approach, and swept the problem of juvenile justice under the carpet. The Minister for Family and Community Services, the Premier, and the Government, have recognized that the community demands action.

The Minister has made it clear that immediate action will be taken. All departmental facilities will be classified according to the management difficulties of those in care. Some properties will be declared surplus so that financial and staff resources are concentrated more effectively. Emphasis will be placed on the use of educational facilities in establishments in conjunction with the introduction of more productive programs and procedures for wards in care. Full assessment and individual plans of action will be drawn up for every child coming into departmental care. Securer facilities will be made available for the most violent and disturbed adolescent wards. That is something that the previous Government never did. The Minister has already announced that a new facility will be built to replace Endeavour House in Tamworth. All honourable members will be aware of the atrocious conditions that young children had to endure in that institution, but the social conscience Labor governments of the past 12 years allowed those conditions to continue and did nothing about them.

I turn now to grants and subsidies, particularly to the disabled. There is an excellent organization in my electorate, the New Era Living Skills Centre, which undertakes the education of the developmentally disabled. I hope that in the Minister's reclassification of organizations, she will take into account the centre's need for more funds, particularly since the federal Government has reduced funding. The centre serves the electorates of Sutherland, Cronulla, Miranda, and Heathcote, and also part of the St George area. The Australian Labor Party should not endeavour to convince itself that it has a monopoly on compassion and caring. By its allocation of funding to the Department of Family and Community Services, this Government has demonstrated that it,

too, has compassion and is caring for those people in the community who need help.

Mr PRIMROSE (Camden) [10.10]: This evening I address the budget for the new Department of Family and Community Services, the former Department of Youth and Community Services. I speak both in my capacity as the member for Camden, an electorate which includes areas of great need, and in the capacity of a former professional social worker. I shall focus particularly on some worrying trends that appear in this year's Estimates. The Budget Papers reveal that in the five years to 1987-88, payments for welfare services increased by an average real growth of 7.4 per cent per annum. However, this first Budget of New South Wales Incorporated has a real growth figure of only 4.1 per cent per annum. During the past five years the mean annual growth rate of 7.4 per cent has been reduced to 4.1 per cent. However, as the Budget Papers reveal, even that lower growth rate is illusory. The Budget reveals an expanded Commonwealth role in contributions to the Department of Family and Community Services through the role of the home and community care programs, an ever expanding program for the needy, the aged, and the disabled, provided by the Hawke Labor Government.

I turn specifically to some programs within the estimates for the Department of Family and Community Services provided by this so-called family Government. The family worker projects are designed to keep families together by providing workers to counsel families, on the advice of district officers from the department. Having worked in that department, I know how well those officers are utilized. In 1987-88 the actual allocations for that project was \$258,000. This year's estimate is \$127,000—a massive decrease of 51 per cent. There was no family impact statement, or indeed any other consideration, of that proposal. That is another broken promise by the Government. The number of staff regulating standards and licensing child care services has been reduced from 18 to 12. That very likely reflects the role of deregulation and preference for private operators, which appears to be a paranoia of the Government.

In 1987-88 actual expenditure on early childhood projects was \$3.992 million. This year's estimate is \$1.601 million, a decrease of 60 per cent. The Government has cut staff who provide advice, counselling and personal and family services to disadvantaged groups—the very pro-family services that this Government is touting and promoting itself as being about. In 1987-88, 161 staff provided that service. This year there are 77 staff, a decrease of 52 per cent. In 1987-88 actual funding for assistance to the disabled was \$4.477 million. This year's estimate is \$3.702 million, a decrease of 17 per cent.

Community development funds are constantly required to provide neighbourhood centre workers and others who desperately try to keep families together and children out of brothels and sleazy areas—about which constant reference is made by the Government. In 1987-88, actual expenditure for that service was \$8.83 million. This year's allocation is \$6.07 million—down 31 per cent. As mentioned earlier, the 1987-88 estimated expenditure for the national campaign against drug abuse was \$1.983 million. This year's allocation is \$1.373 million. In 1987-88, estimated expenditure for the construction of youth facilities was \$169,000. This year's figure is \$4,000—a massive cut. For community youth projects and adolescent support schemes, in 1987-88 the actual expenditure was \$5.736 million. This year's allocation is \$4.922 million—down 14 per cent. There are many other examples; the list goes on. Honourable members should bear in mind that those cuts are actual. If one adds

an inflation factor for growth to top them up this year, the cuts would be even greater.

