

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 9 February, 1978

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Petition—Criticism of Leader of the Opposition (Urgency)—Criticism of Leader of the Opposition (Ministerial Statement)—Questions without Notice—National Parks (Urgency)—Criticism of Leader of the Opposition (Personal Explanation)—The Arts (Ministerial Statement)—National Relief Fund (Repeal) Bill (third reading)—Pesticides Bill (second reading)—Grievance Debate—Bill Returned—Printing Committee (Thirty-fourth Report)—Questions upon Notice.

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Mr Speaker (The Hon. Lawrence Borthwick Kelly) took the chair at 10.30 a.m.

Mr Speaker offered the Prayer.

### PETITION

The Clerk announced that the following petition had been lodged for presentation by the honourable member for Gordon and that a copy would be referred to the appropriate Minister:

#### Freeways

The Petition of the undersigned citizens of New South Wales, respectively sheweth:

That there is very widespread dismay in Ku-ring-gai Municipality, and most other parts of Sydney, at the personally signed statement dated 22nd June, 1977, by the Minister for Transport which said, "The Traffic Authority is in the process of advising all Metropolitan Councils and Chambers of Commerce that the application of clearways embracing substantial periods of the day, and including weekends, to sections of the main and secondary road system is expected to be effected within the next three years".

That the Government's decision to transform all of Sydney's main roadways into what will virtually be 24-hour freeways, will have disastrous consequences on local shopping centres and virtually bring an end to commercial activity thereby creating lifeless traffic corridors.

That the decision will be disastrous for business houses whose capital investments of millions of dollars will be eliminated.

That the decision will be disastrous for local residents whose shopping facilities in Lindfield, Gordon, and elsewhere, will be eliminated.

That the decision crucifies small business because it, in effect, advantages the City of Sydney and large regional shopping complexes at the expense of the little shops.

That the decision takes no account of the additional traffic congestion in "side streets" which will result, thus reducing the residential amenity of hundreds of suburbs and localities.

That the decision has been made with no offer whatever of compensation, retraining or re-location to those thousands of disadvantaged Sydney-siders and especially the people of Ku-ring-gai Municipality.

That the decision has been made with no indication by the Government of the increased traffic flow which is supposed to result and no indication of a new freeway programme.

Your Petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will take steps to immediately reverse the decision made by the Minister for Transport, the Honourable Peter Cox, M.L.A., and move for the resignation of the Minister.

Petition received.

#### CRITICISM OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr F. J. WALKER (Georges River), Attorney-General [10.33]: I seek the leave of the House to move a motion for the appointment of a select committee.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Is leave granted?

Mr Mason: Leave is not granted.

#### Urgency

Mr F. J. WALKER (Georges River), Attorney-General [10.34]: I move:.

That it is a matter of urgent necessity——

Mr Dowd: On a point of order. The standing orders of the House provide for certain procedures in relation to the placing and order of business. A motion for suspension of standing orders must be dealt with as provided by Standing Order 395 in accordance with procedure for notice of motion. If it is your ruling that it is open to the Attorney-General or any other member at this stage to move suspension of standing orders, it would mean that any member at any stage of the formal parts of business may move such a motion. I submit that under the standing orders it is not open to the Attorney-General at this stage to move to suspend the normal placing and order of business.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Attorney-General is about to move, That it is a matter of urgent necessity. It is, of course, competent for the Government to move urgency at any time.

Mr F. J. WALKER: I move:

That it is a matter of urgent necessity that this House should forthwith consider the following motion, viz.:

- (1) That, having regard to what has been alleged by Robert John Mayne in a statutory declaration, the contents of which were published in the "National Times" of March 10–15, 1975, and in sworn evidence given by him at a public sitting of the Royal Commission on Intelligence and Security on 14 July, 1975,——

Mr Mutton: A long time ago.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F. J. WALKER: The motion continues:

—~~and~~ to the personal explanation given by the member for Fuller—

*[Interruption]*

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

Mr F. J. WALKER: The motion continues:

—~~to~~ the House on 7 February, 1978, this House appoint a select committee to inquire into and report upon the following matters:

- (a) Whether Robert John Mayne received from the member folders, files, dossiers or other records of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization about the five persons referred to in Mr Mayne's evidence;
  - (b) If so, what was the information contained in those folders, files, dossiers or other records, and what use did the member intend to be made of the information contained in them;
  - (c) Generally, and in particular in light of the findings of the select committee in the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) was the personal explanation made by the member to the House accurate or inaccurate.
- (2) That such committee consist of Mr Wills, Mr Face, Mr Whelan, Mr Ryan, Mr Barraclough, Mr Clough, and Mr Fisher.

*[interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is not in order for honourable members on the Opposition benches to ask the Attorney-General questions while he is addressing the House. If there is any doubt in their minds they might ask at a later stage.

Mr F. J. WALKER: The motion continues:

- (3) That the committee have leave—

Mr Fischer: On a point of order. As the terms of the motion that is being moved by the Attorney-General are not available to honourable members at this time, and will not be available for some time, I suggest that the Attorney-General should be asked to indicate clearly the membership of the select committee before the House considers urgency. He should be specific and precise in declaring which members of the House he is proposing to serve on the select committee. As he has worded the motion, it has caused serious confusion in the minds of honourable members.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sure that the Attorney-General will make copies of the motion available to the House. As to the question of doubt in the honourable member's mind, or in the mind of any other honourable member, no point of order is involved.

Mr F. J. WALKER: The motion continues:

- (3) That the committee have leave to sit during the sitting or any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and ~~to~~ make visits of inspection within the State of New South Wales and to other States of the Commonwealth.

Speaking to ~~urgency~~—

Mr Fischer: On a point of order. In accordance with the precedent set in this House some years ago by the Attorney-General—he was then merely the honourable member for Georges River—and on the basis that my name may be included in the motion moved by the Attorney-General today, I hereby decline service on the select committee.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! If and when the motion is carried it will mean that the honourable member will be a member of that select committee. Whether he serves on it or not is for his own decision. The question before the House is, That it is a matter of urgent necessity that this House consider the motion moved by the Attorney-General.

Mr F. J. WALKER: If the honourable member for Sturt is concerned that he may not be competent enough to serve on this committee, I assure him that the name to which I referred is spelled Fisher. This matter is clearly of the utmost and gravest urgency, and I am sure that all honourable members will agree that it is.

Mr Wran: Mr Speaker, the Government grants urgency.

Sir Eric Willis: Mr Speaker, the Premier has no right whatever to speak on this motion, and I submit that he should be sat down and put in his place.

*[Interruption]*

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

Mr COLEMAN (Fuller), Leader of the Opposition [10.41]: The Opposition opposes the motion that has been proposed by the Attorney-General. This motion is the latest in a well-orchestrated set of lies. The particular lie is that I have in any way seen or sought to see in any way personal files provided by ASIO. That is the fundamental lie that is the basis of this urgency motion. This well-orchestrated lie was launched this week by the Hon. D. Dunstan, the Premier of South Australia, who lied outrageously, falsifying the Hope report, omitting key sentences from that report, and generally attributing actions to me that he obviously knew to be false. Then we have the poor man's Don Dunstan, the Premier of New South Wales, repeating the lies in this Chamber and supporting Mr Dunstan, obviously as a part of the orchestration.

Of course, the lies upon which both the Premier of South Australia and the Premier of New South Wales rely derive from the fundamental set of lies told by Robert Mayne, whose word they see fit to take against mine and against my statement in a personal explanation to this House. The allegation is that I was a key mover in an arrangement to set up a magazine, drawing on personal files supplied by ASIO, whereas Mr Justice Hope made it clear in his report that in any of these contacts with the media people ASIO never supplied personal material; it supplied only newspaper clippings and general ideological analyses. That is what Mr Justice Hope said. Of course, that is not what Mr Dunstan, the liar from South Australia, said, and it is not what the liars in the Labor Party in this House say.

This particularly vicious innuendo, which is known to be false by these people on the Government benches, derives from the lies by Mr Mayne. Mr Mayne said in one of his articles that he had these files. Let us see them. He was engaged in a systematic, several-years-long operation of lying and deceit in talking to ASIO people, going to their farewell parties, generally ingratiating himself with ASIO, and collecting the sort of information which, with a change of federal Government, he suddenly decided to expose.

Having engaged in some years of deceit in this way, the gentleman, whose credibility the Attorney-General sees fit to accept against my word given in this Chamber, says he has these files. But he has never produced them. The reason why he has not produced them—and it is incredible that this gentleman, having engaged in some years of deceit in this way would not have kept photocopies of them—is that if he did produce them it would be plain to everybody that they do not contain anything of a personal or scurrilous nature, as Mr Dunstan implied in his vicious lie in the South Australian Parliament, a lie that has been continued by the Labor Government in New South Wales, it having sunk to the depths of McCarthyism of a most provocative kind.

How amazing it is that this man has not produced these files or photocopies of them to show the tremendous evil that he suggests has been done. In any case, if by any chance he does have the files, let us hope he produces them quick and lively so that we may learn the truth of the matter.

As I said to the House the other night—and the Attorney-General is moving urgency on this basis—the Premier is unwilling to carry on with the matter. A ministerial statement on the arts is more his style. Having orchestrated this scheme, having disseminated the lies, the Premier now passes the matter to his Attorney-General, who moves urgency. The fact is, as I have said in this House before, that I was not involved. I was not a prime mover. I have never seen secret ASIO files. I have never sought to see any secret files. I have never used or never seen a dossier, in any meaningful sense of that word. These are facts. My statement should be accepted by my colleagues in this Parliament. They should not rely on the word of a self-admitted liar who has carried out an operation in this area over several years.

The members of the Opposition oppose urgency. If the House decides to support the motion, we shall not co-operate in what will be a Labor-dominated trial. I shall certainly not give evidence to a bunch of lynchers from the Labor Party. If the Government wants an inquiry—and there is no point in having an inquiry into this matter: none at all—let it be an independent inquiry. If the Government thinks I will place my reputation in the hands of and be subject to the judgment of members of the Labor Party, it is mistaken. I shall certainly not co-operate, and the members of the Opposition will certainly not co-operate in what is proposed. However, if the Government in its stupidity, being so enmeshed in its lies and McCarthyism, really wants to use its numbers in this House to establish an inquiry, let it be an independent inquiry, a judicial inquiry. That would be a different matter. Of course, the absurdity of moving urgency on a matter several years old speaks for itself. I certainly oppose the motion of urgency.

Question of urgency put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 46

Mr Akister	Mr Day	Mr Jackson
Mr <b>Bannon</b>	Mr Degen	Mr Jensen
Mr Barnier	Mr Durick	Mr Johnson
Mr Bedford	Mr Einfeld	Mr <b>Johnstone</b>
Mr Booth	Mr Face	Mr Jones
Mr Brereton	Mr Ferguson	Mr Keane
Mr Cahill	Mr Flaherty	Mr Kearns
Mr Cleary	Mr Gordon	Mr McGowan
Mr R. J. Clough	Mr Haigh	Mr Maher
Mr Crabtree	Mr Hills	Mr Mallam

Mr Mulock	Mr Rogan	Mr Wilde
Mr O'Connell	Mr Ryan	Mr Wran
Mr Paciullo	Mr Sheahan	
Mr Petersen	Mr Wade	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Ramsay	<i>Mr F. J. Walker</i>	Mr Hunter
Mr Renshaw	Mr Whelan	Mr Quinn

Noes, 47

Mr Arblaster	Mr Freudenstein	Mr Park
Mr Barraclough	Mr Griffith	Mr Pickard
Mr Boyd	Mr Hatton	Mr Punch
Mr Brewer	Mr Healey	Mr Rofe
Mr Brown	Mr Jackett	Mr Rozzoli
Mr Bruxner	Mr Leitch	Mr Schipp
Mr Cameron	Mr Lewis	Mr Singleton
Mr Catterson	Mr McDonald	Mr Taylor
Mr J. A. Clough	Mr Mackie	Mr Viney
Mr Coleman	Mr Maddison	Mr N. D. Walker
Mr Cowan	Mr Mason	Mr Webster
Mr Dowd	Mrs Meillon	Sir Eric Willis
Mr Doyle	Mr Morris	Mr Wotton
Mr Duncan	Mr Murray	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Fischer	Mr Mutton	Mr Moore
Mr Fisher	Mr Osborne	Mr West

Pairs

Mr Cox	Mr McGinty
Mr Stewart	Mr Darby

Question so resolved in the negative.

Motion of urgency negatived.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

*[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Questions without notice.

Mr Wran: Mr Speaker—

*[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Does the Premier wish to make a statement?

Mr Wran: I wish to make a ministerial statement.

Mr Dowd: On a point of order. Standing Order 74 sets out the order of business of the House. Although Ministers have, on occasions, indulged in the practice of making ministerial statements at question time, the Government is attempting to change the standing orders by so doing. The standing orders give no right to the Premier or any other person to make a ministerial statement in these circumstances. The business of the House should be conducted in accordance with Standing Order 74. Mr Speaker, as you called on questions without notice, the House is now in question time and the Premier does not have the right to subvert your calling on of questions and to make his own rules in this House.

Mr Hills: On the point of order. Mr Speaker, because Opposition members were making such rowdy interjections when you were announcing the result of the

division, you neither heard the Premier nor saw him on his feet. No business was before the Chair at that stage and the Premier was attempting to make a ministerial statement.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Lane Cove has taken the point that a ministerial statement cannot be made at this time. There is nothing in the standing orders to say when a ministerial statement shall be made. The only reference to this point in past decisions is that it is desirable for ministerial statements not to be made in question time as they would erode the time available to honourable members for the asking of questions. Generally ministerial statements are best made after question time. However, there is nothing to stop the Premier from making a ministerial statement at this time.

Sir Eric Willis: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, you just said—and I completely agree—that it is improper to make ministerial statements during question time. You called on questions without notice, so that the forty-five minutes allowed for questions started from the time you made that call. I submit, therefore, that as we are now in question time, it is not now proper for the Premier or any other minister to make a ministerial statement. Further, we do not know at this stage whether the Premier does intend to make a ministerial statement: all he did was to call out "Mr Speaker". With great respect, I suggest that you could not possibly know at this stage what the Premier will do unless he has sent you personal instructions.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not like the implication in the last part of the statement made by the honourable member for Earlwood. I asked the Premier whether he intended to make a statement, and he said, yes. On that ground I intend to allow him to make a ministerial statement.

Mr Dowd: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, you called on question time, as every member in this Chamber heard. I should like to know whether we are now in question time.

Mr Hills: You are canvassing the ruling.

Mr Dowd: Mr Speaker, I am not canvassing your ruling as to whether you called on the Premier or not. Honourable members are entitled to know whether you called on questions; it is something we all understand. Does this come out of that time, or does question time start after this matter has been disposed of? Was the call for questions the commencement of the forty-five minutes the standing orders allow for questions?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have called for questions, so the House is now in question time. I gave the call to the Premier, who has now indicated that he proposes to make a statement. Though it might be desirable that Ministers do not erode question time, the fact is that the Premier intends to make a ministerial statement which will erode question time.

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## CRITICISM OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

### Ministerial Statement

Mr WRAN: I shall be as brief as possible, having regard to the rights and privileges of honourable members during question time. Last night, in one of several statements the Leader of the Opposition made to the news media, he said that he was willing to ~~participate~~—

Mr DOWD: I move:

That the honourable member for Bass Hill, Mr Wran, be not further heard.

The House divided.

Ayes, 46

Mr Arblaster	Mr Freudenstein	Mr Pickard
Mr Barraclough	Mr Griffith	Mr Punch
Mr Boyd	Mr Healey	Mr Rofe
Mr Brewer	Mr Jackett	Mr Rozzoli
Mr Brown	Mr Leitch	Mr Schipp
Mr Bruxner	Mr Lewis	Mr Singleton
Mr Cameron	Mr McDonald	Mr Taylor
Mr <b>Caterson</b>	Mr Mackie	Mr Viney
Mr J. A. Clough	Mr Maddison	Mr N. D. Walker
Mr <b>Coleman</b>	Mr Mason	Mr Webster
Mr Cowan	Mrs Meillon	Sir Eric Willis
Mr Dowd	Mr Morris	Mr Wotton
Mr Doyle	Mr Murray	
Mr <b>Duncan</b>	Mr Mutton	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Fischer	Mr Osborne	Mr Moore
Mr Fisher	Mr Park	Mr West

Noes, 48

Mr Akister	Mr Gordon	Mr Paciullo
Mr <b>Bannon</b>	Mr Haigh	Mr Petersen
Mr <b>Barnier</b>	Mr Hatton	Mr Ramsay
Mr Bedford	Mr Hills	Mr Renshaw
Mr Booth	Mr <b>Jackson</b>	Mr Rogan
Mr Brereton	Mr Jensen	Mr Ryan
Mr Cahill	Mr Johnson	Mr Sheahan
Mr Cleary	Mr <b>Johnstone</b>	Mr Wade
Mr R. J. Clough	Mr Jones	Mr F. J. Walker
Mr <b>Crabtree</b>	Mr Keane	Mr Whelan
Mr Day	Mr Kearns	Mr Wilde
Mr Degen	Mr <b>McGowan</b>	Mr Wran
Mr <b>Durick</b>	Mr Maher	
Mr Einfeld	Mr <b>Mallam</b>	
Mr Face	Mr <b>Mulock</b>	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Ferguson	Mr Neilly	Mr Hunter
Mr <b>Flaherty</b>	Mr <b>O'Connell</b>	Mr Quinn

Pairs

Mr Cox	Mr <b>McGinty</b>
Mr <b>Stewart</b>	Mr Darby

Resolved in the negative.

Mr **WRAN**: As I was recounting, during one of his several statements to the news media last night the Leader of the Opposition intimated his preparedness to participate in an inquiry into the allegations that have arisen, first, out of the South Australian Parliament, and second, based upon a statutory declaration and sworn evidence by Robert Mayne given before the **ASIO** inquiry. The time-honoured procedure of Parliament when one of its members is concerned and his rights,

privileges and obligations are involved is by means of a select committee. In the light of the statement last night by the Leader of the Opposition the Government allowed some of its members not to be present as it was thought——

*[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: For instance, the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways is in New Zealand. But, Mr Speaker, it was thought that there would be no obstruction at all in relation to the procedure. In case it has escaped the attention of Opposition members, I should like to point out that three former Ministers, namely the honourable member for Bligh, the honourable member for Eastwood and——

Mr Dowd: On a point of order. The Premier intimated to you, Mr Speaker, that he was going to make a ministerial statement. There are certain rulings in this House and in other places as to what a ministerial statement involves. It must relate to the policy of the Premier on a matter concerning his ministerial responsibilities. Thus far not one word has been uttered by the Premier as to what this ministerial statement is about. What the Premier has said thus far has nothing to do with his administration. He is debating a matter raised in the House yesterday, which is not part of his administration, and the House did not deal with it then.

*[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Pittwater to order. Ministerial statements are not governed by the standing orders and no reference is made in them to ministerial statements. A statement by a Minister which announces some policy of the Government or which informs the House of some action that the Government proposes to take falls within the category of a ministerial statement. So far the Premier has outlined the action that the Government proposed to take in regard to this matter. The Premier is in order.

