

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 4 April, 1978

Assent to Bills—Bills Returned—Dental Technicians Registration (Amendment) Bill (Message)—Cognate Universities Bills (Messages)—Petitions—Report of Royal Commission into Prisons (Ministerial Statement)—Assent to Bills—Constitution and Parliamentary Electorates and Elections (Amendment) Bill (Message)—Questions without Notice—National Parks (Urgency)—Questions without Notice (Resumed)—Special Adjournment—Joint Committee upon Pecuniary Interests (Report)—Printing Committee (Thirty-ninth Report)—Adjournment (Public Hospital Pathology Services)—Questions upon Notice.

Mr Speaker (The Hon. Lawrence Borthwick Kelly) took the chair at 2.15 p.m.

Mr Speaker offered the Prayer.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Royal assent to the following bills reported:

Crimes (Banking Transactions) Amendment Bill
Crown Lands (Maritime Services) Amendment Bill
Electricity Commission (Financial Accommodation) Amendment Bill
Evidence (Amendment) Bill
Fisheries and Oyster Farms (Maritime Services) Amendment Bill
Maritime Services (Amendment) Bill
National Relief Fund (Repeal) Bill
Navigation (Amendment) Bill
Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal (Amendment) Bill
Police Regulation (Amendment) Bill
Port Rates (Amendment) Bill
Public Hospitals (Amendment) Bill
Tombullen Storage Bill
Yanco Weir Reconstruction Bill
Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Superannuation) Amendment Bill
Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Bill
Closer Settlement (Amendment) Bill
Credit Union (Amendment) Bill

Crown Lands (Amendment) Bill
Dormant Funds (Amendment) Bill
Government Guarantees (Amendment) Bill
Liquor (Footway Restaurants) Amendment Bill
Local Government (Footway Restaurants) Amendment Bill
Local Government (Meat Industry) Amendment Bill
Municipal Council of Sydney Electric Lighting (Amendment) Bill
Noxious Trades (Amendment) Bill
Real Property (Amendment) Bill
Securities Industry (Amendment) Bill
Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration (Meat Industry) Amendment Bill
Travel Agents (Amendment) Bill
Western Lands (Amendment) Bill
Constitution (Referendum) Bill
Constitution (Referendums) Amendment Bill

BILLS RETURNED

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

Dental Hospitals Union (Repeal) Bill
Dentists (Dental Board) Amendment Bill

The following bill was returned from the Legislative Council with an amendment:

Public Hospitals (United Dental Hospital of Sydney) Amendment Bill

DENTAL TECHNICIANS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Message

Mr Speaker reported the receipt of the following message from the Legislative Council:

Mr Speaker—

The Legislative Council having had under consideration the Legislative Assembly's Message dated 15 March, 1978, in reference to the Dental Technicians Registration (Amendment) Bill—

Amendment No. 3—

Disagrees to the Assembly's further amendment in relation thereto and still insists upon its original amendment and the further amendments thereto referred to in the Council's Message dated 29 November, 1977, because the amendments more properly provide for minimum safeguards of public health.

Amendment No. 4—

Does not insist upon its amendment and agrees to the Assembly's further amendment.

*Legislative Council Chamber,
Sydney, 16 March, 1978.*

T. S. MCKAY,
Deputy-President.

UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES (AMENDMENT) BILL
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE (AMENDMENT) BILL
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND (AMENDMENT) BILL
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES (AMENDMENT) BILL
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG (AMENDMENT) BILL

Messages

Mr SPEAKER: I have to report messages from the Legislative Council insisting upon its amendment in each of the bills because:

1. If fees are acquired compulsorily from students, then those fees should be applied solely to University purposes;
2. The amendment in no way inhibits the University in the discharge of its responsibilities under the Act;
3. The Courts are competent to and have had no difficulty in deciding what is or is not a "University purpose".