I shall not condemn the Government out of hand. Obviously the Budget has some good features. I instance the continuance of the former Labor Government's push to provide increased staff and funding for the disability services licensing section of the department. I commend the Government for continuing that push. However, in light of the Government's pro-family propaganda, the expensive departmental name change to try to hide what it is really about by the adoption of the word family, and the absence of the much vaunted family impact statements, people in the community and members of this Parliament must be aware of these trends and watch them carefully. Otherwise for the social and community welfare programs of this State, New South Wales Incorporated will become a blot.

Mr TINK (Eastwood) [10.16]: Recurrent expenditure on family and community services this year, compared with last year's figure, has increased in actual terms by 18.6 per cent and in real terms by 12.1 per cent. That allows for a consumer price index reduction of 6.5 per cent. I do not wish to address rubber duckies and other matters raised by honourable members opposite who have spoken in this debate. Despite their suggestions of a real decrease in expenditure, the truth is that there has been a substantial, real, increase of 12.1 per cent. The honourable member for Camden spoke about matters relating to the family. Home and community care, which particularly involves respite care and much needed support caring for elderly family members who have disabilities, has had its funding increased by 15.8 per cent. So much for the suggestion by the member for Camden that the Minister is not looking after the family unit.

I have a particular interest in one aspect of this estimate. I refer to alternative care. I am pleased that the total Budget allocation is \$7 million, funded to 120 different services on a 50-50 basis of approved cost. That is of particular interest to me because the two most significant groups receiving that expenditure have units located in my electorate of Eastwood. I refer to Burnside, which will receive \$1.189 million, and Dalmar, which will receive \$928,756. Dalmar is the more important of those two institutions for me, being basically based in the Eastwood electorate. Dalmar has 14 service delivery programs that receive alternative care funding and meet a variety of needs, involving residential and foster care, which is campus and community-based, and includes long-term and short-term programs.

It is interesting to consider a breakdown of the \$7 million, which again gives lie to the suggestion that the Government is not supporting the family. This year more than \$5 million will be spent on 89 residential and support services, \$1.296 million on 17 fostering support services, \$262,000 on five services for Aboriginal groups, and \$263,000 on five residential services for refugee children. A grant of \$59,000 has been made to Burnside, and \$87,000 for a foster care program at Dalmar. That program provides emergency care for children and long-term care for children on a fostering basis.

Dalmar is one of the few institutions that has an on-call service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That is an important back-up service to the department, which often finds itself in a position where a single mother with a young child has been arrested for some offence late at night and the child has to be taken into care. The Dalmar foster care program provides that sort of service. The emergency crisis care centre will receive an annual allotment of \$76,000. That centre concentrates on children who live in with staff and are

cared for on a family basis. On occasion in a crisis a whole family of children has to be cared for; sometimes unfortunate circumstances of physical and sexual abuse are involved.

This year Vickery Cottage will receive funding of \$78,600. It is a short-term and respite centre and cares for handicapped children for a weekend, a week, or up to two months. It gives relief to parents of handicapped children who need a break from their children to recharge their batteries. That program is extremely important. From this year's recurrent services, Cull Cottage, Norman Cottage, and Newman Cottage will each receive about \$70,000. Those cottages are involved in caring for children on a long-stay basis, for 12 to 18 months. They have an active program of family restoration. Children are taken into the Dalmar Home, but see their parents with social workers who try to reunite the family. The program is pro-active and seeks to achieve family reunions in the longer term.

Not long ago, the Minister for Family and Community Services visited the Eastwood electorate for the rededication of those cottages. At that time she reaffirmed the Government's traditional support for the charitable agencies providing care for those in need. Further she pointed out that this Government supports the tradition of using non-government services in whole or in part for that type of activity. She said it was a choice that has to be retained. Efficient and effective services can be delivered by non-government groups, which should be encouraged and facilitated by the Government. As can be seen in the alternate care budget that is the case. The Minister made the point also, for the benefit of the honourable member for Camden, that families are the cornerstones of our society. We live in a family environment, and foster parents are often the key by providing a substitute family for children with particular difficulties. It is in that Dalmar funding context that the family unit is maintained—if not with the children's actual family, then at least with a strong *de facto* family—with co-ordination and support from Dalmar.