Sir Eric Willis: On a point of order. You, Mr Speaker, said that what the Premier has said so far is what the Government had proposed to do. Clearly that is what he is in fact doing; he is telling the House now what the Government proposed to do if the motion that was defeated a little earlier had been carried. It is a well-established rule that an honourable member cannot canvass a ruling of the Chair. Quite clearly what the Premier is attempting to do is give the reasons in support of the motion that was not permitted by this House to be debated. If you, Mr Speaker, permit the Premier to continue you will be flagrantly overriding the decision of the House already made, namely, that this matter not be discussed today. The House is your master; you, Mr Speaker, are its servant. If the House has decided that this matter should not be discussed, you have no alternative but to direct the Premier to resume his seat and to discontinue his speech.

Mr SPEAKER: I accept the fact that the House is my master. The House has already defeated a motion that the Premier be no longer heard. The Premier has intimated to the House that he proposes to make a ministerial statement. I do not propose to read the lengthy rulings by my predecessors in respect of this matter, or the one that I propose to apply at this time. However, I am clear that the ruling given by the late Sir Kevin Ellis certainly covers this situation. There is nothing laid down about it in the standing orders. The Premier is in order in making a statement to the House.

Mr WRAN: I was pointing out that on the select committee proposed by the Leader of the House three former Ministers, members of the Opposition, were included—the honourable member for Bligh, the honourable member for Eastwood

and the honourable member for Upper Hunter. They are men of experience. The honourable member for Earlwood, whose manner has not improved on the back benches, mentioned that the House is its own master. The House has made its decision on the motion of urgency seeking the appointment of a select committee. Something more important emerges out of that urgency proposal, and that is the implication by the Leader of the Opposition that neither he nor members of his party would participate in a properly constituted select committee of the House. He indicated, and I assume that he meant it——

Sir Eric Willis: On a point of order. The Premier is consistently, ever since he resumed his speech, referring to matters that were stated in a debate that has been concluded and is no longer before the House. Under the precedents and standing orders it is not permissible to reiterate in a second debate something that has already been terminated by a vote on a previous debate. I submit that it is not in order for the Premier to continue in this way.

*[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question before the House was that it was a matter of urgent necessity. The debate was related to that question. There was no debate on the substantive motion. I rule that the Premier is in order.

Sir Eric Willis: On a further point of order. It is not permissible in a debate to refer to matter—not the subject-matter but the actual words used—that was debated in a previous debate. In the earlier debate the Leader of the Opposition said certain things. The Premier, in support of this statement, is saying what the Leader of the Opposition said in the previous debate. He is in effect continuing the previous debate, which the House has terminated. I submit that he is out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled that the Premier is in order. I inform the honourable member for Earlwood that if he persists in his present conduct I shall charge him with persistently and wilfully disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr WRAN: It should be made clear that the only matter that the House has given its decision upon is whether the motion for the setting up of a select committee should be dealt with as a matter of urgency. In the ordinary course of events it would have been open to the House to consider that motion, but in the course of debate on the motion of urgency it was indicated by the Leader of the Opposition—and indeed attempts were made by the honourable member for Upper Hunter to decline to serve—that he would not participate, nor would any of his colleagues participate, in a select committee. I was going on to say that the Leader of the Opposition indicated—and I assume he meant it—that he would participate in an independent inquiry. Yesterday I indicated as clearly as I could that the Government would not involve itself in any political mudslinging in this House.

*[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: I have been careful in the choice of my words to leave every option open to the Leader of the Opposition to attempt to clear his name, whatever the forum provided may be. Yesterday I said that the Government would consider a judicial inquiry. In view of the attitude adopted by the Opposition to the appointment of a select committee, the nature of the allegations by Mr Mayne and the direct conflict between those allegations and what was said by the Leader of the Opposition in this House, I wish now to inform the House that the Government takes the view that

the appropriate course is a judicial inquiry. A judicial inquiry will be appointed, the terms of reference formulated, and I shall announce the name of the judge and the terms of reference when the House resumes next Tuesday.

Mr COLEMAN: I prefer this sort of approach to the lynching party that the Government was considering earlier. I repeat that I think it is an absurd waste of time and of taxpayers' money, but it is within the power of the Government to do this. If a judge is appointed I shall of course co-operate. I look forward to seeing the terms of reference. I shall not follow the pattern set by the Premier who, when leader in another place, poured the most outrageous defamation on members of a former government in the lower House in relation to clubs in New South Wales, and when a Royal commission was established refused to give evidence.

I welcome the fact that the Premier has made this statement. He did not leave it to the Attorney-General, as he did when the Attorney-General delivered a monstrous attack on Mr Reiher of the Public Transport Commission. At least it is good that the Premier is involved in it. It is fair to say that he misled the House last night when he said in the Chamber that I had implied that I was the editor of *the Bulletin* during the period that Mr Mayne referred to. The Premier said:

As I understand it, although the Leader of the Opposition in his personal explanation last night said that he met ASIO officers as editor of the *Bulletin*, the fact alleged by Mr Mayne is that the relevant incidents occurred late in 1971 or early in 1972, long after, as I understand it, the honourable gentleman had ceased to be the editor of the *Bulletin*—

To anyone who listened to my personal explanation or has read it, it is obvious that I was referring to two separate occasions—one when I was editor of the *Bulletin* and an incident some years **back**.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COLEMAN: The member for Heffron is sensitive about the way the Attorney-General —

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COLEMAN: The Premier, being the poor man's Don Dunstan, in his desperation to imitate the Premier of South Australia in the distortion of the Hope report and statements in it, is also willing to distort the plain and obvious meaning of my personal explanation. I shall have more to say when we see the terms of reference. This move is slightly more rational than the earlier proposal, which was defeated, but still I maintain that it is a ridiculous waste of this Chamber's time and the taxpayers' money.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

(Resumed)

### ILLEGAL CASINOS

Mr COLEMAN: I should like to ask the Premier a question. Six months ago did he table the Lusher report on the legalizing of casinos? Did he then state that in the course of six months he would reach a decision on legalizing casinos in New South Wales? Has he yet reached a decision?

Mr WRAN: The Government has not reached any decision. When the decision is reached, in accordance with our policy of open government—

*[Interruption]*

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

Mr WRAN: —~~we~~ shall be making it freely available—and I might add, through the normal channels.

#### VILLAGE OF HARTLEY

Mr R. J. CLOUGH: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Lands. Is it a fact that in the village of Hartley near Lithgow there are still standing **some** of the most historic buildings within the Blue Mountains? As the village has been declared an historic site by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, will the Minister inform the House of any plans the Government has for its preservation and restoration?

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

Mr CRABTREE: I thank the honourable member for his question and congratulate him on his continued and keen interest in the provision of recreational areas and the preservation of historic areas within the Blue Mountains. Hartley is one of the most significant historic centres in the mountains and we are fortunate that much of its tangible history, in the form of old buildings and other relics, still remains.

In fact, ten of the twelve buildings still standing date back before 1860 when Hartley was a key centre in the development of areas west of the dividing range. Early last year I visited Hartley with the honourable member and we held discussions with the local advisory committee and officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I must say that I was disappointed in the efforts made by previous governments to restore and present the Hartley historic village for the education and entertainment of the public. As a result of our visit I issued instructions to my officers that the preservation and restoration of Hartley was to have a number one priority. The result is that we now have a five-year programme, the first stage of which will be completed by the middle of this year.

The initial programme will include restoration of the elegant sandstone court house and the presbytery, and construction of a portable convict lock-up. A feature of stage one will be an exhibition in the old presbytery, which will illustrate the life led by convicts, emancipists and free settlers in the Hartley district and generally west of the dividing range between 1830 and 1870. Subsequent stages will involve restoration of the other buildings so that visitors will get a clear impression of the life style that existed during the pioneering days and during the gold rushes. The fact is that New South Wales has a colourful and exciting history. Unfortunately, however, in too many instances this has been lost because of thoughtlessness and neglect on the part of previous governments. The Government is committed to retaining and protecting the history that still remains at Hartley. The National Parks and Wildlife Service now has a concrete plan of development for the area. I appeal to local residents and families with historic links in the area to assist. The National Parks and Wildlife Service would be delighted to hear from anyone who has information, photographs or historic relics which relate to life in the village or district during the last century, particularly before 1850.

### PAYROLL TAX

Mr RENSHAW: On 7th February the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai asked me a question without notice concerning possible payroll tax evasion by Berkeley Cleaning Company Pty Limited which has a cleaning contract at Goulburn teachers college. I am naturally loath to discuss the position of a particular taxpayer but this company has made no secret of its efforts to reduce or avoid liability for payroll tax.

Originally, the company introduced a trust scheme under which employees were engaged by a trust. The amount of wages paid by each trust was below the payroll tax exemption limit. Following the introduction of the grouping provisions in January, 1976, which was supported by both sides of the House, this trust device failed and the trusts as a group became liable for payroll tax on all wages paid to their employees. Substantial arrears were accumulated by Berkeley Cleaners and these are being paid. The company subsequently introduced a partnership scheme whereby employees signed a document purporting to make them partners. Towards the end of last year, the Miscellaneous Workers Union took action to have this scheme dropped by Berkeley Cleaners.

It is most important in cases of this nature to ensure that measures which might be introduced to overcome a particular device do not pick up bona fide commercial operations. It was therefore decided that as the union action appeared to meet the situation the Government should await further developments. Work has proceeded, however, on the development of control measures and it has been concluded that the regulatory powers of the Act should be utilized. We are taking action along these lines.

If, as the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai suggests, Berkeleys have reverted to a trust type of arrangement, the company would appear to be liable for payroll tax. However, the commissioner is investigating the Berkeley Cleaners payroll tax returns and will be providing me with a full report on the company's payroll tax liability shortly. Although the Government recognizes that there are problems with payroll tax, it is the single most important tax revenue source in the Budget. It is essential that it be administered even-handedly and that the burden be shared equitably among taxpayers.

### PAYROLL TAX

Mr DAY: Yesterday the Leader of the Country Party asked me a question without notice about the Government's payroll tax rebates for approved country industries. I promised that I would get detailed information for him and the House as soon as I could. I now have the information that I was seeking yesterday. To date, 395 companies have registered with my department under the terms of the scheme. Cheques totalling almost \$2.7 million have been paid to 117 of these companies; 145 applications are being processed at the moment and 113 companies have still to lodge their applications for rebate. These refunds are for the tax paid in the 1976-77 financial year. I point out that the department has received requests for rebates from 262 companies and has already paid 117 or 44.7 per cent of those companies their claims. If the honourable member considers that a small number of businesses I am very surprised.

I should point out that there are two distinct processes involved. The companies must first apply for registration and, once the registration has been achieved it is necessary that they then apply for the rebate on an annual basis. The application is then processed by my department before the cheques are sent out. I assure all those who are eligible that this major decentralization initiative of the present Government is

being pursued as fast as possible but that certain checks have to be made before payment is finalized. Every effort is being made to streamline the procedure. An \$8,000 advertising campaign was conducted in country and metropolitan press outlets to ensure that, as far as possible, all eligible industries would know about the scheme.

Because it appears that notwithstanding this publicity a number of eligible industries may not yet have applied for registration, I have extended the closing date for registration from 31st December to 31st March. I hope that this will encourage any eligible companies that have not yet applied for registration to do so forthwith. Registration after 31st March, 1978, will preclude consideration for refunds of tax paid in the year 1976–77 but will, of course, enable refunds for subsequent years to be considered. Finally, I must say that although the scheme was first announced early last year it came into operation only on 4th November, and the first payments under it were made by early December.

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## NATIONAL PARKS

### Urgency

Mr PUNCH (Gloucester), Leader of the Country Party [11.23]: I move:

That it is a matter of urgent necessity that this House should forthwith consider the following motion, viz.:

- (1) That this House expresses its concern over the effects of the current policies of the present New South Wales Government in relation to proposed extensions to National Parks; and
- (2) Calls upon the Government to review these policies as a matter of urgency, particularly in view of the personal hardship and financial loss being caused to owners of private lands, as well as people in the sawmilling and sandmining industries.

This matter is urgent because more and more areas throughout the States are being designated for new national parks or extensions to existing national parks—in many cases, against the overwhelming opposition of local people. It is urgent because, day-by-day, the owners of private properties are being made economic prisoners, with their properties tied up for acquisition or resumption, when the Government has not allocated enough funds to pay proper compensation. They cannot sell their properties; they cannot improve them. In fact, most of them do not want to sell. In the meantime, while they cannot do anything with their blocks, they must continue paying rates, taxes, mortgages, interest and act as caretakers until the Government does have sufficient finance.

It is urgent because, unless there is a review of current policies, many property owners will be destined to have their lands tied up for years—and compensation after that time would still be offered at today's minimum values. The matter is urgent because it already directly affects 40 private property owners round Myall Lakes in my electorate of Gloucester. Landholders are similarly affected by the proposed Greater Southern Blue Mountains National Park. Recently it was revealed that many more landholders will be affected by a proposal to almost double the size of Crowdy National Park. In the past few days protests have been mounting against plans for the new Yuragir national park, stretching right along the North Coast from Iluka almost to Woolgoolga. Local government and citizen groups want an urgent review of the freezing of development along that part of the coastline. The intense public feeling is indicated by one published statement that, if the Government does not heed

petitions to stop extensions to national parks in the Casino and Clarence electorates, one Minister may be missing after the next State elections. That, of course, refers to the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries, whose contradictory statements and political platitudes have served to add to the anxiety and frustration.

The urgency is underlined by the present practice of using interim development orders rather than resumption to obtain control of private properties. If resumption were obligatory, owners would have the right to receive 90 per cent of any offer immediately. In many cases this would eliminate a major source of dissatisfaction. It is urgent that the Government reconsiders its policies so that private lands will be excluded from acquisition for national parks or, alternatively, that extra funds will be committed so that full and proper compensation may be paid without undue delay.

This matter is urgent also because the new policy of not allowing sandmining in future anywhere in any national park or areas for proposed extensions to parks, has resulted and is continuing to result in the loss of jobs at a time of high unemployment. As a direct result of a ban on future sandmining in six areas along the mid-North Coast, it is estimated that another 300 jobs will ultimately be lost. In my electorate of Gloucester, figures prepared by the local government authorities estimate that sandmining refusals so far represented a loss to the region's economy of about \$16.5 million. The matter is urgent because trade unionists are warning that more jobs will go. AWU members have complained that the Premier has ignored their plight. Indeed, they have publicly accused Mr Wran of having "the unique distinction of being the direct cause of some 150 men losing their jobs in decentralized regions." Last month, in announcing the closing of its Australian sandmining operations, the Dillingham Corporation made it clear that the New South Wales Government's ban had precipitated the decision to quit. That company said that the ban would prevent its mining of most of the areas where it had leases. A similar position faces other sandmining companies. Apart from any immediate effect, the ban will drastically shorten the life of the industry, and will ultimately result in massive retrenchments. The urgency is well illustrated by the fact that sandmining is New South Wales' second most important mineral export industry, paying out \$22 million in wages a year and employing 2 500 people.

This matter is urgent because the future viability of the sawmilling industry is being totally ignored by the wholesale manner in which national park boundaries are being determined. Again, many jobs have already been lost and further retrenchments are threatened. The last edition of *Prologue*, the industry's journal, quoted the chairman of the sawmillers' Richmond-Tweed-Clarence branch, Mr Bill Royce, as warning that the continued refusal to give a go-ahead for logging in the McPherson Ranges has thrown a cloud over the entire industry. Mr Royce stressed that it was an issue which must be resolved as a matter of urgency. After two years of delay, with promise after promise and inquiry after inquiry, it was indicated last weekend that the Government now intends to conduct yet another inquiry into this urgent matter—this time by the State Pollution Control Commission. Previously, the Minister for Conservation and Minister for Water Resources advised, or misled, Parliament twice in saying that a decision would be made within weeks. Now, **it** is more urgent than ever because this latest inquiry seems to be just another deliberate stalling manoeuvre.

The Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries, whose electorate of Casino is the area most affected, has been adding to anxiety and uncertainty by issuing meaningless statements locally. Some 300 or more jobs are at stake in the Kyogle district **alone** and it is urgent that there be a decision, not further delay. Down on the South Coast, the Eden Chamber of Commerce is calling for an urgent review of a Cabinet decision withdrawing 3 500 hectares from Forestry

Commission control, thus limiting the area available for production of sawlogs and woodchip timber. The sawmilling industry employs 7 900 people, paying \$62 million a year in wages, with an industry investment of about \$140 million. Some forty-five forest areas are at present under claim for further national parks by diehard environmentalists. It is therefore a matter of urgency that the Government reconsider its current policies in the interests of private landowners, the sawmilling and sandmining industries and, in fact, the interests of the State as a whole.

Mr WRAN (Bass Hill), Premier [11.301: The matters raised by the Leader of the Country Party are refreshingly relevant at least to some areas of country New South Wales. I think this is his first foray into any matter relating to people who live outside the metropolitan area, at least in this session of Parliament. A head count of the questions in the last session of Parliament shows that he asked fewer than three questions relating to problems affecting country people. But that does not in any way detract from the fact that the issues he has raised today are important. He has raised three important issues relating to sand mining, the sawmilling industry and private landholders.

I am delighted that he has raised especially the problems that appear to arise out of the proposed Yuragir national park, because I am sure that he, together with every member of the House especially those representing constituencies on the North Coast, will be pleased to hear that, as a result of the efforts of the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries, conferences have already been held, and last night it was decided to excise from the proposed area all villages that were to come within it. Discussions are continuing between the Minister for Lands, whose portfolio includes the administration of national parks, and the local member for the area, who is the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries. However, the Leader of the Country Party prefers to deal with this matter in this way than to make formal representations to the Government. The people on the North Coast can be thankful for the forceful parliamentary representation of the honourable member for Casino, particularly for his fight over the boundaries proposed for Yuragir national park.

I do not spare my praise for the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries, who in another area mentioned by the Leader of the Country Party has been equally forceful and eloquent—on this occasion on behalf of the people in the sandmining industry. A grave problem has developed in this industry. Any observer of the international market for mineral sands will know that as a consequence of an immense rutile deposit at Richards Bay in South Africa coming on stream, there will be intense competition with Australian-produced rutile. The cost of producing rutile from sandmining in Australia, certainly in New South Wales, is greater than it is at Richards Bay in South Africa. Already there have been retrenchments at sandmining projects in Western Australia, where there is no policy similar to this Government's on national parks.

The point is that the grave problem which has arisen in the sandmining industry is related not to national parks but to the enormous supply of minerals from sand at Richards Bay. This, coupled with the low cost of labour in South Africa, makes the rutile produced from sand in Australia—whether it be in New South Wales or Western Australia—relatively uncompetitive on the world market. This is something for Australian governments to tackle, but the problem will not be solved by emotional, exaggerated outbursts attacking the Government's national parks policy. It will be achieved by some sensible rationalization of our production and of places where best we can obtain minerals from sands in order to compete with the minerals produced overseas.