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced that the following petitions had been lodged for presentation and that copies would be referred to the appropriate Ministers:

Freeways

The Petition of certain citizens of New South Wales respectfully 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 crurifies 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 of 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 decisions made by the Minister for Transport, the Honourable Peter Cox, M.L.A., and move for the resignation of the Minister.

Petition, lodged by Mr Moore, received.

Pensioners' Electricity Accounts

The Petition of certain citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That economic hardship is being suffered by those citizens of this State whose incomes consist solely or mainly of age or invalid pensions and who are—

- (a) subject to increasing charges for electricity;
- (b) required to pay maximum rates applicable to smaller consumers; and
- (c) are not able to obtain any rebates under the existing provisions of the Electricity Act.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House take early steps to so amend the Electricity Act as to empower each electricity distributing authority in this State to allow rebates on the electricity accounts of the abovementioned pensioners.

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

Petitions, lodged by Mr Booth, Mr Duncan, Mr Ferguson, Mr Leitch, Mr Mason, Mr Punsh and Mr Wran, received.

Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College

The Petition of certain residents of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That the amalgamation of the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College, 44 Henrietta Street, Waverley, with the Alexander Mackie College, would be inimical to education in this State.

That the removal of the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College to Oatley would seriously inconvenience students and staff.

That it is in the best interest of early childhood education that the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College remain an autonomous College of Advanced Education.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House ensure that the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College, 44 Henrietta Street, Waverley, remain an autonomous College of Advanced Education and not be removed to the Oatley site and amalgamated with Alexander Mackie College.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Caterson, received.

Aboriginal Land Rights

The Petition of the Yum tribal people of Wallaga Lake respectfully sheweth:

That their sacred sites and traditional areas such as initiation grounds, corroboree grounds, natural sacred sites, camp sites and **midden** grounds are being ruined by logging, clearing and road-making.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House ensure the registration and protection of sacred sites and traditional areas upon their identification and halt all logging, clearing and road-making until aboriginal places can be properly gazetted according to the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

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

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

Flood-free Bridges for Old Toongabbie

The Petition of certain citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

- (1) The bridges on Oakes Road and Old Windsor Road, Old Toongabbie, within the area of the Parramatta City Council flood.
- (2) There have been a number of fatal accidents when the creek is in flood, two young people having been killed on Oakes Road Bridge last week.
- (3) Two new high-level bridges are essential as a matter of urgency and finance should be provided to the Parramatta City Council to enable this to be done at the earliest opportunity before any further fatalities occur.
- (4) Flood {mitigation}work as recommended by the Snowy Mountains Engineer **Commission** report should commence upstream forthwith.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House **calls** upon the Government to provide finance for two flood-free bridges to be built at Oakes Road and Old Windsor Road, Old Toongabbie, forthwith before any further fatalities.

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

Petitions, lodged by Mr **Caterson** and Mr **Quinn**, received.

National Parks

The Petition of the private land-owners, concerned citizens and people affected by the proposed extensions of National Parks, respectfully sheweth objection to these unnecessary proposed extensions, to the removal of development control from Local Councils and its reversion to the State Planning and Environment Commission.

We consider the proposal undemocratic and uneconomic because it will have a substantially deleterious effect on the prosperity and employment of the local communities.

We strongly object to the proposed extensions on the following grounds:

The proposal—

- (1) Provides no benefit to the area and represents economic waste.
- (2) Acquires privately owned land intended for other uses as well as land currently in productive use.
- (3) Halts land and building development.
- (4) Reduces local timber and pastoral industries, their associated development and employment levels.
- (5) Reduces overall cash flow and the reserve generated to the local economies.
- (6) Restricts the growth of the tourist and associated service industries.
- (7) Denies necessary expansion, development and bridgeworks to the north of Port Macquarie.
- (8) Will result in a considerable reduction in the Shire and Municipality revenues.
- (9) Over-commits the already full-committed National Parks and Wildlife Service with the associated concern of additional **bushfires** and other hazards, and subsequent land use loss to achieve no realistic conservation objective.
- (10) Will over-control the use of land in the Hastings and **Camden**-Haven Valleys where already we have approximately 8 per cent National Park and 30 per cent Forestry Commission control.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House:

- (1) Exclude privately-owned land from the proposed extensions of national parks and confine the extensions to unused Crown lands.
- (2) Restore local control of interim development as it existed prior to the issue in December, 1977 of the Ministerial direction under section 342 (3) of the Local Government Act.
- (3) Consider alternative methods of promoting conservation such as financial and tax incentives and subsidies instead of the acquisition of privately-owned land.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Cowan, received.

Expressways

The Petition of certain concerned citizens of Sydney, New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

- (1) The future economic well being of our State requires an adequate road system that will minimize the transportation cost of goods, services and people.
- (2) Within the metropolitan area of Sydney it is essential that there be roads of a high standard of safety engineering with limited access

points that will link the various centres of manufacture and commerce with rail, sea, and air transport terminals. These roads should have an additional characteristic and that is the syphoning-off of such traffic from roads which service retail and residential areas.

- (3) Transportation corridors for the provision of such limited access roads, frequently referred to as expressways, freeways or motorways, have been reserved for up to thirty years and much of the property needed has been acquired by the Crown.
- (4) The Government's decision to abandon certain expressway proposals and rezone the land involved was taken prior to any study of what alternative highway network might be substituted to meet the future needs of our State.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House calls upon the Government not to rezone land reserved for—

- (a) the uncompleted section of the Warringah Expressway;
- (b) the Southern Distributor between Ultimo and Huntley Street, Alexandria;
- (c) the Western Distributor between Ultimo and the vicinity of Concord Road;

at least until such time as other satisfactory alternatives have been investigated and placed before the people for community comment and assessment.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Jackett, received.

REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION INTO PRISONS

Ministerial Statement

Mr WRAN: I desire to make a statement to the House regarding the report of the Royal Commission into Prisons.

The Royal commissioner was appointed by Royal commission by letters patent on 28th June, 1976, to be sole commissioner with the following terms of reference:

To inquire into and report upon the general working of the Department of Corrective Services of New South Wales, its policies, facilities and practices in the light of contemporary penal practice and knowledge of crime and its causes and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing to inquire into and report upon:

- (a) The custody, care and control of prisoners and the relationship between staff and prisoners;
- (b) The selection and training of prison officers and of other **staff** engaged in training, correctional and rehabilitative programmes for prisoners

and to recommend any legislative and other changes necessary or desirable in consequence of the findings.

The report, which I shall shortly table, was submitted by **Mr Justice Nagle** to His Excellency the Governor on Friday last, 31st March, 1978. The findings of the Royal commission are a clear and complete vindication of the **Labor Party's** attitude to prisons. Since the first riot at Bathurst as long ago as 1970 the **Labor Party**, then in Opposition, had continually raised the need for an investigation and review of

the administration of the Department of Corrective Services and the State's prisons. The Royal commission has confirmed the concern of the Labor Party by finding established the allegations of brutal and inhumane conduct at Grafton gaol and at Bathurst gaol. The findings of the Royal commission are a shocking indictment of the then Government's record of management of the State's penal system. It must at all times be understood that the Royal commission and its report are concerned essentially with what has happened since 1968; that is, with what has happened under Liberal Party—Country Party governments.

The report details the story of the sorry record of that Government. Fortunately for this Government it provides the basis for reform and it points to the reforms that ought to be made—some of which, I am pleased to say, have already been introduced. The postscript on page 697 of Mr Justice Nagle's report reflects the criticism of the years under Liberal-Country party administration. His Honour said:

The single most important reason was the failure of Mr McGeechan as Commissioner of Corrective Services and his senior staff properly to organize and administer the Department. Replete with plans and theories, they cared little about their prison officers whom they neither consulted nor understood. They cared less about their prisoners. The worst of their schemes ended up fiascos. The best remained on paper, never to be introduced; it was the making of plans that appeared to matter most, not carrying them out.