Two units that also received funding are Treetops and Cordia at Dalmar. Those units will receive \$52,000 and \$63,000 respectively. They are long-term family group homes. Children with no homes go to those centres. In some cases they live in Dalmar for up to 10 years. They complete their education and are then able to find reasonable employment. As the honourable members for Carlingford and The Hills know, funding for Dalmar is on a 50-50 basis. Many dedicated people work in Dalmar for a modest remuneration. A strong supporting network of people raise large sums of money to match the Government on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Speaking specifically on this aspect of the bill, I hope that the Dalmar example in Eastwood gives the lie to what the honourable member for Camden said about this Government not being concerned about the family. It is concerned about the family. In my electorate alone there are half a dozen specific instances of that concern. The Minister for Family and Community Services visited this institution for the purpose of reiterating in a substantive and rhetorical manner the importance of the family so far as the Government is concerned. Included in this budget allocation is a substantial sum of money for those centres.

Mr DOWD (Lane Cove), Attorney General [10.24]: I thank honourable members for their contribution to the debate on this clause. It is important that honourable members understand that these estimates do not simply constitute an allocation of funds, as the honourable member for Camden seemed to think. Problems are not necessarily solved by providing more funding or more social workers. The Government is about a change in the philosophy of the family. The Minister for Family and Community Services has had considerable experience in these matters, both as a shadow minister and as a Minister. Under

her administration, her department will again place emphasis on children being reared within their families, though not necessarily in the same way as traditionally they have been reared. Funding in this part of the Budget reflects that change of emphasis.

Society has changed greatly. Greater pressures are placed on young people and those who have the care of them. That change of emphasis will permeate society. One cannot consider this part of the Budget in isolation but ignore the total package. One must consider the total funds allocated. The Government has changed the law to ensure that children are cared for. It has introduced child prostitution laws to ensure that children are taken away from the influences of organized crime. The problems of children are not solved by putting a dollar tag on them and then going off and doing something else. Funds should be applied where they are needed. However, there must also be a philosophy of protecting children from the ravages of society and making sure that they achieve some sense of direction through the education system. Children should be protected. I thank honourable members for their contributions, in particular the honourable member for Eastwood, who has underlined that care and attention is provided on an institution basis in places like Dalmar. The Minister for Family and Community Affairs has visited Dalmar and has had hands-on experience. She has not just written a cheque and forgotten all about matters. She has found out what the problems are, and has responded to them. I commend this clause.

Clause agreed to.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.29 p.m.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

The following questions upon notice and answers were circulated in *Questions and Answers* this day.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR CAMPBELLTOWN

Mr PRIMROSE asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will the DMR put a set of traffic signal lights at the intersection of Blaxland and Campbelltown Roads, Campbelltown?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) how much is it estimated that this will cost; and
 - (b) when will this be done?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) About \$70,000.
- (b) The signals are expected to be in service by the end of 1988.

ROSEMEADOW ROADWORKS

Mr PRIMROSE asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will the DMR undertake roadworks to rectify the unsafe conditions at the intersection of Appin Road and Fitzgibbon Lane, Rosemeadow?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) what works will be undertaken;

- (b) when will these works be undertaken; and
- (c) what is the estimated cost of these works?

Answer—

(1) and (2) It has been decided to install a roundabout at this site. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Its estimated cost is \$0.25 million.

DUAL VOLTAGE LOCOMOTIVES

Mr HATTON asked the **Minister for Transport—**

- (1) What progress did the State Rail Authority make in 1987 in drawing up specifications for dual voltage locomotives to operate on both the new railway with high voltage electrification and existing rail with low voltage electrification?
- (2) When will these specifications be ready?

Answer—

- (1) Specifications for dual voltage locomotives, suitable for operation on both 1 500 volt D.C. and 25 000 volt A.C. were commenced in 1987.
- (2) This specification has been completed.

CAMPBELLTOWN LEVEL CROSSING

Mr PRIMROSE asked the **Minister for Transport—**

- (1) What action does he propose to take to correct the dangerous condition of the Camden–Narellan Road railway level crossing at Campbelltown?
- (2) When will this action be taken?
- (3) What will be the cost of this action?

Answer—

- (1) Repairs have been undertaken to the road surface at the Camden–Narellan road railway crossing. The existing level crossing will be completely renewed when track possession and staff can be rostered.
- (2) This work is planned to be completed towards the end of November, 1988.
- (3) The cost is expected to be in the order of \$85,000.