In that respect, I am sure that the House will be delighted to hear that the Government has had Maurice Timbs looking into the whole question of mineral sands and employment and unemployment in the mineral sands industry, particularly on the North Coast of New South Wales. I expect that shortly the Government will receive his report. Whatever it might contain, one thing stands out—the one indefatigable fighter for the people of the North Coast of New South Wales has been the honourable member for Casino, the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries.

The Leader of the Country Party has also raised the viability of the sawmilling industry. Not one job has been lost as a result of the Government's policy on national parks. The Leader of the Country Party knows that this is so in respect of sawmilling on both the South Coast and the North Coast. Two things must be borne in mind: first, that there has been an immense downturn in the building construction industry, and already the sawmillers are stockpiling because of the lack of capacity of that industry to accept potential timber output.

I have spoken to many people in the Kyogle district. Indeed, within the next month or two I shall be visiting that district, specifically to talk with them about their problems. There is a critical balance between what must be done to maintain jobs in the industry, and the obligation that every Australian has in relation to the Border Ranges. The sawmillers do not want to destroy the Border Ranges. As I understand it, a rational formula will have to be devised. The sawmillers know it is not easy, and also that the Government is intent on preserving the jobs of men at Kyogle and throughout the North Coast. No jobs will be lost as a result of any Government policy. Again I congratulate the honourable member for Casino, who at least goes to the North Coast and is in his electorate every week fighting for his people. That is more than can be said of the Leader of the Country Party.

The heart of the Leader of the Country Party bleeds for private landholders. The reason the Minister has chosen to use an interim development order as opposed to resumption is in order that private landholders who believe they would suffer hardship can approach the Government, conduct negotiations, and perhaps obtain an exclusion from the boundaries of any proposed national park. Resumption is an act of finality, whereas an interim development order is not final. This has happened in respect of the proposed Yuragir national park and, as a result, some private landholders have received back their properties and their fears for the future have been allayed.

However, I treat seriously the issues raised by the Leader of the Country Party. I hope that no member of this House will lightly enter into a discussion of the future of an industry or the jobs of ordinary men or women who depend upon their wages and salaries. The House can be assured, in respect of each of the matters raised by the Leader of the Country Party, that the Government and the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries, who has been instrumental in conducting the fight on behalf of all these people, are endeavouring to achieve a proper balance between the needs of industry on the one hand and the future welfare of Australia on the other. In the circumstances the Government declines urgency.

Question of urgency put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 46

Mr Arblaster  
Mr Barraclough  
Mr Brewer

Mr Brown  
Mr Bruxner  
Mr Cameron

Mr Caterson  
Mr J. A. Clough  
Mr Coleman

Mr Cowan  
Mr Dowd  
Mr Doyle  
Mr Duncan  
Mr Fischer  
Mr Fisher  
Mr Freudenstein  
Mr Griffith  
Mr Healey  
Mr Jackett  
Mr Leitch  
Mr Lewis  
Mr McDonald

Mr Mackie  
Mr Maddison  
Mr Mason  
Mrs Meillon  
Mr Moore  
Mr Morris  
Mr Mutton  
Mr Osborne  
Mr Park  
Mr Pickard  
Mr Punch  
Mr Rofe  
Mr Rozzoli

Mr Schipp  
Mr Singleton  
Mr Taylor  
Mr Viney  
Mr N. D. Walker  
Mr Webster  
Mr West  
Sir Eric Willis  
Mr Wotton  
  
*Tellers,*  
Mr Boyd  
Mr Murray

Noes, 48

Mr Bannon  
Mr Barnier  
Mr Bedford  
Mr Booth  
Mr Brereton  
Mr Cahill  
Mr Cleary  
Mr R. J. Clough  
Mr Crabtree  
Mr Day  
Mr Degen  
Mr Durick  
Mr Einfeld  
Mr Face  
Mr Ferguson  
Mr Flaherty  
Mr Gordon

Mr Haigh  
Mr Hatton  
Mr Hills  
Mr Hunter  
Mr Jackson  
Mr Jensen  
Mr Johnson  
Mr Johnstone  
Mr Jones  
Mr Keane  
Mr Kearns  
Mr McGowan  
Mr Maher  
Mr Mallam  
Mr Mulock  
Mr Neilly  
Mr O'Connell

Mr Paciullo  
Mr Petersen  
Mr Quinn  
Mr Ramsay  
Mr Renshaw  
Mr Rogan  
Mr Ryan  
Mr Sheahan  
Mr Wade  
Mr F. J. Walker  
Mr Whelan  
Mr Wran

*Tellers,*  
Mr Akister  
Mr Wilde

Pairs

Mr Cox  
Mr Stewart

Mr McGinty  
Mr Darby

Question so resolved in the negative.

Motion of urgency negated.

## CRITICISM OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

### Personal Explanation

Mr Barraclough: I wish to make a personal explanation because I believe strongly that today a slight has been made on my character by the inclusion of my name in the motion by the Attorney-General seeking the appointment of a select committee to inquire into criticism of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Gordon: Rubbish.

Mr Barraclough: If Government supporters will remain quiet, they will learn how I have been slighted. I understand that at approximately 10 o'clock this morning the Attorney-General rang the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and told him that the motion to which I refer would be moved today. He asked the Deputy Leader of the Opposition whether he would nominate members of the Opposition for the committee. Later the Deputy Leader of the Opposition telephoned the Attorney-General and told him that no member of the Opposition would serve on the committee. Nevertheless the Attorney-General included my name in his motion. I believe that my character has been slighted in that both the Premier and the Leader of the Government in another place live in my electorate—the Premier at Woollahra and the Hon. D. P. Landa at Double Bay—and my colleagues could think that the Premier had approached me privately and that I had agreed to be nominated for the select committee. Certainly the Leader of the Opposition could get that impression.

*[Interruption]*

Mr Barraclough: Government supporters interject. Let it be known that the Premier has approached me on several occasions about matters affecting the street in which he lives.

*[Interruption]*

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Bligh has the call.

Mr Barraclough: The point I am making is that my colleagues could think that I had accepted an invitation from the Premier or the Attorney-General without consulting them.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Bligh must show that something has been said in the House or outside it that has reflected on his character or impugned his parliamentary office. Up to this point the honourable gentleman has not shown anything of that nature.

Mr Barraclough: I say categorically that I had no knowledge whatever that my name would be included as a nominee for the select committee in question. Had I been approached on the subject, I would have refused most strongly and would have told the Attorney-General or the Premier that I would play no part in what I would describe as a vicious attack on my leader. I make the point strongly that my colleagues in both Houses could think poorly of me, believing that I had accepted the Government's invitation, for it is established practice to approach honourable members and invite them to accept appointment to a select committee. No such approach was made to me. The fact is that I had no knowledge of the matter. I am concerned that it might appear that I had been disloyal to my own party in respect of the monstrous thing the Attorney-General did.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Bligh has made his personal explanation, and he is now seeking to open a debate on the question.

## THE ARTS

### Ministerial Statement

Mr WRAN: I wish to make a statement to the House on the Government's cultural responsibilities and its policies for the arts.

*[Interruption]*

Mr WRAN: This certainly was a laughing matter when the Liberal and Country parties were in Government. As a government we attach a high priority to the State's cultural and artistic life. Unfortunately, the record of New South Wales in this field is patchy and inferior. In many areas in the performing arts, in the visual arts, and in the development of cultural facilities in country centres and regions, New South Wales has lagged behind other States. Large populations in major provincial cities and in Sydney's western suburbs are culturally disadvantaged. Little has been done in the vigorous and exciting new field of community arts. Little has been done to strengthen and improve our major performing companies. Little has been done to broaden the opportunities of ordinary citizens to enjoy our historic heritage and share in cultural activities.

It is high time that New South Wales, the State with the oldest and greatest artistic resources, the State with the finest and richest cultural heritage and the most vigorous artistic community, became a leader and a pace-setter in arts policy for this nation. As announced in the Budget, the Government is providing \$28.8 million to support cultural activities in 1977-78, an increase of 28 per cent on last year or 66 per cent on the last allocation made by the former Government. These funds will go predominantly to assist the major State cultural institutions—the State Library of New South Wales, the Archives Authority of New South Wales, the Australian Museum, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Elizabeth Bay House, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Sydney Observatory and the Sydney Opera House.

In most cases these are institutions of unrivalled excellence and international renown, whose activities reflect the major initiatives of the State in the arts field. No less important, however, is the Government's allocation of \$3.25 million this year for the support of cultural activities outside the Government sphere. This is more than double the amount of \$1.4 million allocated by the previous Government and reflects my Government's concern for the needs of the people of this State overall. In disbursing these funds the Government will pay particular attention to culturally disadvantaged areas and to cities and regions most in need.

Until recently the Division of Cultural Activities of my department lacked a director to develop and co-ordinate policies and advise the Government on its cultural responsibilities. A director has now been appointed. The previous Government lumped culture and the arts into a rag-bag portfolio of culture, sport and recreation. I have decided that cultural matters are an appropriate responsibility for my own department. In addition I have appointed a new Cultural Grants Advisory Council of eleven members all of whom are persons prominent in the arts and community life. For the past year the council has striven to overcome years of neglect and haphazard growth in the distribution of funds to a wide range of cultural organizations. It is now in a position to develop a programme of careful and co-ordinated assistance. In the past an attempt was made for various parochial, political and other reasons to satisfy everyone's needs. As a result almost no one's needs were satisfied and no real cultural development occurred. The council is now endeavouring to restrict grants to organizations that can demonstrate considerable community support and to concentrate the Government's resources more effectively in areas where they can do most good.

For reasons both historical and geographical, the growth of cultural activity in New South Wales is unique both in the eminence of its traditions and the size and complexity of its problems. We have a huge, diverse and populous State combining great coastal conurbations with many provincial cities and sparsely populated regions. The development of cultural policies in such a State demands a high measure of flexibility and resourcefulness. Broadly, our policies will have four main strands. The highest standards of excellence will be fostered in our major institutions and

subsidized organizations. The widest possible access to the arts will be promoted in a variety of ways, initially by subsidizing ticket prices and through open-air exhibitions and performances.

Community initiatives will be encouraged, even those—perhaps especially those—that depart from traditional values and established styles. Innovation and indigenous creativity will be promoted. Although there can be no direct method of producing new or better works of art, we shall aim to offer inducements to individual artists by way of commissions, prizes and scholarships. To enable it to develop and implement the Government's policies more effectively, the Division of Cultural Activities is being reorganized. Proposals approved by the Public Service Board involve the integration of the clerical, accounting and administrative staff of the division into the central administration of my department.

As part of these changes it is intended to appoint four new project officers to the division's staff to increase its policy-making strength. In addition, shortly the position of an assistant director will be filled. Once this process is completed the division will be a smaller, more tightly integrated and more effective body concentrating on arts policy development. Shorn of its top-heavy administrative content, it will be able to deploy a compact group of persons with specialized knowledge and experience in the wide variety of cultural activities supported by the Government, and backed by the independent and expert advice of the advisory council. The council and the division have already taken action to streamline the process of inviting and processing applications for cultural grants.

To improve standards of housing and accommodation for the arts, the Government has undertaken an important new initiative in cultural funding. Recently I approved a scheme for State Government funding of up to 50 per cent of the cost of capital works projects in the cultural field—that is, for the construction, alteration, renovation or conversion of theatres, libraries, galleries, museums, cinemas and other buildings. Applications for allocation of funds in this financial year will close on 28th February. The Government intends that in a limited number of cases, where local government authorities or cultural organizations can raise 50 per cent of the funds needed for a capital project, the State will provide a matching grant. This significant innovation will assist cultural projects in areas where the arts are poorly or inadequately housed. Grants of this kind will have special regard to the needs of regions that are culturally deprived.

I turn now to the work of our major cultural institutions. Not long ago the State Library of New South Wales celebrated its 150th anniversary. It is Australia's oldest cultural institution. As well as being responsible for the collections and services provided by the State Library, the Library Council of New South Wales is responsible for implementing a subsidy scheme to all public libraries in the State. This financial year more than \$7.5 million has been allocated for this purpose, an increase of 60 per cent on the former Government's assistance.

Recently legislation was enacted allowing the New South Wales Film Council to be made part of the State Library of New South Wales because the principal function of that organization is a library service. In line with the Government's policy on public access to the arts, the film council has been promoting free lunch-time screenings at its theatre in the city and has established a similar programme of free screenings at the Westfield shopping centre at Parramatta. The serious accommodation problems of the State Library will be alleviated when the Archives Office moves later this year to its own accommodation currently being constructed in The Rocks. This project, commenced late in 1976, together with a revised building programme at the Kingswood Records Repository, will upgrade the services and conditions of the archives of this State.

The Government will commission a series of works dealing with the social history of New South Wales. We are concerned that much of the social history of the State remains unwritten. Too little is recorded of the life and history of regions, cities, towns and social groups of all kinds. Since this project was publicly announced in December the response from writers and the general public has been immense. This project, for which applications will be officially invited in March, should fill a considerable gap in the State's written history and contribute much to literary and historical scholarship in New South Wales.

I shall now deal with museums and galleries. The Australian Museum, which celebrated its 150th anniversary last year, is one of the oldest and greatest natural history museums in the world. It maintains a strong scientific role and will continue to seek opportunities to contribute to a better understanding of Australia's cultural heritage and its natural environment. Approximately 700 000 people visited the Australian Museum in the year ended 30th June, 1977, some 22 per cent more than in the previous year. Almost 40 per cent of all visitors are under 18 years of age—evidence that the museum's policy of assisting in the education of the State's student population is succeeding beyond all expectations. In 1976 the museum launched its drop-in after school programme for local children. Now, on two afternoons a week, children come to the museum to be involved in a wide range of activities. On another afternoon each week the museum programme goes out to schools. Shortly a travelling project will be initiated to take exhibits and services to disabled children in special schools.

In line with its wish to involve the whole community in the museum's activities, the Government has provided funds for an outer-urban exhibit programme which was launched in the Holroyd municipality and has since visited a number of centres. Three further exhibitions are being prepared. Whereas museums were once content to attract an elite patronage, the Australian Museum is going out to meet and involve all sections of the community. As with other State institutions, the museum has been allocated funds to tackle the serious and longstanding conservation problems associated with its priceless collections.

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences is one of only two museums of science and technology in Australia and contains some of the State's most valuable historical treasures. It has suffered too long from inadequate accommodation. Only a fraction of the museum's holdings are available to the public and even these have been inadequately curated and protected from possible deterioration or loss. The Government has moved swiftly to remedy the deficiencies of many years' standing. Already under construction, at a cost of \$264,000, is a modern new store to house and protect irreplaceable exhibits now located in an old woolshed in Botany. The Government has also initiated a feasibility study to determine whether the old Ultimo tram depot can be renovated and restored as a comprehensive transport museum. If this project can be brought to a successful conclusion, New South Wales will have the first fullscale transport museum in Australia.

Attendances at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences grew so much in 1977 that by the end of October more people had visited the museum than in any previous twelve months since it was founded nearly 100 years ago. The end of 1977 saw attendances top the 300 000 mark for the first time. The museum will continue its free holiday workshops where children of all ages can try their hands at spinning, weaving, leatherwork, toy making, silk screening and other crafts and recreations.

The Art Gallery of New South Wales, as will be seen from its recent acquisitions, is continuing to build its permanent collection into one of national importance. Through its temporary exhibition programme it is presenting a wide range of art forms

*Mr Wran]*

to the public. It provides extensive services to schools through films and illustrated lectures and is planning a series of seminars for 1978 for secondary students. The volunteer guide service of the Art Gallery provides a regular service to adult groups visiting it.

To bring the visual arts to as many people as possible, the Government is sponsoring a weekly art exhibition on Sundays along the Macquarie Street fence of the Royal Botanic Gardens, called Art in the Gardens. A similar exhibition, to be called Art by the Lake, will be opened next month at Lake Gillawarna in conjunction with the Bankstown municipal council. These are the first of many initiatives the Government will take to display art and entertainment in public places. The Government will make use of the silver jubilee train as a travelling art and crafts exhibition, drawing on the resources of all our museum and cultural institutions. The Art Gallery in Sydney is now open free to the public on Sundays and attendances have increased markedly. We plan to discuss with the trustees of the Sydney Domain a proposal to use part of the Domain on Sundays for mime, music, puppets and other open-air performances.

The Government is concerned that only one regional art gallery in New South Wales, the Newcastle City Art Gallery, has developed a status comparable to State institutions or to regional galleries elsewhere in Australia. To remedy this situation, I have approved grants totalling \$100,000 for the construction of an art centre in Wollongong. This is expected to open in May. The former director of the Art Gallery of New South Wales prepared a report for me on the present situation in respect of regional galleries in this State. This valuable report will provide a basis for the Government's decisions on the improvement of regional galleries throughout the State. Meanwhile, increased funds have been allocated to the Art Gallery of New South Wales to expand and upgrade its travelling art exhibition so that it can visit a greater number of country districts.

The Government recognizes that many small museums and galleries throughout the State have little recourse to professional assistance in dealing with their problems, not only the administrative aspects but also over the whole range of research, documentation, presentation and conservation of their collections, other than that provided by the major institutions where often the problems are quite different. Consequently, the Government has approved the appointment of a consultant to examine the best way of providing these services and resources to regional museums and galleries.

I now turn to the Sydney Opera House and the performing arts. The Sydney Opera House is not only a supreme architectural achievement but also a living focus of the performing arts for all people of New South Wales, performers and audiences alike. We want the Opera House to be used to the full by as many people as possible. For this purpose the Government is providing \$10,000 to subsidize the cost of tickets purchased by students in the outer western suburbs and in country areas. The Sydney Opera House Trust is pressing ahead with programmes geared to particular age and community groups not usually catered for by performing arts organizations in a continuing way.

Special programmes have been devised and presented for young children and old people. Special concerts will be held during senior citizens week which the Government will be sponsoring in March. Also this year the trust proposes to launch its Bennelong programme, which is designed to introduce people of all ages to the performing arts. The recording hall has already been used for a wide range of programmes needing a flexible space, ranging from disco to classical drama. Another project which the trust has promoted is the people's orchestral concert series featuring Sydney's amateur orchestras. In March the trust will be presenting a number of shows and

performers from the Adelaide Festival. If it were not for this initiative many of the artists appearing at the festival might not have been seen in Sydney. Also this year a vigorous programme of lectures by eminent artists will be promoted. To encourage appreciation of film as an art form, the Australian Film Institute has arranged with the Opera House Trust for regular screenings in the opera house cinema and music room. The Dennis Wolanski library and archives of the performing arts continue to expand and will become eventually a principal reference library on the performing arts in Australia.

The Government is concerned at the serious financial difficulties of the Old Tote Theatre Company, the main non-commercial drama company in this State. We have shared the cost of an independent inquiry into the Old Tote's finances and are currently seeking to determine the best means of placing the Old Tote on a sound financial basis.

In the field of music, where Australia has lost so many artists to overseas, the advisory council will give priority to activities which encourage a high professional level and promote opportunities for professional employment for people who have successfully completed their training. The council will also provide opportunities for professional training in music for young people of unusual talent, preferably by scholarships in established institutions. The council favours the commissioning of musical compositions and new works for the theatre and a scholarship scheme for the training of actors, actresses and theatre directors.

Regional theatre, whether in suburban areas of Sydney or country centres, faces an increasing demand for services to a wide range of audiences. The Government will foster the growth of regional theatre of a high professional standard. The Government has recently granted \$25,000 to the Hunter Valley Theatre Company to develop a professional regional theatre in Newcastle.

The Government is conscious of the need for training of arts administrators. Last year, under the auspices of the National Institute of Dramatic Art and supported by the Government, a pilot course of one week was held in arts administration training. It was the first time such a course had been held in Australia. Now other States are exploring the setting up of such courses. From the information gained from the pilot programme a new course will be offered to regional theatre administrators in 1978. In September last a seminar on museums administration was held in Wollongong; in November a seminar on regional arts was held in Sydney. Both were supported by the Government.

Let me summarize the Government's broad objectives. For too many years the arts have been seen as a close preserve of the educated, the well-to-do, the cultivated minorities who regularly patronize the arts—in other words, an elite. Of course we must never belittle those who are dedicated and generous in their support for the arts, but neither can we neglect the great majority of people who all too rarely, if ever, enjoy the unique sense of exhilaration and fulfilment that only the arts can bring. For too long the arts have been for people of high education; it is our intention that they should be also for those with limited education. For too long the arts have been for the middle class; it is our intention that they should be for people of all classes. For too long the arts in Australia have been for people who speak and understand English; it is our intention that they should be also for those whose native tongue is not English and who are still learning English. For too long the arts have been for those who live near the centre of Sydney; it is our intention that they should be also for those who live far away, in the regions, in the outer or even inner suburbs, in the country towns.

*Mr Wran]*

In its comparatively short time in office the Government has done much to broaden and stimulate public interest, enjoyment and participation in the arts. Much more remains to be done. I am confident that when I next report to Parliament on the Government's objectives in the cultural field, I shall be able to reveal an even greater body of achievement and progress for the people of New South Wales.

Mr COLEMAN: What an extraordinarily idle statement by the Premier on his administration in this area, telling honourable members nothing that was not already available to them. Obviously it was a cosmetic sort of statement that the Premier thought would serve his purposes today while the Attorney-General is engaged in following other pursuits. When it was announced that there would be a ministerial statement, naturally I assumed that at last the Government had made decisions on a whole range of questions that were being posed. The National Institute of Dramatic Art, of which I am a board member, wants government help in the purchase and occupation of a new building. Giving the benefit of the doubt, I assume that the Premier is looking into that matter. Why was an answer not given? Let us have an answer to this terribly important problem confronting the leading drama acting training school in Australia. But, nothing. Despite the ministerial statement, there is no answer to that important question.

The Crafts Council, an important body, has approached the Government for assistance with a new building. This was a great opportunity for the Premier to tell honourable members what had been decided. But there was only silence—some ministerial statement! Companies that use the Opera House, including the Old Tote company and the opera company, find that most of their grants from the Government are used to pay rent for the use of the Government's Opera House. Those companies consider that is ridiculous and contend that they should be able to save the funds for artistic purposes. They want to change the arrangements and have been negotiating with the Premier to do so. Today was his chance to tell honourable members something. But, nothing. What was the point of this ministerial statement?

For years the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has been looking for a new building because the present building, opened by Sir Henry Parkes in the last century, is too small for the proper display of the magnificent collection which, I am pleased to say, is increasing annually. It is an outstanding collection but a new building is needed. I am the first to admit that this has gone on for some years but the cause is important and a decision is sought. Honourable members have heard the Premier's statement. What is the decision? Nothing. There was not even a mention of that problem. The Art Gallery of New South Wales is a fine art gallery but staff are leaving and the remaining staff are demoralized. Complaints are being made about the trustees and the decisions they have made. Whatever the truth of the matter may be—I do not want to express an opinion on it—a difficult situation exists and guidance is sought from the Premier on what is happening and what he intends to do about staff demoralization. But, silence—some ministerial statement!

Many people want the Cultural Grants Council to become a statutory body in order to give it standing, prestige and independence. People want the Premier to make a statement on that matter but so far there has been absolute silence. The Premier once had plenty to say about the Conservatorium of Music and its expansion, programmes, courses, buildings and the training it provides. Honourable members look to a ministerial statement for guidance but have received absolutely none.

A taxation anomaly is posed. People who bequeath paintings to the Art Gallery of New South Wales receive the benefit of concessions for death duty purposes. If people make bequests to any other art gallery in New South Wales, death duty is imposed by the Government. I concede that was the case with former governments.

This is a matter I remember considering when I was Minister for Revenue, in an endeavour to find a way to give that sort of relief to other art galleries. Recently the Commonwealth Government provided taxation concessions for people who donate paintings to art galleries. The New South Wales Government should follow that lead in relation to death duties. Without those concessions the development of regional art galleries will be held back. If one makes a donation to a regional art gallery, one incurs death duties. If the gift is made to what might be called the central Art Gallery in Sydney, relief is available. Why would people make donations to Newcastle Art Gallery or to other regional galleries in that case? I think the Premier is aware of this serious matter, because I seem to remember his referring to it when he was in opposition. Nothing about that matter was mentioned in the ministerial statement—some statement! Again, the Premier was silent.

The Premier's literary advisers have laid down insane guidelines. A matter of some complaint is that a magazine which sells in other States of Australia cannot receive a subsidy from the New South Wales Government. If a publisher commits the sin of being sufficiently successful to interest readers in other States and to have a national magazine, no grant will be forthcoming from the Government of New South Wales. I have an interest in *Quadrant*. The guidelines result in a magazine of that type not receiving a subsidy. I hope that honourable members will not be so stupid as to laugh about that magazine, which publishes more poetry than any other magazine in Australia—let alone in New South Wales. It contains more fiction and more literary criticism and sells more copies than any other literary magazine in Australia. The sales are twice as large as those of its closest rival. For a small magazine it is very successful. The New South Wales Government will not give the magazine a penny if it sells in Melbourne and attracts readers in Adelaide. What a ridiculous policy. The Premier was the Minister responsible for approving those guidelines. That speaks for itself, as one of the absurdities of the Government. As I have a particular interest in that magazine and was associated with it I shall not press the matter any further at the moment.

One could go on with many other matters that are perhaps not of that scale but nevertheless they are matters on which guidance is sought. As reference has been made to museums, what about the Vickery stamp collection in the Australian Museum? The Library of New South Wales does not want the collection, so where else is it to go? It has been placed in the ethnological section which is a silly and dangerous place for it to be. It would not be beyond the wit of a burglar to get into some of these museums, placing an extremely valuable stamp collection at risk. That is a small point but it is a policy question on which guidance is sought from the Premier.

I should like clarification on why it was decided to heavily subsidize radio station 2JJ to conduct a rock concert in the western suburbs of Sydney. It seemed to be a good rock concert but why could not the managers of 2JJ, particularly as the station is heavily subsidized by the taxpayers, conduct the concert without a further subsidy from taxpayers in New South Wales? Many other areas of cultural activity in the western suburbs of Sydney are desperate for financial assistance but have not been able to get anything from the Government. Doubtless they would like to know why the Government was willing to give a heavy subsidy to radio station 2JJ for that purpose.

I have given these illustrations to show how disappointed we all are with the Premier's statement on this matter. It is the statement of a person who is bored with or has no interest in the subject, except to the extent that he can gain some political mileage from it. Clearly the Premier has no particular personal involvement with the problems of that part of his portfolio. His pointless and uninspiring comments told us nothing new and provided no new information. I look back with some satisfaction

*Mr Coleman]*

at the achievements of the former Government, which was the pacesetter in these areas. It was the first Government in Australia to establish the cultural grants advisory system, which was subsequently imitated by the Commonwealth Government when it established the Australia Council, formerly the Australia Council for the Arts. That Government's adviser was Dr Coombes, who had previously advised the New South Wales Government.

The whole of the cultural grants policy originated in New South Wales under a Liberal-Country party government and was adopted by the Commonwealth and many years later by the other States, South Australia being the last. The former New South Wales Liberal-Country party Government made the basic decision to establish this wide-ranging, across-the-board cultural grants advisory system. Further, it increased the activities that received assistance. The Premier appears to consider that his department should be regarded in isolation from other departments, a concept with which I do not agree. An association with schools is most important. The former Government vastly extended the art, film, film-making and painting programmes in schools. They were fantastic schemes. They are achievements at which I look with pride and satisfaction. I look forward to their continuation when a Liberal-Country party government is elected to office in a year or so. I assure the House that when that occurs ministerial statements will be made by those who have real interest and involvement in particular matters; they will not be made as a cosmetic exercise, for the purpose of wasting the Parliament's time, by a person who has no interest in these matters.

#### NATIONAL RELIEF FUND (REPEAL) BILL

##### Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr **Haigh**.

#### PESTICIDES BILL

##### Second Reading

Debate resumed (from 8th February, **vide** page 11621) on motion by Mr Day:

That this **bill** be now read a second time.

Mr PARK (Tamworth) [12.25]: Most people are becoming increasingly aware of the need to control adequately the manufacture, supply and use of pesticides, particularly those chemicals that have residual effects and could cause harm not only to humans and livestock but also to the environment. As our society progresses it becomes more complex, controlled and regimented. We have to be careful not to create a situation where the user of pesticides may be unable to operate effectively.

The bill should seek to control adequately and safely the manufacture and importation of pesticides. It should ensure that at the other end of the process the user is properly informed about the purpose for which a pesticide may be used and how it should be applied. This can be achieved by each pesticide being accompanied by comprehensive instructions as to its use. Retailers, employers and employees should be adequately briefed, with responsibility at each level being clearly and concisely expressed. Pesticides should be registered for use only after adequate and exhaustive research examination carried out in a practical way. Further, officers of the Department of Agriculture and the Health Commission of New South Wales must be

properly trained to give the precise information necessary to primary producers and others wishing to use pesticides. The proposals outlined in the bill must be administered with discretion and commonsense.

Although I agree with the honourable member for Peats, the honourable member for Barwon and the honourable member for Orange that the bill is a step in the right direction, it has deficiencies and shortcomings. My main criticism is that there is little in the bill to ensure that primary producers will not be hampered or limited in their operations and that they will be protected in their operations. I have emphasized many times in this House the vital importance to this nation of its great primary industries. Primary producers feed the nation. They produce approximately half of the national income. Without doubt, secondary industries and mineral wealth are important. But primary industries have built the Australian nation and they are today the basis of the economy. Primary producers have the potential to double or treble their production. They must be given the backing to enable them to expand and further develop. As the population of Australia and of the rest of the world increases, Australian primary producers have a responsibility to meet the challenge. Governments must appreciate this and be willing to co-operate.

The city of Tamworth has a population of 30000 people and 400 secondary industries. I and almost everyone else in my electorate appreciate fully the importance of those secondary industries. We appreciate also that primary producers established the city of Tamworth in the first place and developed it. The strength of that city and the surrounding districts lies in the diversity of endeavour. In that area, as in all areas of our country, primary industries are and always will be vital to the local economy. Having spent most of my adult life as a practising farmer and grazier, I am fully aware of the absolute need for primary producers to have access to the best and most effective controls of pests such as vermin and fungi.

Recently there has been much publicity and propaganda on the so-called fact-finding tour of the Premier. I doubt whether he stayed long enough in any place or talked long enough to discover any real facts. The extent of the deficiency in this bill will probably not be fully apparent for some time but I urge the Minister and the Government to be courageous and honest enough to amend the legislation later as necessary, particularly as it may affect primary producers.

County councils and electricity authorities maintain wooden poles that are erected upon grazing and agricultural land. These poles are treated periodically for termites and dry rot with a fluid containing certain chemicals. The Peel-Cunningham county council in my area maintains 60 000 poles which are treated every three years. Prior to 1968 only creosote was used. This was effective against dry rot but not very effective against termites. Since that year 1 per cent of chlordane has been added, with the result that the termite problem is almost eliminated. The average pole life has been extended from about twenty years to about thirty years, and the estimated saving by the council in the past nine years is \$1 million. If that benefit is projected across the State, many millions of dollars would be saved. It is not only a saving in regard to the frequency of replacement of poles; it is also a saving in timber that can be used for other purposes.

Namoi Valley county council at Narrabri maintains 56 000 poles. Termites are not prevalent in some of the council's area, but they are in a large part of it. Almost the entire area of the Peel-Cunningham county council is subject to the white ant problem. The Namoi Valley county council uses a preparation of Caltex wood-preserving oil with 5 per cent pentachlorophenol, known as PCP, to which is added 1 per cent of chlordane. Some time ago the unions involved expressed concern about PCP but that concern related to users mixing the preparation. When it was determined that the

*Mr Park]*

council buys this preparation premixed it was clear that it involved no danger whatever to users. I understand that many other authorities throughout the State now use chlordane, following the lead set by the Peel-Cunningham county council. Chlordane is almost universally accepted as a most efficient means of suppressing white ants.

Sometimes livestock, particularly cattle, lick round treated poles. This is likely to happen particularly when stock are not given salt in areas where it is deficient. It should be remembered that the preparation is mixed with the soil to a depth of 2 feet. Farmers use DDT and other pesticides among a wide range of agrochemicals, but as far as I know they do not use chlordane. Chlordane is used by pest exterminators, perhaps florist farmers, and electricity authorities. Tests carried out on livestock in recent years have shown no evidence of chlordane and as far as I am aware no complaints have been received by the two county councils to which I have referred. I understand that at the recent government inquiry into pest control doubts were expressed about the safety of two chemicals used to control termites, chlordane and heptachlor. I understand that tests in the United States of America have shown that those chemicals have caused cancer in animals.

I mention these matters because of the importance to electricity authorities of their being able effectively to control termites. I do not want to pre-empt any decision that may be made regarding these two chemicals I have named, but if it should be decided to ban their use it is vital that an alternative chemical be found for use by electricity authorities. Otherwise white ants will again be a major problem and expense throughout this State. Although I shall be supporting some amendments that will be moved at the Committee stages, generally I support the aims of the bill.

Mr LEITCH (Armidale) [12.37]: I welcome the bill and I am gratified that the debate has been more or less on non-party lines, with praise and some reservations from both sides. I am pleased that the definition of pesticide appears to include the means for biological control. In most cases we would welcome that as perhaps the perfect solution, although that is far from being attained. Any biological agent introduced from overseas must be carefully screened. That, of course, is done. Special attention should be given to these agents, especially away from their normal environment, to discover any deleterious effects. Honourable members are aware of the history of the cactoblastis insect which has more or less controlled the dreadful prickly pear problem that we had in the 1920's and 1930's. Myxomatosis would be covered by the definition of pesticide in the bill.

I digress for a moment to make a few comments about myxomatosis. That disease has been a much more effective agent in the control of rabbits than the eminent scientists of the day expected it to be when it was introduced. I understand that it was a navy doctor in Melbourne, with access to some fairly eminent people, who persuaded them to overrule to some extent the scientific advice that they had received and allow a trial of myxomatosis. The disease spread in a way that was totally unexpected by the scientists who had reservations about it. It was a most effective agent.

Recently, in an effort to introduce a more virulent strain of myxomatosis, recourse has been had to the European rabbit flea. It was tried several years ago but what was not known then was that it would breed only on a pregnant female rabbit. In fact, I understand that a pretty sensitive test for pregnancy of rabbits is to attach a European rabbit flea to a doe. If it stays there, the rabbit is pregnant. Since then further information has come to light and the European rabbit flea is proving a useful insect to spread the more virulent strain of myxomatosis.

I mention those things in order to illustrate---as many speakers in this debate before me have done---the uncertainty within which we have to work. This is inevitable and all we can do is the best we can on the knowledge available at the time. The

honourable member for Peats, who made a valuable contribution to the debate, mentioned a number of anecdotal matters. I commend him for the assiduity with which he has pursued these matters. No bill can be perfect. In the past there has been and at present there is uneasiness about the chlorinated hydrocarbons—I do not intend to go through the whole list of pesticides—which tend to cumulate in some cases, as was mentioned by the honourable member for Peats. All honourable members know the dangers of the organo-phosphate group. The rise of organic chemistry has resulted in this great array of new compounds, many of which are pesticides. But we should not forget that the old pesticides, inorganics such as arsenic and lead, were also pretty poisonous.

Mr O'Connell: And tobacco dust.

Mr LEITCH: Yes. For example, lead poisoning has protean manifestations and will be missed medically quite often unless it is thought of and specially sought for. In those days no bill of this nature was necessary to control pesticides. The dangers were known and understood, but accidents still happened.

This is virtually a new bill which, as I say, I welcome. There has been some unease about clause 32, which provides that one is compelled to read the label on the pesticide. A moment's thought confirms the necessity for it in case somebody should trot out the excuse that he had not read the label or that he was illiterate. I believe such a clause obviously must be there. If the bill when enacted is administered in a silly way, such a pettifogging sort of clause could be abused by the foolish who could bring silly actions, but I have no doubt that the legislation will be administered with commonsense and discretion and therefore I do not really object to clause 32. If it is not, remedies are available.

I can see nothing much wrong with the bill. I do not really have any reservations. As I said, it is virtually a new bill and it may be that with the passage of time certain defects will be found in its operation. I cannot foresee that but it could happen. If so, I have no doubt that the Minister of the day will bring the Act back to this Parliament for amendment. So I welcome the bill which, on the whole, will do nothing but good.

Debate adjourned on motion by Mr Boyd.

*[Mr Speaker left the chair at 12.45 p.m. The House resumed at 2.15 p.m.]*

## GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Mr SPEAKER: The question is, That grievances be noted.

### CROMER GOLF CLUB LAND VALUATION

Mr VINEY (Wakehurst) [2.15]: I hope that the Minister for Local Government will take back to Cabinet the message I want to give it. This is a serious problem, grievously affecting a great number of my constituents. One arm of government is ripping them off for large sums of money while another arm of government tells them that the use of their property is frozen. I have in my electorate Cromer Golf Club, which owns 53 acres of land that do not form part of the course. The Warringah shire council's zoning of the land is non-urban 1A. That limits the uses to which it can be put in terms of the Warringah shire council's prescribed town planning.

A decision was made in 1974 to bring into effect interim development order No. 51, freezing the whole of the Narrabeen lagoon catchment area. This affected vacant land, and the uses to which land was then being put, such as for farm lots and other purposes. The interim development order put great constraints on landowners

in what they could do with their properties. It required that no residence be built on an area of less than 50 acres. This was a draconian measure, but apparently it was thought necessary to give the planners time to consider what should be done to preserve what was left of the Narrabeen lagoon catchment area and to stop siltation and pollution. Although that was in 1974, pen has not been put to paper in an effort to draw up a planning scheme for the area. That has affected a great number of my constituents.

The second part of my grievance is that the Valuer-General has said that the Cromer Golf Club land in question, which is rugged sandstone country, restricted in use by its non-urban 1A zoning and now totally frozen, is worth \$480,000. I do not know where he got that piece of fiction. It stems from the failure of any government to have the courage to codify the law on comparable sales either in the Valuation of Land Act or in the regulations made under it. Valuations for taxation purposes are pieces of political fiction, and the valuation in question here has been made solely to benefit the Government in the collection of taxation. The club can do nothing with the land, and can get no income from it, but it has to find an extra \$10,000 a year in land tax. It sought relief, but the Commissioner for Land Tax said, "I do not think I can help you". The club is not wealthy. It is not another Royal Sydney Golf Club. However, it is providing an amenity, it is a source of great visual pride to the people of Warringah and to visitors to the area, and it is a point of scenic beauty as well as a natural wildlife habitat. The club made the area what it is through the blood, sweat and tears of its members. The reward for their efforts is to have the Valuer-General say its land is worth \$480,000, which is \$9,056.6 an acre.