OLYMPIC GAMES FOR SYDNEY

Ms MOORE asked the **Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—**

With regard to the city of Sydney bid for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games—

(1) Have any studies, surveys, inquiries or other research projects commenced or been commissioned to examine and identify the impact that staging the 1996 Olympic Games in Sydney would have on—

- (a) the residential amenity of Sydney residents, particularly those living close to:
 - (i) the Sydney Harbour zone;
 - (ii) the Homebush Bay zone; and
 - (iii) other proposed Games venues;

- (b) rental accommodation;
 - (c) the cost and availability of housing;
 - (d) public transport;
 - (e) road and traffic;
 - (f) local government services, such as garbage;
 - (g) consumer prices; and
 - (h) police services?
- (2) If so—
- (a) what are the terms of reference for such studies, inquiries, surveys or research projects;
 - (b) who is conducting such studies, inquiries, surveys or research projects;
 - (c) what opportunities are being afforded for public participation in these studies, inquiries, surveys or research projects; and
 - (d) will the results or findings of such studies, inquiries, surveys or research projects be made public?
- (3) If not, will any such studies, inquiries, surveys or research projects be conducted or commissioned?
- (4) (a) If so, when will such studies, inquiries, surveys or other research projects commence or be commissioned?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

The preparation of the Sydney submission to the Australian Olympic Federation (AOF) has been carried out by the Sydney Olympic Games Citizens Council, following wide-ranging consultations with Government departments and instrumentalities, sporting bodies, community representatives and professional and other organisations and with a financial analysis undertaken by the Macquarie Bank.

A primary focus underlying this work to date has been the long-term implications for the Sydney and New South Wales communities. The substantial sporting venue assets of lasting benefit will be created in hosting the Games, there will be the addition of over 7 000 homes in inner urban Sydney in the Homebush and Moore Park areas.

Should Sydney's application to the AOF be successful detailed studies will need to be continued and undertaken on all aspects of hosting the 1996 Olympic Games.

OLYMPIC GAMES FOR SYDNEY

Ms MOORE asked the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

- (1) Has any inter-departmental committee been established in relation to the formal bid for the 1996 Olympic Games?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) what are the terms of reference of this committee;
 - (b) which departments are represented on this committee; and
 - (c) at what level, grade or rank is each department represented on this committee?

Answer—

To prepare the bid on behalf of Sydney for the 1996 Olympic Games the Government established the Sydney Olympic Games Citizens Council, with myself as President and including senior members of the New South Wales Government and Opposition, and prominent citizens representing the New South Wales community, industry, commerce and sporting interests.

The Council has been assisted by a Management Committee. This Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Gerry Gleeson, includes the Departmental heads of the Premier's Office, Treasury, Public Works, and Sport, Recreation and Racing, together with two sporting representatives. The Management Committee has been responsible for managing the submission made to the Australian Olympic Federation and undertaking all feasibility work in formulating the Sydney Olympic Strategy.

The work of the Committee has been supported by the Sydney Olympic Games Secretariat, established within the Premier's Office. The Secretariat comprises 13 officers drawn from the Premier's Office, Public Works Department, Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing and the Department of Housing.

OLYMPIC GAMES FOR SYDNEY

Ms MOORE asked the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

Will strategies be developed to prevent any adverse impact on Sydney residents arising from staging the Olympic Games?

Answer—

The submission to the AOF by the Sydney Olympic Games Citizens Council has been predicated on a detailed financial analysis, undertaken by the Macquarie Bank in association with the NSW Treasury, that demonstrates that Sydney can host the 1996 Olympic Games at no cost to the taxpayer. Planning to date also shows that both transport and accommodation support services, with planned enhancements, will be able to meet the demands of hosting the Games in this city.

Should Sydney win AOF endorsement in November, further detailed planning will be undertaken in preparation of the submission to the International Olympic Committee in 1990. Further detailed attention will be given during this phase to all aspects of managing and hosting the games to confirm and assure no adverse impact on the Sydney community.

OLYMPIC GAMES FOR SYDNEY

Ms MOORE asked the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Ethnic Affairs—

(1) With regard to partially financing the Olympic Games from revenues derived from the sale of Sydney Showground, will the sale be preceded by—

(a) the preparation of a detailed environmental and financial plan for the site; and

(b) the development of comprehensive transport networks for the area?

(2) If so, will this plan be prepared with full public participation?

Answer—

The redevelopment of the Sydney Showground site will continue to be subject to environmental and financial analysis and attention will be given to all appropriate community services and infrastructure.

Public participation will take place in accordance with established procedures for a site of this scale and significance.

CHILD CARE CENTRES

Mr ARKELL asked the **Minister for Education and Youth Affairs**—

- (1) Will there be funding for child care centres in TAFE colleges next year?
- (2) (a) Are child care centres in TAFE colleges to be privatised; and
(b) If so, will parents be expected to pay higher fees for services?
- (3) Is the proposed 40-place child care centre at Wollongong TAFE college to go ahead?
- (4) (a) Have funds been allocated for this project; and
(b) If so, how much money has been allocated?