In his 1975 report, writing about the Sydney northern region, the Valuer-General made the following comment:

The larger non-urban areas, which were keenly sought by developers and speculators in the latter part of 1973 and for which prices of up to \$2,500 per hectare have been paid, are now subject to substantial reductions in valuation.

The valuation that the Valuer-General has put on this frozen land is \$22,264 a hectare. That must be one of the greatest pieces of fiction in history. I should like to know the basis on which the valuation was made, and in any event I believe that what has happened is the result of government failure to codify the law on comparable sales. I repeat, obviously the valuation has been made solely for taxing purposes. If there is to be a sale of such land, the price that is paid will be the price agreed to by a willing purchaser and a willing vendor. If there is a resumption of that land under the Public Works Act, application may be made to what used to be called the Land and Valuation Court, which takes into account a great number of factors in arbitrating a value.

Unimproved capital value is purely a basis for levying taxes. In fact, the improved capital value is nothing more than a basis for levying taxes. I have given an example. I make no apology for describing this valuation as a piece of fiction. It is worth emphasizing that while the Valuer-General says that the property is worth almost half a million dollars, another arm of government says that land tax payable on it is about \$10,000, even though it is frozen. These things have happened despite the fact that Cromer Golf Club, like other golf clubs, must meet extraordinary costs today because of high overheads, wages and other charges. The club must find an additional \$10,000 to pay the Crown, even though the Crown says that the club may do nothing with the land. The Warringah shire council says, "We have too many other major problems to worry about a preparatory plan for the Narrabeen lagoon catchment area". The Planning and Environment Commission says: "We are too busy to worry about the matter, and every time somebody comes to us with a 342Y suspension notice we have to depart from our normal work to handle it because of the lack of staff. We are not looking at plans for the Narrabeen lagoon catchment area".

For how long should these interim development orders apply? That is a question I ask the Minister for Local Government to take up with his colleague in another place. Some interim development orders apply for year after year, so affecting adversely the rights of property-owners. That is bad enough, but on top of that we have the iniquitous system of one arm of the Crown—working rightly in accordance with the terms of the Act—telling landowners that they cannot do certain things, while another arm of government tells them that they must suffer financially as a result.

The matters I have outlined disclose an iniquitous situation, and I have referred to only one example. I do not intend to speak like a threshing machine to try to illustrate the large number of cases I have handled in respect of this problem over interim development order No. 51 and the damage that it is doing and the hardship it is causing in the Warringah area. Many market gardeners have been affected in that they cannot do anything in respect of developing their land; they are even restricted in the way they use it as a result of the operation of the order. There is no way in which many people can be given any relief from the hardship this interim development order has caused. I ask the Minister to treat this matter as urgent. It should be one for Cabinet decision because its ramifications go beyond the responsibilities of the Minister for Planning and Environment and the Treasurer. The present situation should not be allowed to continue.

#### AUSTRALIAN FISHING INDUSTRY

Mr HATTON (South Coast) [2.25]: The United Nations Law of the Sea Conference and the South Pacific Forum looked at the question of the 200 nautical-mile limit to be established by South Pacific nations to take effect from 31st March next. This matter will have tremendous ramifications for Australia. The Australian Government has agreed to extend its offshore limits to the extent of the 200 nautical-mile zone. Not many Australians would appreciate what this new limit will mean. It will involve an area of sea that is almost as large as the Australian continent itself. This new zone will bring with it great responsibilities. It will be necessary for Australia to know the extent of its resources. We shall have to know the extent of the safe level of fish stocks, to ensure that they are adequately maintained; suitable limits will have to be placed on catches; adequate policing of the area will have to be carried out; a great deal more survey work will have to be done and we shall have to make sure that we have the technical know-how to keep ourselves abreast of current conditions.

It is only with knowledge that we can achieve sound management. Also, both the federal and State governments will have a responsibility in regard to capital equipment. In this respect we shall have to look at the requirements of ports, equipment and boats, and the processing and bargaining aspects of the fishing industry. It is important to remember the tremendous importance of bargaining to both this State and the nation generally. As an example of the bargaining aspect, the Russians have not hesitated to bargain with the Japanese since they set up their 200-mile fishing zone limit. At present a great deal of bargaining is going on between the two nations in regard to a proportion of the catch. The result of any restrictions will mean that the Japanese will turn their attention more to Australian waters. It is almost laughable to remember that when we were announcing our discoveries of hake on our south coast fishing grounds Moscow and Tokyo had been in receipt of detailed reports about the resources on our continental shelf for about fifteen years.

The south coast of New South Wales does not have a particularly wide continental shelf. The demersal fish like schnapper and redfish are sought by the Japanese fishermen. The light fish have not been eaten to a great extent in Australia but they are

used extensively in South America, particularly for fish meal. There are great resources of this fish on the south coast. We all know about the resources of gem fish in our waters. I think the tuna is a fish in respect of which we can learn a lot from the Japanese. All these varieties of fish can be used for the purpose of bargaining with the other countries.

I helped formulate a scheme with the Department of Primary Industry in Canberra. In this pilot scheme the Japanese sent a tuna vessel into Australian waters. The scheme involved Australians fishing off a Japanese boat. For blue-fin tuna a price of \$200 to \$300 a tonne more was received than would be received locally. One interesting point is that the Japanese fishing vessel was allowed to remain as Japanese soil, so that as soon as the fish was brought over the rail it was deemed to be exported. Blue-fin tuna is considered a high-quality product that is eaten raw in Japan and brings an extraordinarily high price. Australian fishermen are now learning new techniques, particularly in respect of handling the fish without bruising it and making it bleed.

After having discussions with some of the Japanese I was fascinated to find the extent to which the Australian fishing industry is still in its infancy. In Japan there are 155 universities and colleges specializing in maritime training. After nine years of primary and secondary training, students do a five-year course from which they graduate with a certificate in fisheries. This includes a two-year course, which involves practical training at sea and study, followed by onshore practical training. They can attend a general university, at which they can do a four-year course, including one year's training at sea. At the two exclusive maritime universities at Tokyo and Shimono-seki, students may obtain a full degree in fishing. The courses at these institutions deal with processing, wireless engineering, navigation, basic science and biology. Other parts of the course concern fish cultures, gear maintenance, navigation and meteorology.

There is no way in which our fishing industry will compete with that type of course unless it is given assistance and provided with capital equipment. I have personally submitted to the Premier that we should be looking at the establishment of a maritime college in New South Wales, to be operated in conjunction with the Japanese. Or we could do what is being done in Papua New Guinea where the fishing industry is provided with low-interest loans, at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and government grants. Also, the fishing industry there is given technical assistance and assistance from lecturers. I am aware that Australia is still in its infancy in regard to technical education in this field. We need to bring ourselves up to date in regard to the exploitation of our fishing resources, otherwise we shall lose them by default.

I cannot emphasize too strongly the tremendous importance of the matters I have outlined in these brief remarks. I hope that approaches will be made to the Japanese with a view to the exchange of technical know-how, perhaps onshore processing facilities and the updating of our port facilities. Training should be given to our fishermen so that they can better exploit our resources. If we do not take this type of action and stay in the doldrums, particularly in regard to deep sea fishing, because we do not have the know-how or the large vessels required, another country will quietly swallow our resources without even so much as a murmur of protest from us.

#### REEF BEACH

Mr ARBLASTER (Mosman) [2.30]: I wish to raise a grievance in regard to the continuing disaster that has been permitted at Reef Beach and what is happening to the people who live in the fine residential area in proximity to that beach. For over eighteen months Manly council and the residents of the area have repeatedly requested the Premier to agree to meet a deputation. Piles of letters and telegrams to the

Premier have gone unanswered. For eighteen months the Premier has refused even to meet the people to discuss the problems that are causing them concern following his decision to have Reef Beach declared as a nude bathing area. On two occasions he has fobbed these people off, passed the buck—call it what you may—by having the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier meet a deputation.

On each such occasion the Minister has merely said: "I'm sorry, it is not my responsibility. I can do nothing about it. That is the responsibility of the Premier and the Minister for Lands—I cannot do a thing about it." The Minister was correct; it is the Premier's responsibility. On the last occasion the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier was to meet a deputation the Minister said, "I will refuse to meet a deputation that has on it any local resident as a member."

Mr Morris: He had laryngitis that day.

Mr ARBLASTER: He had laryngitis or maybe he was looking after the athletic fields alongside gaols where the inmates are trained to jump fences or are taught to drive. A question on notice was directed to the Minister for Lands. Again no answer was received; there was merely another fob-off. I do not blame either the Minister for Lands or the Minister for Services, as they have been directed by the Premier not to meet anyone to discuss the position. It has not been denied that the Premier, who is responsible for the police force, has directed them not to enforce a law. Originally the decision was made to declare Reef Beach a nude bathing area. I remind the House that that is part of the great Sydney Harbour National Park.

Then there was a direction by the Premier to the police to extend the declaration to Forty Baskets Beach, near which is a beautiful pool used by families on the north side of the harbour. Then the declaration was extended to a distance of 2 miles, around Dobroyd Point to Castle Rock at Middle Harbour, again including a residential area and another part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. The Premier directed the police not to enforce the law within that area, to let anyone go nude, to permit all the travesty that may occur in the area and not to take any action to stop it. Time after time the police have told the residents about these instructions. When telephone calls are made to the police requesting them to come and stop people urinating in the streets in this area, the police reply, "I am sorry, we have received instructions not to take action there."

This is not the only occasion when the Premier has directed the police not to enforce the law. At other times he has put the police in an invidious position of not being able to enforce the law. The Premier has said straight out: "Look, I am the law; I am above the Parliament and I will direct the police what they will do. The Parliament has nothing to do with it. I will tell the police whether to enforce the law or otherwise." Members know of other instances of this sort of practice by the Government. I remind the House of an incident involving a member of this House who was charged with conspiracy in connection with the election of aldermen to the Botany council. The Attorney-General said that as it affected a member of Parliament who is a member of his own party, nothing would be done about that matter other than to sweep it under the carpet and leave it there.

The Premier has ignored the fact that the only access to Reef Beach is through a residential area. I shall give the House a few examples of things that have happened at that beach. They resulted in five arrests. The first arrest was of a young man who exposed himself near a children's play area at Forty Baskets Beach. He told the police he had been on Reef Beach and was only testing public reaction. Another arrest was of a man who walked nude through Gledhill Park to his car parked outside a home

where children were playing. Another man had exposed himself to a young girl from a car in Sydney Road, approximately 1 mile from Reef Beach. When arrested he told the police, "I had been to Reef Beach and I could not control myself".

Another instance to which I wish to refer the House concerns the arrest of two nudists at Forty Baskets Beach. Although the honourable member for Monaro may laugh, I am sure he would have plenty of serious statements to make if this sort of thing was occurring in Queanbeyan. A further instance brought to my attention was of a man standing on a rock at Reef Beach masturbating himself within the view of two girls down on the beach. A further case, reported to police by people who wish to remain anonymous but their names are on the police file, concerned a man seen masturbating at Forty Baskets Beach. Houses are built within 25 yards of this beach, which is often frequented by families. This occurrence took place in front of two teenage girls. He too had been to Reef Beach. He told the girls, "Now your sex education has been completed; you have seen an ejaculation".

As the Premier ignores such facts, it is little wonder that the parents of the thirty-five children under the age of 12 who live in the main deadend street leading up to Reef Beach are concerned and worried. The Premier has said that he does not understand why there has been such an outcry. Honourable members know that he wants to start a dynasty. He has not yet started it. Although he will not assist these people, he used the law for his own purposes when he heard that it was intended to establish a picture theatre near his home.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! For some time the honourable member for Mosman has been endeavouring to denigrate the Premier.

Mr Arblaster: That is quite correct.

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable member knows that under Standing Order 151 if he wishes to make a case against the Premier he should do so by moving a substantive motion. The House is in the process of establishing rules relating to grievance day. If the honourable member wants to raise a grievance in respect of occurrences in his electorate—and I believe he is—he should limit his remarks to them. If he wishes to cast reflections on the Premier he should do it by way of substantive motion.

Mr ARBLASTER: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I shall abide by your ruling. A further instance of law infringement was of a man who had undressed in the toilets at Tania Park, which is within the area where the police say they are not to continue to enforce the law. This man then approached some young boys playing nearby. When they ran away he chased them. Fortunately one of the boys lives locally and they were all able to get there safely. Two further incidents occurred in Beatty Street, one in November last year and the latest was last weekend. In the November incident a man walked from his car dressed only in a towel. He dropped the towel, looked round and urinated in the street. Yet the Premier has said that these sorts of things do not happen. I shall now read to the House an article from the magazine Campaign, which is a "gay libbers" magazine. This quotation is from part of an editorial in that magazine:

Unfortunately, some people do not stop to think. On both sides! There have been several reports reaching my office of a number of acts that have taken place on both Lady Jane and Reef Beaches. The perpetrators of these 'acts' were in fact homosexuals. The people who were offended and reported the 'acts' were homosexuals. The people who will suffer because of these 'acts' will be homosexuals.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I cannot allow the honourable member for Mosman to read the whole of the editorial. It has been ruled that an honourable member is out of order in reading an editorial as it affords an opportunity for people outside the Parliament to express an opinion in the House. An honourable member may make passing reference to an editorial. However, the honourable member's time has expired.

#### GRANVILLE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Mr FLAHERTY (Granville) [2.40]: I want to bring to the attention of the House, and in particular the Minister for Education, a serious situation that has developed in the South Granville area following a meeting of the Granville South High School parents and citizens' association in December last year. At that meeting a decision was made to approach me regarding the need for an assembly hall and improved sporting facilities at the school. I should say that over the years I have been pressing for these facilities, but up to the present time no funds have been allocated for these two necessary projects. I should also point out that plans for the enlarged playing field provide for the extension of the field in an east-west direction and this orientation requires the removal of approximately forty-five trees. In order to overcome the removal of the trees it has now been recommended by officers of the metropolitan west regional area of the Department of Education that when finance is available the playing field be extended in a north-south direction and acquisition of a number of properties on the southern boundaries of the school will be required to enable this to be accomplished.

I want to make it quite clear to the Minister that residents living in proximity to the school oppose the extension of the playing field in a north-south direction, and so do I. I believe the Granville South High School parents and citizens' association would prefer to see the playing field extended in an east-west direction as this would not necessitate any acquisition of nearby properties. Unfortunately, articles appearing in local newspapers and announcements over the radio have indicated that properties north of the school in Ashby Street, Guildford, will be acquired by the Department of Education and this, to the best of my knowledge, is untrue. This inaccurate reporting has caused considerable concern to a number of my constituents living in Ashby Street, and at a meeting of the Granville South High School parents and citizens' association held on Monday, 6th February—which I attended—members expressed their anger and concern forcibly.

I ask the Minister to squash for all time the rumours circulating in my electorate that homes in Ashby Street, Guildford, will be acquired or resumed by the Department of Education. Also I request the Minister to accompany me on an inspection of the Granville South High School as soon as possible so that he may see for himself the need for extending the playing field in an east-west direction and also the need for a new assembly hall. I am sure that after his inspection he will agree with me that workers' homes are more important than trees and that he will instruct officers of his department not to proceed with the extension of the playing field in a north-south direction **but will** require them to keep to the initial plan, namely to extend it in an east-west direction. I believe it is timely to advise officers of every State instrumentality that Labor politicians represent people; consequently Labor governments are protectors of the democratic rights of electors, whose homes are their castles, and should always enjoy a high priority to remain standing when important public works are planned.

Mr BEDFORD (Fairfield), Minister for Education [2.44]: I thank the honourable member for Granville for bringing this matter to my attention. I know he will appreciate that many of the actions taken by government departments, including the

Department of Education, are well along the way before submissions come to the Minister for advice and the Government's attitude to the proposal. Certainly an active local member can be most useful in representing the view of his constituents. I have had an opportunity of looking through the file and can assure the honourable member for Granville that there is no proposal whatever to resume properties in Ashby Street. It has not been contemplated; it is not being contemplated and, within the limits of what may happen over time, it is unlikely to be contemplated. In the circumstances, though I agree with the attitude expressed by the honourable member for Granville about the protection of people's homes when consideration is being given to the acquisition of land for public properties, such as for schools, it would be appropriate if I took the opportunity to visit the school with the honourable member to see what can be done to ensure that the houses are preserved and that the school gets the extensions needed for the children.

It is sad when a decision must be made on whether to preserve houses or trees. I notice on the departmental file that the stand of trees involved consists of mature, well-advanced specimens. They must certainly be an attractive adjunct to the school. It may be possible to site the facilities so that only some of the trees have to be removed. I shall make arrangements to accompany the honourable member to Granville South High School to see what can be done to ensure that the facility is provided and that people in the area are not disturbed. Those arrangements will be made and the honourable member will be advised.

#### BORDER RANGES LOGGING

Mr DUNCAN (Lismore) [2.46]: Almost daily in this House we hear a tirade from the Premier concerning the Country Party, which he claims has forsaken country people. The honourable member for Campbelltown, who sits in the House at this time, asked a question yesterday and in reply the Premier intimated that country people had been forsaken by the Country Party and that for assistance and help in relation to their needs they must turn to the New South Wales Labor Government. It is with that thought in mind that I want to raise a matter and to give the lie direct to what the Premier states so often. I refer to one group of people in a country area who are not getting from the Labor Government the help and assistance they want. They are the people who have invested heavily in the timber industry and the good, honest, hard-working citizens who are employed within that industry.

I refer to the sidestepping of this Labor Government, its pussyfooting around and its failure to make a decision on the future of the forests in the McPherson Ranges, including whether or not the Forestry Commission will be able to continue to control and care for those forests. I wish to refer to a letter that was written on 1st November, 1977, by Mr David Barnett on the letterhead of Munro and Lever (Pty) Limited. This letter was sent to every sawmiller in New South Wales. It began:

I am writing to you as a fellow N.S.W. sawmiller not to ask for anything, but simply to warn you of what can and is happening to our industry.

Mr Barnett went on to refer to the development of the mill at Grevillia, which depends upon this Border Ranges area and the forest that it contains. The letter then continued:

You are probably asking what the message is we have for you. It is simply this—our faith has been completely destroyed in any commitments made by the N.S.W. Government.

That statement gives the lie to what the Premier says he is doing for country people. The history of this matter is that when the honourable member for Upper Hunter was the Minister responsible for forestry matters he intimated quite clearly that the Forestry Commission would continue to manage this area. He gave approval for an access road for logging to Levers Plateau but the present Premier put a moratorium upon that approval. This Government then set up an inter-departmental committee to consider the matter. Time and again last year we asked the Minister responsible for conservation how matters were proceeding. He stonewalled day in and day out until November last when he told me that he had the committee's report to hand and within a few weeks he would be announcing a decision on the future of this area.