Answer—

- (1) Existing child care centres will be funded in 1989 at current levels—estimated operating costs 1988–89 are \$1,312,000.
- (2) There are no plans to privatise child care centres in TAFE Colleges.
- (3) There are no plans to expand the twenty place child care centre at Wollongong College of TAFE.
- (4) Not applicable.

PICTON OVERBRIDGE

Mr McMANUS asked the **Minister for Transport**—

When will action be taken to rectify the serious traffic hazard created by the SRA bridge situated at Prince Street, Picton?

Answer—

The replacement of the overbridge at Prince Street, Picton is listed for funding during the 1989–90 Works Program. In the meantime the bridge is being maintained in a safe condition without major repairs being undertaken.

TACTICAL RESPONSE GROUP

Ms MOORE asked the **Attorney General** representing the **Minister for Police and Emergency Services**—

- (1) During the education rally on 17 August, 1988, were members of the Tactical Response Group armed with .38 calibre special revolvers located on top of Sydney Hospital and the State Library?
- (2) Was he aware of this?
- (3) As the rally was overwhelmingly attended by parents and students, what was the purpose of this action?
- (4) What sort of psychological testing is given to police who undertake such work?

Answer—

(1) Members of the TRG were not located on top of Sydney Hospital and the State Library. The TRG was used solely to assist general duty police outside Parliament House. This is consistent with normal departmental procedures in regard to demonstrations and crowd control.

The .38 calibre special revolver is the current standard issue revolver for all operational police.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) TRG personnel are selected by a Senior Police Committee on the basis of demonstrated ability and initiative but not on the basis of psychological testing. Their training however is exhaustive and specifically designed to enable them to apply sound judgment in high pressure crisis situations.

POLICE STATION FOR ETTALONG BEACH

Mr DOYLE asked the **Attorney General** representing the **Minister for Police and Emergency Services**—

(1) Will the former police station at Ettalong Beach be reopened?

(2) If so—

(a) when; and

(b) will the station be manned seven days per week?

(3) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) No.

(2) (a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(3) The Commissioner of Police, Mr Avery, is satisfied that the Ettalong area is receiving adequate supervision from Woy Woy Police Station, which is a 24-hour station.

WOY WOY ROADWORKS

Mr DOYLE asked the **Minister for Transport**—

(1) Does the Department of Main Roads intend to classify Woy Woy Road between Kariong and Woy Woy as a main road?

(2) If so—

(a) will roadworks be undertaken to upgrade the road surface;

(b) when will these works be undertaken; and

(c) in which particular locations will the works take place?

Answer—

(1) and (2) There are no plans at this time to classify Woy Woy Road between Kariong and Woy Woy as a Main Road.

G DISTRICT POLICE

Mr LOVELEE asked the **Attorney General** representing the **Minister for Police and Emergency Services**—

(1) Why is the Police Community Relations Branch for G District, based in Bankstown, being disbanded?

(2) Which section of the police in G District will organize future areas for Neighbourhood Watch, Safety House and Business Watch programs?

- (3) Which section of the police will conduct lectures, such as "stranger danger" and bike safety, at schools?
- (4) How does this comply with the policy of community policing?

Answer—

- (1) The Police Community Relations Branch for G District is not being disbanded.
- (2) Patrol commanders will continue to perform this function.
- (3) Patrol personnel and the District Community Relations Branch.
- (4) The retention of the Police Community Relations Branch at G District is in line with community based policing.

G DISTRICT POLICE

Mr LOVELEE asked the **Attorney General** representing the **Minister for Police and Emergency Services—**

- (1) Have all detectives in G District (Bass Hill, Bankstown, Revesby, Campsie and Earlwood) been directed to operate from Flemington?
- (2) Will this place an extra burden on general duty police in G District by responding to calls normally the domain of detectives?
- (3) Are detectives in G District operating with reduced local knowledge and local contact as a result?
- (4) Is he aware of the increased distance that these detectives now must travel between Flemington and/or Revesby or Earlwood?
- (5) How does the direction to G District detectives to operate from Flemington comply with the policy of community policing?

Answer—

- (1) For a six-month trial period from 4 September, 1988, detectives in G District have been centralized at Flemington.
 - (2) No.
 - (3) Intelligence officers keep the centralized Investigative Group apprised of what is happening in the various patrols.
 - (4) The increased distance is more than compensated for by the intelligent use of the combined motor vehicle resources available to the detectives. Police response time has been satisfactory.
 - (5) Centralization of detective resources has enabled 24-hour policing of the district by detectives. Staff development and training has also been enhanced.
-
-