Then a revelation occurred. In last Saturday's edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* it was announced that the Premier had promised a third inquiry into the Border Ranges and this one was to be undertaken by the State Pollution Control Commission. One of the government appointees to that commission is none other than Mr J. G. Somerville of 16 Perth Avenue, Lindfield, who wrote to Mr Barnett on 14th January, 1977, in these terms:

It is just a year since we talked in your office, and whilst you probably felt then that you had a reasonable chance of obtaining the hoop pine on Lever's Plateau, you must now appreciate that the change of Government in New South Wales last May completely altered the situation. Mr Wran has assured me personally that the access road will not be built.

How long will the inquiry take? How unbiased will it be when Mr Somerville, a government appointee to the commission, is a long-standing opponent of the timber industry and wants to close down logging operations in this forest? The Premier must be the leading expert in New South Wales on obtaining publicity. He enjoys getting into the treetops and singing to high heaven about what the Government is doing to attract industry to this State and to create jobs. The Government is doing absolutely nothing for the timber industry. It is adding to the frustration and anxiety of those who have invested in it. Those who are employed in that industry are likely to be thrown on the unemployment scrap heap if the Government gets its way. State forests will be closed to logging, and the loggers will have to move somewhere else, until they are chased from there too. That is the sort of thing the industry is concerned about.

Mr Barnett has written to the Premier time and again. I have all the details in front of me. He has not even been given the courtesy of a reply. The Premier certainly has not seen him. Last year, 182 persons were employed by the Carrick mills in Grevillia and Kyogle, which paid \$1,420,000 in wages. Honourable members can imagine how important the industry is to the economy of a small place like Kyogle. If the Government goes ahead with its plans to stop logging there, 300 people directly or indirectly associated with the industry will lose their jobs, and that does not include those likely to be affected who are employed by the Standard Sawmilling Company, Murwillumbah, or Hurford's mill in Lismore, both of which draw from this reserve.

I say as clearly and as succinctly as I possibly can that the people are sick and tired of this sidestepping by the Government. They are sick and tired of politicians going to areas and making promises. They are sick and tired of statements and inquiries. They are sick and tired of the sort of statement made as recently as Tuesday last by the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries that the policy of the Australian Labor Party determines what will be done, and that the party's policy is to allow logging to continue in the McPherson Ranges under the management of the Forestry Commission. Why is it necessary to have an inquiry if that is the Government's policy? Government supporters should come down out of the trees, get their feet back on the ground, and give an answer

*Mr Duncan*]

to these people who are anxious and frustrated about the sidestepping that has taken place on the issue. I am sure that the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries, who represents the area, agrees that these honest, hardworking people deserve nothing less than an immediate answer so that the Forestry Commission may continue to interest itself in the supply of wood products and the creation of opportunities for recreation. The commission has the scientific knowledge necessary to preserve the biological aspects of these forests. Let the Government make a decision so that these people the Labor Party says it represents will at least know there will continue to be investment and job security.

Mr DAY (Casino), Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries [2.56]: The honourable member for Lismore raved on about this important subject. It is a fact that honest and hardworking people are involved. It is true that the Labor Party represents them. It is not reasonable or decent for any honourable member to strike unnecessary fear into their hearts. There is no ground for such fear.

Mr Schipp: Come clean.

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

Mr DAY: The immature member for Wagga Wagga raves and rants about things of which he has no knowledge, particularly rural matters. The irresponsibility of the former Government is evident from the fact that no matter what decision is made, if logging continues at the present rate in the Border Ranges, the confident expectation is that all the mills involved will cease to function at the latest in about 93 years' time. A continuous cycle is not being adopted. Members of the Opposition are saying that it will not matter if in 9½ years' time the resource is worked out, and it will not matter what effect that has on the people about whom they are now shedding crocodile tears in copious quantities.

Mr Schipp: That is a good line.

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

Mr DAY: The need to protect the jobs of these people and the security of those involved in the industry and those who live in the towns cannot be put aside until the resource is worked out. There is no point in starting to worry about it then. The time to think about it is now. I have said, as the Premier has said, in clear and unequivocal terms that logging will continue in the Border Ranges and that no jobs will be placed in jeopardy.

The honourable member asks why it is necessary to have an inquiry, and why the Government must consider so many options. The answer is that the Government wants the resource to last not for eight, nine or ten years, but beyond the turn of the century at least. I have done much more than the honourable member for Lismore or anybody else on the Opposition benches to achieve a decision that will ensure continuity of employment for people in that part of the State beyond the turn of the century. As recently as last weekend I was involved in activity towards that end in that I went with five of my colleagues to the area.

Mr Barraclough: That did not include the Minister for Planning and Environment and Vice-President of the Executive Council.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DAY: The Minister for Planning and Environment and Vice-President of the Executive Council has been to the Border Ranges, as has the Premier. More Government supporters than Opposition members have exhibited interest in the area and visited it. I have been involved in discussions with representatives of the timber industry that will result in a continuing use of timber from that area. Mills in the district will thus be able to survive not merely for the limited period of time that the previous Government envisaged, but well into the future—in fact, hopefully, in perpetuity. That is what the Government is trying to achieve. It is disgusting that the Opposition dares to repeat all this garbage about mills being closed down and people losing their jobs. Many unequivocal statements have been made, not only by the Premier but also by other Government members, to the effect that the Government has no such intention.

Mr Webster: What is holding up the millers?

Mr DAY: The irresponsible statements made by the honourable member for Lismore and other Opposition members. I have discussed the matter with the millers as recently as last week.

Mr Schipp: You didn't convince them.

Mr DAY: I did convince them. The honourable member for Wagga Wagga has an open mouth and an open mind—and absolutely nothing in either of them. As the local member and as a member of the Government I have taken every possible step that any responsible Minister could take to see that these mills are not closed down. I want to ensure continuing employment in the area. Members of the Australian Labor Party have a social conscience about these matters. We have no intention of taking away any jobs, particularly those of these honest, hardworking people who have continually had fear instilled in them as a result of propaganda put out by the Opposition. Honourable members opposite should accept the Premier's assurance that no jobs will be lost.

*[Interruption]*

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

Mr DAY: I repeat the Premier's assurance that no jobs will be lost in this area. The honourable member for Lismore seems anxious to jump to his feet and go on with more of his nonsense. Everything he says is designed to strike unnecessary fear and doubt in the minds of the people whom he professes to care for so much. In fact, he has no regard for those people, because he is abusing his position as a member of this Parliament by destroying their confidence in their future in this area.

*[Interruption]*

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

Mr DAY: I proclaim, here and now—as the Premier did earlier today in the House—that the Opposition's attitude is completely without justification.

#### PENSIONERS RELIANCE FUNERAL FUND

Mr R. J. CLOUGH (Blue Mountains) [3.3]: I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies a matter that is affecting a number of people in my electorate. I refer to an organization known as the Pensioners Reliance Funeral Fund. Many pensioners in my electorate subscribe to this fund and some doubt exists in the minds of some of them whether the fund is

viable. A number of suggestions have been made that large-scale misappropriation of funds may have occurred. Pensioners contribute 40c a week to the fund, which goes towards the cost of their funerals. Fund payments are made to local funeral directors. My purpose in bringing the matter to the Minister's attention is twofold. First, I ask for his assistance in seeing whether an investigation can be carried out into the current financial situation of this fund. Second, I should like consideration to be given to a solution of the problem of this fund, should its position be as I believe it is.

In recent weeks the local press has published conflicting advice from people associated with the local pensioners' association and from funeral directors as to whether members ought to continue to contribute to the fund. One funeral director has indicated that contributors should continue to make their payments. It is doubtful whether the fund will provide funeral coverage for its members. If the fund is found to be bankrupt and without sufficient funds to meet its obligations, I ask the Minister to examine the possibility of establishing some sort of an insurance scheme which could be funded by the Government Insurance Office. I should like to know whether such a scheme could be provided, not only to cover pensioners who are affected by the apparent position of this fund, but also to tidy up an area where there appears to be fairly large scope for misappropriation and mismanagement. I ask the Minister whether he will ensure that a viable insurance fund is established so that people can make arrangements to cover the cost of their funerals.

Mr EINFELD (Waverley). Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies [3.8]: As usual, the honourable member for Blue Mountains has raised a matter of great importance, particularly to those people who subscribe to funeral funds generally, and particularly to the Pensioners Reliance Funeral Fund, which commenced operations in 1931. The president of the fund, Mr Kingston-Kerr, has stated that the fund has certain assets. I have had inquiries made about the fund. Honourable members will recall that last year the New South Wales Prices Commission conducted an inquiry into funeral funds, and the results have been most disturbing. Legislation has never been introduced into this Parliament to provide that organizations of this kind should have contingency trust funds. Membership fees could be paid into such a fund and funeral directors could have sufficient money available to meet their liabilities. I understand that as at 31st December, 1974, the fund in question held \$6,000 worth of government bonds and had \$10,000 in interest-bearing deposits. It now appears that those assets have been disposed of.

Some members of this fund paid their subscriptions direct to the fund. Other subscriptions were collected by a number of undertakers acting as agents for the fund. As far as my officers can ascertain, the fund seems to be in debt to various undertakers in respect of funerals to the extent of about \$2,808, although one funeral director has been in touch with me, stating that the fund owes him about \$2,000. As at 7th October last the fund has a bank credit of \$135.84. There seems to be no doubt that the fund does not have sufficient money with which to meet its liabilities. It is registered as a charity with the Department of Services and that department has been informed of the position, which has some most disturbing features about it. Recently I was informed that Mr Kingston-Kerr had just acquired a new motor car, that he has a launch, and that he recently acquired an interest in a cake shop in Katoomba. Honourable members will be disturbed to learn that any pensioner would have paid money into a fund—no matter how small the payments might have been—whose funds seem to have disappeared. The problems associated with this fund are being investigated by various responsible authorities. Officers of the Registry of Co-operative Societies and the Department of Services have made certain investigations. As I have said, the Department of Services is concerned in this matter because the fund is registered as a charity under the Act.

I am disturbed about funeral funds. I convened a departmental committee presided over by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. It included representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Treasury, the Premier's Department, the Department of Lands, the Health Commission of New South Wales and the Department of Local Government, all of which have an interest in one way or another in funerals, cemeteries, crematoriums and the like. Yet I have not been able to reach a decision so that I can tell the honourable member for Blue Mountains that there will be a fund to take care of the contingency liabilities of funeral funds that cannot meet their obligations. The Government Insurance Office has displayed a disinclination to enter the field, although I have received some assistance from that office. I am hoping that the departmental committee's recommendations may permit a conclusion to be reached. I fear that legislation will be required. That requires time and there are other difficulties involved. If the Government were to foot the bill for the liabilities of funeral funds that do not have trust arrangements, including this pensioner fund which is in such a deplorable state, the taxpayers of New South Wales would be involved in a loss of more than \$1 million.

It is not an easy problem to solve. I appreciate that the honourable member for Blue Mountains has a particular interest as my information is that there are more members of this fund in the Blue Mountains area than in other areas. People from other parts of New South Wales are paying into the fund. I appreciate the honourable member's bringing the matter before the Parliament. He has a duty to perform on behalf of those constituents who will be disadvantaged as a result of this fund's financial position. He accepts his obligation to draw to the Parliament's attention funeral funds that have no liquid sums available and no contingency provision for trusts. Legislation to cover these matters should have been introduced into the Parliament many years ago. The honourable members may be assured that the Government takes the matter most seriously. I hope that in the not too distant future the Government will bring forward a proposition or scheme, which I am sure Parliament will adopt quickly, to afford some relief to those who have been disadvantaged by dishonest or inefficient controllers of funeral funds. I regret to say that in its present state the Pensioner Reliance Funeral Fund cannot possibly carry on. I am not advising anybody to make further payments into it.

#### BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES

Mr BARRACLOUGH (Bligh) [3.12]: I wish to raise a matter on behalf of the 165 000 people in New South Wales who own boats, most under 20 feet in length. The Labor Government has adopted the extraordinary attitude that anyone who owns a boat is wealthy. The Government has turned its back on the boatowners of New South Wales. The Minister for Lands had a golden opportunity to create at the Rose Bay air base a magnificent boat-launching facility with adequate parking for motor vehicles, but he ignored it. Most boatowners are ordinary working-class people who probably support the Labor Party. The Government has done nothing to acknowledge this serious problem. Most of these 165 000 boatowners live in the Sydney metropolitan area and every weekend they leave their homes—probably many live in Housing Commission flats—to go boating on our magnificent Sydney Harbour. They experience long delays.

Between Drummoyne and South Head there is only one boat-launching ramp—the dangerous one at Rose Bay. At half past ten last Saturday night I observed people still waiting to bring their boats up the ramp, at great risk to themselves. The Government takes no interest in the wonderful activity of boating. Government supporters probably do not appreciate that boating has become the biggest recreational activity

in New South Wales. Along Parramatta Road more boats are on display for sale than motor vehicles. The fastest growing industry in New South Wales is boatbuilding. By 1989 there will be some 800 000 boats. Unless circumstances change, their owners will not be able to launch them. The honourable member for Monaro, who has a smirk on his face, represents an electorate with magnificent waterways. Yet he takes no interest in the welfare of boatowners.

The first of April will certainly be April Fools Day for boatowners because on that day the Department of Public Works will take over the whole administration for the establishment of new launching ramps and marinas. The Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports has no interest whatever in the boating industry or in the thousands of people who every weekend try to launch their boats on our waterways. I regret that the Deputy Premier is not in the Chamber to reply to my remarks this afternoon. New South Wales has only eleven marinas. Those associated with the boat industry assert that people will stop buying boats because there is nowhere to put them. There is certainly nowhere to put big boats: one cannot get a mooring site. Many bays in Sydney Harbour could be converted into marinas. No marina sites will be established as the person who dictates policy to the Government is Mr Milo Dunphy, a man with no interest in the boating industry. The Government had a great opportunity to create proper facilities at Rose Bay, where a marina could have been constructed. One has to go only to St Kilda in Victoria to observe what can be done. Dry storage is required. The Government does not realize that the people whom it is turning against are those who probably supported it at the last elections. They certainly will not be supporting the Government at the next elections.

I repeat, almost a quarter of a million people in New South Wales are interested in boating. I know that the Deputy-Speaker, the honourable member for Marrickville, has an interest in boating. He would probably support my remarks on behalf of boatowners. There have been reports galore. The Maritime Services Board must have numerous reports about the lack of boating facilities in the Sydney metropolitan area. As long ago as 1956 there was a report on the need for more ramps, not only in Sydney Harbour but also in Pittwater and on Lake Eucumbene. A further report I have here is entitled "Pleasure Boating Projects". Still the Government turns its back on boatowners, who are ordinary workingmen. They do not want to spend all their time on roadways. In any event, as the Government has stopped the construction of freeways very soon motorists will not be able to get on our roads. If a citizen turns for recreation to the waterways, he cannot gain access to them either. I saw the greatest caper when that well-known boating gentleman, the Premier, went to the Rose Bay ramp site at Lyne Park and gave a great speech with the theme of babies before boats. That meeting was organized by a gentleman named Stein, chairman of the Rose Bay Protection Society, who has done nicely with a government job. The Government has done nothing to assist the boating industry.

Mr Crabtree: That is a deliberate lie.

Mr BARRACLOUGH: It is not. I attended the meeting with the honourable member for Vacluse and heard the Premier make the statement about there being more cars and the streets becoming jammed. There are many opportunities all around the harbour to create launching ramps and marinas. If the Government does not take action there will be a downturn in the boating industry, which will increase unemployment. The Government asserts that it is concerned with unemployment; certainly the Opposition is concerned about it. Unless the Government takes action through the Deputy Premier there will be a downturn in the boating industry. I remind the House of the large number of deaths that are occurring on our roads at weekends. This makes the Government's lack of interest in boating facilities more scandalous.

Some quarter of a million people have been ignored by this relatively new Government which, although it asserts that it is concerned, merely talks a lot of nonsense. Rather than make muck-raking attacks upon Opposition members the Government should devote its attention to governing New South Wales and showing some genuine concern for the people who want to engage in the wonderful and healthy recreation of boating. I hope the Government realizes that there is a big vote in this issue and that it will be to its detriment if it does not take immediate action to build more ramps and more marinas on the waterways of New South Wales.

#### LIBRARIES FOR BLIND PERSONS

Mr WHELAN (Ashfield) [3.21]: I want to make a plea on behalf of the 12 000 to 15 000 blind or partially blind citizens of this State. As honourable members know, the main help for the blind in this State has come from the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales. There are, of course, other organizations in this field, but it is a submission from the Royal Blind Society that has caused me to raise this matter in the House today. That organization provides service for some 5 000 blind or partially sighted persons in this State. Last year the society received over 4 000 inquiries relating to its library and over 5 000 relating to the welfare of blind citizens.

Earlier today the Premier made an announcement about the Government's cultural responsibilities and policy for the arts. I realize that in the last Budget it is providing \$28.8 million this year to support cultural activities, including assistance to the State Library of New South Wales. However, I believe it is important and poignant that in this grievance debate I should quote one of the last remarks made by the Premier today. He said:

. . . neither can we neglect the great majority of people who all too rarely, if ever, enjoy the unique sense of exhilaration and fulfilment that only the arts can bring.

That is an important observation, when one takes into consideration the number of blind people who are denied the opportunity of enjoying many of the art and cultural facilities that the Government is bound to provide.

As I have said, the Royal Blind Society is now and historically has been the principal provider of library facilities for blind, partially blind and visually handicapped people in this State. I raise an anomaly today in the hope that it will be removed. Governments, both federal and State, provide and finance facilities for libraries for sighted people, in schools and by way of assistance to councils for the purchase of books and the like. Yet neither the federal nor State government gives any money to provide library facilities for the blind. There is every moral reason why governments at both levels should assist these people, and that is why I make a plea for the removal of this anomaly.

The Royal Blind Society has embarked on a course of providing modern library facilities for the blind. I do not mean books in the normal sense of the word, such as the dictionaries on the table of the Chamber; I am talking about the new form of blind library, cassette recorders, started in the United States of America and in wide use there. It is much better than the old braille system. It enables young children to sit down and listen to whatever they desire, whether it be nursery rhymes or books of educational value. It enables students undertaking university courses and senior citizens who are blind to listen to whatever they desire. I mention senior citizens because it should not be forgotten that people of advancing years need this extra care. They need the opportunity to acquire something that will give them a great deal of interest

in life. Here is a wonderful opportunity for the Government to give financial support to this worthy organization so that it can provide an additional service to blind and visually-handicapped citizens throughout the State. As I have said, those who will benefit from this proposal will be people of all ages.

I was disturbed to learn that all braille books are printed overseas because there is no braille printing equipment in this State. Really, we are commencing with nothing. We have not given those who suffer from the physical disability of blindness anything at all. We have left them alone. In the main, we have pretended that they do not exist. Only in the past three or four years has any government, federal or State, given recognition to people who are blind. I am sure honourable members will appreciate that accompanying this physical condition is an emotional, social and perhaps even a socio-economic problem. In view of these problems I believe we as a government have an obligation to those people. It is not a question of shifting the onus and responsibility to the federal Government or accepting it ourselves. There should be public awareness of the difficulties experienced by blind people and the minimal opportunities that they have to enjoy art and culture. I am sure the Government could do much in the provision of cassette recorders to make available library facilities to people who are not as fortunate as the majority of citizens.

Mr CRABTREE (Kogarah), Minister for Lands [3.27]: I was most interested in the proposal put forward by the honourable member for Ashfield. Only this week I have approved of the setting aside of an area at Ku-ring-gai National Park for a braille trail, to be known as Kalkario Braille Trail. Over 16 acres of land have been set aside for the flora and fauna that will be fenced in. I understand this is the first time in the world that this type of facility has been provided. I have been to Muir Woods, which is out from San Francisco, and seen the braille trail there through the cedar forests. However, the one that we have in Sydney is unique. It will have the flora and fauna and all facilities will be available there. I compliment the honourable member for Ashfield upon raising this matter. I know that the Government is aware that blind people must take their place in society, and that they must be able to enjoy life and the beauties of this world, as we who are not blind do. The honourable member for Ashfield may be assured that I shall raise with the responsible Minister the matters he has put so competently in the House this afternoon.

#### HYDROGEN ENERGY

Mr WEBSTER (Pittwater) [3.28]: I am beginning to grieve for myself, having just heard a piece of information about my own electorate. I thank the Minister for passing it on. I ask him whether I may release it or he is going to release it. It is a very good story. I rise this afternoon to plead specifically for an individual, generally for a denied State, a disadvantaged State—that is, New South Wales under the current regime—and a nation which stands to lose a great deal. In our community there is an individual who recoils with horror each time he sees extravagances perpetrated by the Premier and, to a lesser extent, by the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy. A sum of \$1.8 million was handed over to Professor Harry Messel at the University of Sydney for what scientists regard as a plaything. It was handed over to a group of people who are playing with a technology that has not only been mastered but is now in commercial production in the United States. Why was that \$1.8 million given to this institution? The answer is that the Premier was taken off the hook by a \$5 million grant from a group of Arabs who are interested in the development of that sort of solar energy.

This individual recoiled in horror when he heard that the State Government was about to spend \$25 million for a 51 per cent share in the development of a coalmine at Newnes. He recoiled in horror when he heard of other extravagances at the hands of this Government. This gentleman's name is Mr Yuli Brown, and he holds in his hands probably one of the most significant breakthroughs in energy technology known to man. This man is capable of driving his car 1 000 miles on one gallon of water. Technology worldwide is now looking towards the hydrogen age and we are being conditioned to accept that, in order to produce the necessary volume of hydrogen, we have to achieve temperatures of about 3 000 degrees, which can best be achieved by the use of solar energy, so tightly bonded are the hydrogen and oxygen components of water.

This man is exploiting a simple principle of physics; by a process of electrolysis he is producing hydrogen and oxygen. Knowing your aptitude for things mechanical, Mr Deputy-Speaker, I am sure you will be interested in the sample that I have here of welded aluminium. You will know how difficult it is to solder or weld this metal. One must use argon or other difficult-to-get gases, as the impurities in oxyacetylene make for incompatibility in bonding it. I have seen this man weld aluminium. He is able to control heat and to concentrate it, in almost laser beam form, so that it is possible to achieve bonding of aluminium pieces. I pass samples round for inspection by honourable members who are interested in what I am putting. I notice the reaction of one honourable member, which is indicative of the trouble experienced in having new ideas accepted. People are frightened of them. One of the obstacles this man has come up against is that those who examine the process seem intent on proving that it cannot be done.

The simple process of electrolysis is employed worldwide, using precious metals, including gold, which has yielded an electrode efficiency of 75 per cent. This man, using simple carbon steel, is able to achieve efficiencies as high as 95 per cent.

Mr Crabtree: Has he approached the Commonwealth Government?

Mr WEBSTER: I am pleased that the Minister mentions that point. I have raised the matter here because I should like to see my own State Government do something about it. I should like to see it pick up the idea. I am sure the results would give us all cause for pride. A number of large companies have looked at the method, but because of the attitude that somebody else should be doing something about it, they have been unable to convince their boards of directors that the process would be of great value to them. This man is using steel plate as an electrode, and he is able to produce hydrogen and oxygen in a way that results in the bonding I have demonstrated. If minor modifications were made to the motor of the car of the Minister for Lands in accordance with this principle, the honourable gentleman would be able to drive home on two or three drops of water. Once water is converted into hydrogen and oxygen, it goes through the combustion chamber and comes out the exhaust pipe again as water. It can then be recycled.

I hope honourable members will take an intelligent interest in this matter, for it is a major breakthrough. They are pleased enough to raise a cry for solar energy, or for more petrol from foreign sources, or for enormous expenditure on additional refining installations, but seem willing to overlook an alternative worthy of consideration. For two months I have been following up this process, visiting the man's place with engineers and with critical technical persons. Honest men cannot bust it. The honourable member for Campbelltown likes to talk about vested interests and multi-national companies. It is a shame that Alcan or Comalco, for example, have not taken up this idea. One can imagine what it would do to Commonwealth Industrial Gases. If this method is as good as it seems to be, the Government should pick up the idea and run with it.

The Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy tends to think of electricity as the only source of power. He favours the transmission of electricity through long wires held up by huge towers all over the country. He should be the first to appreciate the advantages of a system that requires a minute amount of electricity to begin the electrolytic process. The power could be generated by a small windmill. The method could provide enough heat and light to supply any remote country property. What happens when there is no wind to drive the windmill? The energy can be stored, because this man has created metal alloys that are capable of holding the energy, or he can use granulated shale for the purpose. These alloys will absorb energy and hold it in storage in exactly the same way as oils and gases are held in sediment or shale thousands of feet under the earth.

I repeat, this is a major breakthrough. My plea this afternoon, as I grieve for this man and for all of us who are in urgent search of alternative fuels, is that the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy will bring the matter to the notice of the Energy Authority, on which body there are some skilled minds. I ask him to request that authority to make a decision on the process and its potential. If it is satisfied, let there be an offer to assist. The Government has been willing to authorize the expenditure of millions of dollars for other purposes. Why not give this man a go? He has spent \$700,000 of money that has come to him in dribs and drabs from his friends so that he could get on with the job. He is trying to earn a living during the day and works most of the night on this process. Let us give him a hand.

Mr DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

#### DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE CLEARWAYS

Mr MAHER (Drummoynes) [3.38]: I wish to raise an important matter that has just come to my notice affecting many hundreds of property-owners and shopkeepers in my electorate. The problem concerns certain clearway proposals in Five Dock and Abbotsford. The matter is of such urgency that I have been compelled to raise it today even though the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways is not available to reply to my remarks. The Traffic Authority was established in one of the last pieces of legislation pushed through the House by the former Government. That was in March, 1976. The bill was assented to on 1st April of that year. In July, 1976, I noticed a report in a local newspaper in my electorate that clearways were to be extended on Victoria Road and established for the first time in uniform pattern down both sides of Lyons Road, Drummoynes and Russell Lea. I knew nothing of the matter. and immediately sent a telegram to the present Minister. In August, 1976, I received a letter from the Traffic Authority advising me that there were to be clearways through these residential and commercial areas of Drummoynes and that the Drummoynes municipal council had concurred in the proposals.

Not having anybody to assist me in my fight, and without opposition to the proposals from local residents. I was unsuccessful in preventing their implementation. They have proved disastrous. In the following year local shopkeepers found that their trade was adversely affected. A local butcher, for example, told me that mothers picking up their children after school cannot stop to buy meat because the clearways operate from 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Apparently that is a good trading period in ordinary circumstances. The local shopkeepers organized a large number of petitions and I presented them to this House. They contained hundreds of signatures from local residents opposed to the clearways.

Since then I have received representations from residents who have told me about their children being almost knocked down by vehicles. In this area the traffic moves at about 35 miles an hour. Vehicles travelling at this speed on Lyons Road in the nearside lane cause many dangerous situations. Many of the footpaths are narrow. The increased velocity of wind created by the vortex effect of traffic moving along the inside lane at this speed has caused a number of dangerous situations in which schoolchildren have been almost killed. Certainly some children and a number of old people have been given a great shock. I took this matter up with the Minister because I believe—and I have stated this in the House before—that a local member should be informed before a government department carries out work in his electorate. This is particularly important when such work could cause hardship to many residents. I made this point to the Minister at some length and I have raised it in the House previously either in a grievance debate or in the debate for the adjournment of the House.

I asked the Minister whether the residents had been consulted before the clearway was established. Ultimately the Minister responded to my written representations. He admitted that there was no evidence that residents of Lyons Road who were affected by this matter were consulted about it. The Minister stated also that the local council had been consulted and it supported the proposal fully. This puts me in a most difficult situation. However, a change has occurred in the composition of the council since that time. Also, the Traffic Authority has issued a threat to impose a 12-hour clearway in many areas of Sydney. The position now is that everyone is anti-clearway, including Drummoyne council. Recently I introduced a deputation from the Drummoyne municipal council to the Minister for Transport. The deputation included the mayor, Alderman John Murray. During the last municipal election campaign Liberal candidates in the Drummoyne municipality claimed knowledge of a proposal to create a clearway on Great North Road, Five Dock, and the remainder of Lyons Road. At the time these proposals were too silly to believe and no one took them seriously. I believe that at the time of the local council election campaign in September, somebody in the Traffic Authority passed this information on to certain candidates. That statement has **now** been proved to be well-founded. The local press has carried the story about the Traffic Authority's clearway proposal, and again no one has been consulted. As the local member, I should have been given the courtesy of being informed about it. At least on the earlier occasion I received a letter. This time I had no knowledge of the position. These proposals are grossly unnecessary.

Apparently the Traffic Authority claims to have carried out traffic counts and has established a need for some sort of clearway. As a result of my contacts and my good relations with the Department of Main Roads a letter from that body, dated 31st January, stated briefly that some sort of a clearway would be established. I understand this information had already been given in some detail to the council. To the credit of Alderman Peter Fitzgerald and the mayor, Alderman John Murray—supported by all other aldermen, as I understand the position—the council has promptly announced vigorous opposition to this clearway proposal. The Traffic Authority has proceeded to implement a policy which will have a most deleterious effect on a large part of my electorate. This proposal will result in reduced values for residential and commercial properties, and it will represent a gross interference with the amenity of the shopping centre.

The wife of a local doctor has telephoned me asking how aged and infirmed patients will be able to visit her husband's surgery if a clearway is established in this area during the morning and most of the afternoon. Even the local bottle shop, which trades until 8 p.m., has made representations to me. Many of these businesses do their peak trade between 3.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. If this clearway is established, it will

*Mr Maher]*

create appalling traffic hazards. As well it will impose a burden on the small business people. The local shopkeepers are asking whether this is a ploy to force the shopping trade away from Five Dock to David Jones properties project at Birkenhead Point.

At least some thought should be given to the long-term policy aspects of clearways. Does the Traffic Authority really want our limited petrol resources to be used up rapidly by cars that are enabled to move faster along narrow roads through the suburbs of Sydney? I should like to know the authority's policy on fuel conservation and the dangers associated with clearways. The Traffic Authority should have consulted local residents about this project. Also, I should like to know what the authority has done about compensating local shopkeepers and small businessmen whose livelihood will be seriously affected by this clearway. Further, I should like to know whether the authority has consulted anyone about those aspects or whether it has kept its moves to itself.

I ask the Minister to have this proposal deferred. I ask him to arrange for members of the Traffic Authority to confer with me, local business people and residents and also with representatives of the Five Dock chamber of commerce at a meeting in Five Dock so that our point of view can be put. Members of the Traffic Authority comprise Mr Butler, the Commissioner for Main Roads; the Commissioner of Police; a representative of the New South Wales Planning and Environment Authority, Alderman Bishop, who is a member of the city council; and a representative from the country. I cannot understand how men with their experience could allow the Traffic Authority to ride roughshod over the wishes of local residents and to ignore completely the local council and all local representatives. The whole matter has been presented as a *fait accompli*. Though I was not told about the proposal, other people knew that this clearway would come into existence. I believe that in an age where governments of all philosophies talk about consultation, it is not too much to expect the Traffic Authority to do likewise.

#### LIGHTNING RIDGE HEALTH SERVICES

Mr MURRAY (Barwon) [3.46]: My grievance today is on behalf of the residents of Lightning Ridge. In 1975 the bush-nursing centre was taken over by the community health programme and a community health centre was established. This centre was staffed by two qualified nursing sisters and a sister responsible for Aboriginal health care. Two single accommodation units were erected in conjunction with the centre, and a building capable of meeting the needs of a small outpatients unit was thus created. Consulting rooms for visiting doctors, two observation wards equipped with beds, a surgery and interview and lecture rooms were also incorporated within the centre. Also a reasonable medicine cupboard and some minor equipment were made available. These additions represented a significant improvement on the old bush-nursing centre. However, the town of Lightning Ridge is growing—indeed it has not stopped growing.

During the past two years applications for building licences in the Lightning Ridge area have increased by 25 per cent. The Premier, when recently in Lightning Ridge, was provided with figures showing that the town had a population of approximately 3 000, rising to about 7 000 in the peak season. Those figures are extremely variable, particularly towards the peak of the tourist season. The town is now **connected** with Sydney by a bitumen highway, the Castlereagh highway. The number of tourists visiting the area has increased rapidly. The result is that the health facilities are not sufficient to meet needs. On 13th July, 1976, I wrote to the Minister for **Health** asking that a diagnostic unit be provided at the centre. Also I requested that

an X-ray unit, univac and additional facilities be provided. I made the additional request for an ambulance, equipped with a full midwifery kit and a resuscitation unit. On 16th September, 1976, the Minister replied stating that two nurses were rostered to provide an emergency service twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, in addition to their normal daytime duties.

Apart from stating that consideration would be given to the provision of an ECG unit, the Premier declined to add any equipment to the centre. When the Premier visited Lightning Ridge on 19th January a lengthy submission was placed before him by councillor Ainslie Chun, the local councillor on the Walgett shire council. He put forward a request for additional health facilities for the town. I followed up those representations on 1st February, 1978, when I wrote a lengthy letter to the Premier. I sent a copy to the Minister for Health. I sought two extra sisters and repeated my request for additional equipment and for an ambulance station to be established in that town. On 23rd January, four days after the Premier visited Lightning Ridge, the Minister for Health advised the federal member for Gwydir, the Hon. Ralph Hunt, who is the federal Minister for Health, that he would not extend health services at Lightning Ridge by building a hospital, whether a cottage hospital or another type. The federal Minister was informed that Lightning Ridge was served by the three hospitals at Goodooga, Collarenebri and Walgett, which were respectively 45, 58 and 54 miles away.

On 5th February a tragic accident occurred at Lightning Ridge when Graham and Barbara Buck, both aged 36 and the parents of four children aged between 7 and 13 years, died from asphyxiation while down a mine shaft. Representations for improved health services made to the Premier by me and others have been rejected. Further, representations by the federal Minister for Health have also been rejected. All these representations were made in the interests of having better health services and to improve the safety of the citizens of Lightning Ridge. Two people died as a result of the refusal of the Health Commission of New South Wales to recognize basic needs within the community. In July, 1976, I asked that an ambulance with a resuscitation unit installed in it be stationed in that town. In a mining town cave-ins occur, fumes accumulate and breathing can be affected by mining operations.

The Minister for Health when refusing our requests referred to the two sisters who would be available for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for emergency services, in addition to their normal duties. I remind the House that their normal duties are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. Evidence of the extent to which they are over-worked can be gauged from the fact that the head sister was absent from Lightning Ridge on leave in lieu of overtime when the accident to which I referred occurred on 5th February. This is frequently the position. The result is that the community health centre does not always have the services of a trained sister during the day let alone for twenty-four hours each day.

When the accident occurred the unqualified person sent to obtain oxygen bottles could not find them. One can imagine how that person feels. She did her utmost to save lives but failed. A doctor worked hard endeavouring manually to save two people from death. If the necessary equipment had been available the lives of these two people may have been saved. Extra staff may have provided the necessary technical assistance. Further, if additional sisters were available they would know where the equipment was kept and how to use it. If a resuscitation unit in an ambulance had been available at that time the lives of those two people might have been spared. Surely the expenditure of funds would have been worthwhile to save four children from becoming orphans.

When the Premier visited Lightning Ridge on 19th January he had the situation fully explained to him. Nevertheless, seventeen days later two people died. Are we to believe that the Premier's excursions into rural areas are purely on political grounds?

**Mr Murray]**

As head of the State he should show statesmanship and ensure that following his visits to country areas the needs of the people are met. The decision is one for the Premier and for the Minister for Health who have been made fully aware of the problem. The Premier's tours should be removed from the political field and brought into the field of humanity. He should ensure that the people of Lightning Ridge obtain adequate health facilities.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL SECURITY MOVEMENT

Mr MALLAM (Campbelltown) [3.56]: Yesterday in this House I asked a question that stirred the honourable member for Lismore, who has been silent for all too long about unemployment, particularly in the timber industry. I remind the honourable member that it is the Country Party, not the Labor Party, that is responsible for the bad conditions in country areas. I should like every Country Party member to listen to the comments of a country woman that appeared in an article written by her in the *Australian*. The article is headed, "After ten years, the heartbreak of selling up our farm". I am pleased to observe that a second member of the Country Party has walked into the Chamber. Those members never refer to any of the real problems of country people, although there may be extensive droughts and other real problems.

Mr Pickard: There have been two deaths; is not that what the honourable member calls a real problem?

Mr MALLAM: I shall deal with the honourable member for Hornsby in a moment. This country woman said:

#### *Captive vote*

And, standing squarely in this silent graveyard, equally as quiet, is the deadly conspiracy of silence from the Country Party. Whatever happened to the voice of the man on the land? The political arm of one of the greatest export income earning industries.

They, too, are part of the agricultural conspiracy, country people are now politically expendable. Their vote is a captive vote, browbeaten from them with the terrors of socialism, keeping in power the sleek fat cats of the National Country Party.

Country people have no one to whom they can turn. The Country Party speaks only about some little scheme to lend the farmer more money. What the farmer wants, and I am sure that the State Government would help, is a moratorium. He does not want to be burdened with more debts. A moratorium is the only way that a lot of country people can be saved.

Mr Pickard: What is needed is a moratorium on the timber industry.

Mr MALLAM: I will give the little boy from Hornsby something about timber. He made a mess of the education portfolio and helped to get the former Government tipped out of office. Today the honourable member for Lismore was shedding crocodile tears over the timber industry. In any timber yard in Sydney one sees timber that has been brought from the islands to the north of Australia. Recently the owner of a big timber yard in my electorate asked me to speak on his behalf to the Minister for Planning and Environment. He wanted to extend a shed on his premises to cover the yard. I pointed out that that was where he dried his timber. He said that he did not handle Australian timber any longer, that he imports it. That has been brought about by the actions of the federal Government, which honourable members opposite speak

of so highly. That Government permits timber to be imported without putting a quota on it. Yet people are being forced out of employment in the timber industry. The federal Government is not ploughing money back into reforestation programmes but it is leaving it to the States to do that. Yesterday the conscience of the honourable member for Lismore worried him.

Mr Murray: That is one thing that will not worry you.

Mr MALLAM: The honourable member for **Barwon** is one of the slick fat cats of the Country Party who has a lot of bluster and bluff but does not care about what is happening in the timber industry. I have never heard him put forward a suggestion to relieve drought problems. As the Premier said yesterday, all that the Leader of the Country Party is concerned about is having his swimming pool full of water. When I entered Parliament as a young man I remember making a statement about the need for dredging equipment on the Hunter River and the Clarence River. In response to that statement I received a call from none other than that great Country Party man, Sir Earle Page. He expressed a wish to see me. Sir Earle Page would turn in his grave if he could see what goes on today with the Darling Point Country Party members. He sent for me and had a long talk to me.

When I think of the Country Party of those times I think of men like Mr Chaffey and other tough men whom the honourable member for Lismore would not know—men like Jersey Budd, Strawberry Missingham and Mick Bruxner. If there were a racing drought Mick Bruxner would be on his feet every day in this Chamber on motions of urgency trying to do something for his people. But honourable members of the Opposition today become stirred up only when a woman writes and exposes them. Two Country Party members have risen in the grievance debate today and they know the position. The Labor Party can plead guilty to putting some men out of work though. I could read out the names of members of the Constitutional Security Movement. I got a letter from one of them today which says:

On behalf of the committee of the Constitutional Security Movement

I wish to express our appreciation to you and your Government for adopting the bulk of the proposals we put forward on the Legislative Council issue.

The Government has put them all out of work. Look at the list. It contains quite a few knights and ends with Mr J. H. Valder. I suggest he could get employment tomorrow with his team of expert advisers. They could be employed putting the confidence of the public back into the stock exchange. They ought to set up a shareholders security movement. When Mr Valder, who wrote this letter, was chairman of the Sydney Stock Exchange, there was crash after crash and millions of dollars of investors' money were lost. We never heard a word from Mr Valder then. There was no shareholders security movement when Patrick Partners, Rick Dowling and all those other people took advantage of investors on the stock exchange. He did not form an association then that was of doubtful origin. But now that he is out of work I suggest there is a job for him, and a very important one.

I notice in this list the name of Fred Deer who, when he was chairman of the Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company Limited, gave advice to investors to invest in H. G. Palmer, and they lost all their money. That is another event that destroyed confidence in the insurance companies. Millions of dollars of savers' money was lost in the H. G. Palmer crash, as the honourable member for **Eastwood** would know. The men I have mentioned could turn their efforts to restoring confidence in the stock exchange that has been lost because of the activities of Mr Valder and Mr Deer. A lot of people in Australia might want to invest in our mining companies and other enterprises, but they have no confidence in the stock exchange. What is needed is decent men to come forward with decent rules, but they do not do that.

When I proposed that each company prospectus should disclose the names of other companies in which the directors held directorships, the move was thrown out in the upper House. The honourable member for Eastwood knows that. I believe he was in this House at the time. My amendment was approved in this House by Sir Kenneth McCaw. It was approved in another place by the Hon. A. D. Bridges, but it was thrown out by some of the watchdogs there. The members of this Constitutional Security Movement will have an opportunity, now that the upper House has to face the people, to ensure that decent people are elected to it. That is one way they could have a job. We could get the whole lot of them into action. Mr Rex Mossop could get over there and have a wrestle with them then. He might be able to handle the honourable member for **Barwon**.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

#### PER *CAPITA* GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS

Mr PICKARD (Hornsby) [4.6]: The grievance I raise today affects many thousands of schoolchildren within my electorate, as well as in excess of 21 per cent of the schoolchildren of this State. I am presenting a grievance in relation to a promise made by the Premier when he was Leader of the Opposition, in his policy speech at the 1976 general elections. He promised that if elected **the Labor Party** would make *per capita* grants at a level of 20 per cent according to the Australian Schools Commission formula, and he called it a real 20 per cent. Despite repeated questions in the House seeking advice from the Minister for Education, he has constantly refrained from clarifying what that means. The Minister continues to issue press releases talking about increases that were to take place on 1st January, 1978. In a press release in October, 1977, he **said**:

The increases represent the continuing commitment by the Government to maintain the grants at 20 per cent of the average cost of educating a child in a State Primary school or secondary school.

That was not what was promised. The promise was that it would be a real 20 per cent, as set down by the formula of the Australian Schools Commission established by the Commonwealth Government. Last year I received a letter from the diocesan education commission in Wagga Wagga. The Lord Bishop wrote to me on 23rd June, 1977, in these terms:

In his policy speech the Premier Mr Neville Wran, then Leader of the Opposition, promised to adjust the State per capita grants non-State allowance back to the level of 20 per cent of the non-Government schools cost per pupil as stated in the Schools Commission Report.

He went on to say later in the letter:

At the present time the State per capita grants being paid in New South Wales are—

And he quoted the figure of approximately \$122 for each student. He stated that the primary school students received \$122 *per capita* and the secondary school students received \$202 *per capita*. That is working on the State formula, which has never been clarified. It has never been stated how that cost per student was arrived at. At least it was agreed to accept a cost per student as set down by the Australian Schools Commission, but the promise was never fulfilled. The Lord Bishop said that, working on this formula, the primary school in the middle of last year was getting only 18.4 per cent of what it cost to educate a child in a State school, using the State formula, whatever it was, although an aggregate figure was announced.

Mr J. A. Clough: At the moment the independent schools are on their knees.

Mr PICKARD: Or course they are. They were promised things and they were led to expect things by the Premier when he was Leader of the Opposition and trying to buy votes. Since then his Minister for Education has constantly refused to acknowledge the promise, and so has the Premier. In the middle of last year secondary schools were receiving in *per capita* grants not 20 per cent promised on the application of the State formula, but only 17.9 per cent. Even at State level, according to correspondence from the Lord Bishop, the Government failed to sustain the promise that it made before the elections. Had the Government honoured its undertaking, at that stage the primary school *per capita* grant would have been \$132.60, and the secondary school *per capita* grant would have been \$225.60.

Mr J. A. Clough: And they could have done it.

Mr PICKARD: Indeed. If the Government followed the lead of the Liberal Party Government in Victoria, at that time last year the *per capita* grants would have been \$155 for independent primary schools and \$260 for secondary schools. It is interesting to note that the Minister for Education refers in his press statement to a continuing commitment to independent schools. He does not say that he has failed to honour the promise given by the Premier. My view is that the promise will never be honoured. I say that because of the factions within the Labor Party and because the platform of that party would make it very difficult for the Government to act as the Premier said it would. The view of the Labor Party is that, ideologically, the non-government education system should be squeezed out of existence. I believe that independent secondary schools in New South Wales, if given the benefit of the 20 per cent formula, would have received \$257 this year instead of \$230, and primary school students would have attracted a *per capita* grant of \$155 instead of \$138. I invite attention to the fact that those figures are based on 1976 costs. So the private schools are even farther behind on that basis.

Not once in answer to questions in this House has the Minister for Education affirmed the Premier's undertaking at the time of the last elections, nor has the Premier repeated it. That is why I say the Labor Party attempted to dupe the people. Already the Government has introduced two budgets, and the third one has already been prepared. Why not tell the people of this State what is happening? Why not do something for those who seek equality of opportunity in education? The Government has duped the electorate in regard to the non-government school system, which it has starved of funds and is driving further into poverty. The result is that the private schools are finding it more difficult to carry on. On the promise made by the Premier, the Government owes independent schools money. The honourable member for Newcastle, who is trying to interject, should try to convince his caucus that the promise should be honoured.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It being fifteen minutes after four o'clock, p.m., the debate is interrupted pursuant to Standing Order 122A.

Question—That grievances be noted—resolved in the affirmative.

#### BILL RETURNED

The following bill was returned from the Legislative Council without amendment:

Stock Foods and Medicines (Amendment) Bill

PRINTING COMMITTEE

Thirty-fourth Report

Mr Jones, as Chairman, brought up the Thirty-fourth Report from the Printing Committee.

House adjourned, on motion by Mr Crabtree, at 4.16 p.m.

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QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

INDICTABLE OFFENCES BY CHILDREN

Mr RYAN asked the Minister for Youth and Community Services—

In each of the past ten years how many of the persons convicted of an indictable offence were:

- (a) classified as State Wards?
- (b) admitted to State control?
- (c) dealt with in a Children's Court as neglected or uncontrollable children or young persons?
- (d) committed to institutions under the Child Welfare Act?

*Answer—*

Statistics prepared by this Department include summary and indictable offences.

It is not possible to extract the information required in regard to indictable offences.

Statistics covered in the past ten (10) years in respect of children and young persons (i.e. under 8 years to 18 years) include those appearing before Children's Courts as a result of complaints under the Child Welfare Act.

Statistics also include committals to institutions covering a number of offences under the Child Welfare Act.

OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Youth and Community Services—

(1) Has he established an expert inquiry into **all** aspects of the use of off-road recreational vehicles, as foreshadowed in a letter to me dated 22 June, 1977?

If not, **why?**

(2) If so:

- (a) Who is conducting it?
- (b) What are its terms of reference?

- (c) When was it appointed?
- (d) When will it report?
- (e) What organizations have been consulted or asked for submissions?
- (f) What field investigations have been undertaken?
- (g) What submissions, if any, have the National Parks and Wildlife Service made to it?

*Answer—*

An expert inquiry has not been established in connection with off-road recreational vehicles.

Their use is being adequately controlled under existing legislation.

The current problem is one of environmental impact when off-road vehicles are used on vacant land including beaches and dunes.

My colleague the Minister for Planning and Environment is examining the need for an environmental impact study being carried out with a view to any appropriate action being taken.

This action has been taken at the Premier's request.

PARKING AT ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr BARRACLOUGH asked the Premier—

- (1) Is he aware of the parking problems that exist for visitors to the New South Wales Art Gallery?
- (2) Did many of those who attended the opening of the Silver Jubilee Exhibition of British Paintings at the Gallery last Thursday night receive parking infringement notices?
- (3) In view of the increased evening patronage of the Art Gallery will he, as Minister for Police and Minister for Culture, arrange for non-parking restrictions in Gallery Road to be waived after **6 p.m.**?

*Answer—*

(1) I am informed that there is parking available in the vicinity of the New South Wales Art Gallery, viz., the City Council's Domain Parking Station, Mrs Macquarie's Road, College Street, St Mary's Road, etc., which are within 10 minutes' walking distance. However, a problem could be said to exist for visitors to the Gallery particularly those persons who are not able to walk from the locations mentioned.

(2) On the evening of 6 October, 1977, 42 parking infringements were issued in respect of vehicles detected illegally parked in Art Gallery Road. The vehicles were found to be parked and left unattended in a "No Standing" area, as well as being parked contrary to "No Stopping" signs and partly across footpaths. The effect of this was to cause obstruction to the free movement of pedestrian and passing vehicles.

(3) I am informed that the Sydney Traffic Committee recently reviewed the parking restrictions in Art Gallery Road. The present restrictions are necessary to enable two vehicles to pass in the narrow part of Art Gallery Road and to

facilitate the picking up and setting down of visitors at the entrance to the Gallery. I am, however, aware of the parking problems near the Gallery, and have written to my colleague, the Hon. D. Day, M.L.A., Minister for Primary Industries and Chairman of the Domain Trust, to determine whether parking space near the Gallery can be improved. Meanwhile, Mr Day has informed me that he has authorized expenditure of up to \$135,000 on a roadworks restoration programme for Art Gallery Road which will provide some additional parking space for visitors to the Gallery.

#### SPANISH INTERPRETER AT NEWCASTLE

Mr MADDISON asked the Premier—

- (1) What are the educational qualifications of the Spanish language interpreter with the ethnic affairs division at Newcastle?
- (2) What is that person's name and salary?
- (3) In how many cases has that person interpreted in courts over the past six months?

*Answer—*

(1) Diploma of Teaching from Spain. She has worked as a teacher in Newcastle for over 13 years. She also worked as an interpreter on a casual basis, for that period of time.

- (2) (a) Mrs **María Del Carmen Kolmajer**.
- (b) \$10,249 p.a.

(3) Mrs **Kolmajer** has not had cause to interpret in a court since her appointment. However she has been fully occupied in providing interpreting services in medical and welfare situations as well as providing information and referral services in the local office. Interpreting in court situations is not the only field of duties for which the interpreters of the Community Interpreter and Information Service of the Ethnic Affairs Division are responsible.

Their duties encompass the following:

Providing information and guidance.

Providing a referral service to non-English speaking people to assist them in obtaining available government service.

Providing interpreter services in courts, police stations and other legal situations.

Explaining the cultural expectations and influences which non-English speaking people may bring to any interaction with Government officials, etc.

#### INTERPRETER TRAINING

Mr MADDISON asked the Premier—

Within the ethnic affairs **division—**

- (1) Who is in charge of the training of interpreters?

(2) What are the educational qualifications and teaching experience of that officer?

(3) Does such officer lecture on legal matters? If so, what are his legal qualifications?

*Answer—*

(1) Mr L. Goodstone, Co-ordinator of the Community Interpreter and Information Service, and Mr L. Mastellone (an Interpreter who is paid a special allowance for training duties) are responsible for the training of interpreters.

(2) The educational qualifications and teaching experience of Mr L. Goodstone are as follows:

Teacher's Training Certificate—U.K.

Home Office Training in Probation and After Care.

University of N.S.W.—B.A. (Sociology).

Lecturer in Social Welfare Studies, Sydney Technical College.

Group Leadership Courses—University of New England 18 months as full time tutor—Department of Corrective Services.

The educational and teaching experience of Mr Mastellone are:

Studied Law at the University of Naples for 4 years but did not take out a degree due to his entering into a commercial practice.

Tutor at the Interpreter and Translator's Course at the University of New South Wales' School of Languages (1975 and 1976).

(3) Neither Mr Goodstone nor Mr Mastellone lectured on legal matters at the initial in-service training course conducted for interpreters by the Department.

These were undertaken by a qualified legal practitioner from the Crown Solicitor's Office.

However Mr Mastellone lectured and conducted discussion groups at the interpreter's in-service course in the following:

Legal terminology which interpreters are likely to encounter in different jurisdictions;

How an interpreter should deal with various legal situations;

Professional ethics for interpreters.

#### PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICE TRANSFERS

Mr MADDISON asked the Premier—

(1) How many officers of the Probation and Parole Service have been transferred to the Ethnic Affairs Division?

(2) To what position were they appointed?

(3) What were their respective linguistic qualifications?

*Answer—*

(1) Two former officers of the Probation and Parole Service serve with the Ethnic **Affairs** Division; Mrs N. Lozzi-Cuthbertson, the Executive Officer of the Division and Mr L. Goodstone, Co-ordinator of the Community Interpreter and Information Service. Both officers were recruited through the selection processes applicable within the Public Service.

A third officer of the Probation and Parole Service, Mr L. Shannon, served with the Ethnic **Affairs** Division on secondment for six months while action was being taken to fill the vacant position of Co-ordinator now occupied by Mr Goodstone.

(2) Mrs N. Lozzi-Cuthbertson is the Executive Officer of the Ethnic **Affairs** Division; Mr L. Goodstone is the Co-ordinator of the Community Interpreter and Information Service.

(3) Neither of the positions to which Mrs Lozzi-Cuthbertson or Mr Goodstone were appointed required linguistic qualifications. Although Mr Goodstone trains interpreters he is not involved in imparting to them linguistic skills. His training covers the other knowledge which an interpreter requires for the discharge of his duties. The possession of linguistic skill of a satisfactory level is a prerequisite to recruitment as interpreters. Further study in linguistics is undertaken at a tertiary level.

#### BOAT RAMPS

Mr BARRACLOUGH asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports—

Has the Maritime Services Board made any provision for the immediate construction of boat launching ramps on the southern side of Sydney Harbour between Walsh and Watsons Bays?

*Answer—*

The responsibility for the investigation of recreational boating facilities for Sydney waterways was recently transferred from the Maritime Services Board to the Department of Public Works. A comprehensive study has been made for the provision of launching ramps, with the initial investigations centred upon the western Sydney waterway from the Harbour Bridge to Rhodes Railway Bridge, and including the lower reaches of the Lane Cove River.

The intention is to present a regional ramp development programme. I expect to be in a position, in the near future, to announce proposals for the construction and funding of works for pleasure craft development.

Future investigations will include the eastern harbour region between Walsh and Watsons Bays, but preliminary assessment indicates that suitable sites for the development of launching ramps in this area may be difficult to locate because of reluctance on the part of local councils to support this type of development.

EMPLOYMENT OF MR MILO DUNPHY

Mr SCHIPP asked the Premier—

- (1) Does Mr Milo Dunphy hold any position to which he was appointed by the Government?
- (2) If so,
  - (a) what are his duties;
  - (b) when was he so appointed;
  - (c) what are the terms and conditions of his employment;
  - (d) was the position he holds advertised;
  - (e) how many other applications were received; and
  - (f) what were the criteria for selection?
- (3) If the position was not advertised, what was the reason?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.

FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Mr KEANE asked the Attorney-General—

In respect of the Family Court of Australia, Sydney Registry:

- (1) what is the rate of increase of delays in hearing defended matters;
- (2) what is the present waiting time for the hearing of defended custody matters;
- (3) what is the present waiting time for the hearing of defended property matters; and
- (4) has the federal Attorney-General indicated any intention to appoint further judges to the Court?

Answer—

(1) In July, 1977, there were 587 applications in the defended list of the Sydney Registry. By the end of January, 1978, the defended list stood at 2 229 matters.

In the same period, the Court dealt with 195 defended matters.

On these figures, it is apparent that each week approximately 72.4 applications are being added to the list while only 8.7 are coming off it.

- (2) On the basis of present figures, that is, not allowing for any further backlog, one can calculate that a defended custody matter commenced now will not be heard for two to three years.
- (3) The same delay exists in relation to defended property matters.

(4) No. Far from evincing an intention to appoint a realistic number of judges to the Court, the federal Attorney-General has sought to defend his Government's indefensible policy of indifference to these delays by pointing out that the regulations were changed in May last year to add two more judges to the Court in Sydney. I might add that it took until 27 October for the appointments to be made. Two more judges to deal with a defended list that grows at the rate of 72.4 matters a week.

The federal Government's disregard for the thousands of children and parents who must seek the Court's assistance and for the judiciary who struggle with this impossible workload, has generated delays which make a mockery of any notion of justice.

There is perhaps no other area in which speed is so vital to a just resolution, and in which delays can be used so unscrupulously by one party.

In instance a case begun 13 months ago. The husband, on learning of his wife's adultery, left the matrimonial home because he believed that course to be in the interest of his two preschool age daughters. When his wife refused even to let him see the children, he decided to seek custody of them. The matter went into the defended list, with the judge granting the husband access. The wife defied the Court's order and still refused to let the children see their father. When the husband applied to the Court to enforce the order for access he found himself once more in the defended list because his wife thought she would defend the enforcement too.

All going well, the husband may get a hearing in about July this year, i.e., 20 months after he first applied. Of course by that time, the delay will have predetermined his custody application because the Court is unlikely to remove the children to the care of someone they have not seen for almost two years. But if the father were to start out now, he would still be waiting in 1981.

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