The Royal commission dealt at length with the performance of Mr McGeechan as Commissioner of Corrective Services. Two of the most significant statements appear at page 16 and at page 148. At page 16 the following comments are made:

It has been demonstrated to the Commissioner that he has proved himself incapable of carrying out the admittedly difficult task with which he has been faced. Unfortunately, when appointed, he lacked the necessary custodial experience and his knowledge of penological theories and practice was then, and still is, superficial. He had made little attempt to weld the officers of the Department into an efficient team. Any changes he has made in the system were correctly described by others as cosmetic only. He has knowingly presided over a system which condoned the illegal use of force on prisoners. In the main, he has been responsible for the poor morale and inefficiency of the Department. His administration has been a contributing factor to the undoubted prison unrest and disturbance during his time in office.

Then, at page 148, the following appears:

Mr McGeechan is unfit to be in a position where any Minister of the Crown has to rely upon the accuracy of his reports. His conduct in relation to the departmental inquiry was disgraceful and warrants his removal from the office of Commissioner of Corrective Services upon that basis alone.

Parliament is aware that this Government transferred Mr McGeechan from the position of commissioner in January of this year. I might add that the report of the Royal commission makes a mockery of the Opposition's contention in January last that Mr McGeechan was being made a scapegoat by the present Government.

The report indicates that the Royal commission was convinced of the truthfulness of the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai as a witness before it when his word was pitted against that of Mr McGeechan, but it is a shocking indictment of the Ministers of the Crown who administered the department in the years leading up to the establishment of the Royal commission. Those Ministers were the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai, the former member for Kirribilli, Mr J. L. Waddy, and the

present Leader of the Opposition. The incidents that are highlighted in the report during those dark years from 1968 illustrate the complete failure of the former Liberal-Country party Government to understand the workings and inefficiency of the department, and the manner in which such a department should have been administered. The comments that I have quoted cannot be laid at the feet of the department or its senior administrators alone: there was clear and unequivocal evidence, over many years, of brutal conduct, of prisoner unrest, and of dissatisfaction among prison officers. There was clear evidence of inefficiency within the department, which was condoned and ignored, and there were the actions of a commissioner, soundly criticized by the Royal commission, that must have come to the notice of a Minister who accepted responsibility for administering the department.

What responsible Minister could not wince when statements such as these were made by a Royal commissioner about his department? This statement appears at page 698 of the report:

Notwithstanding the very large part of the blame Mr McGeechan must take for the state into which the prison system has degenerated over the last few years, many of the senior officers of the Department cannot avoid their share of responsibility. Mr McGeechan's replacement will not of itself be a solution to the problem.

The disease is deep-seated. The Department as a whole is inefficient, disorganized and badly administered. It has become demoralized. It must be revitalized . . .

It is clear that the Ministers concerned—the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai, the present Leader of the Opposition and the former member for Kirribilli—were incompetent, indifferent and insensitive——

[Interruption]

Mr WRAN: The Leader of the Opposition laughs at what has been said by the Royal commissioner.

Mr Coleman: No, I am laughing at you.

Mr WRAN: But he was the one who in January of this year, having formerly been charged with the responsibility of administering the prisons of this State, said that this Government was making a scapegoat of Mr McGeechan. He was the one who supported Mr McGeechan at all turns, yet he sits there, in the face of this indictment by the Royal commission, and has the temerity in this Parliament to laugh after hundreds of prisoners have been brutally bashed.

[Interruption]

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

Mr Barraclough: What about——

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

Mr WRAN: In regard to your affairs——

[Interruption]

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

Mr WRAN: You know more about Abe Saffron than most people. After all, you and your colleagues know who his dinner guest was on a certain occasion. Now, I should like to repeat——

Mr Cameron: What was the weapon used against Mr McGeechan?

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

Mr WRAN: As I was saying, it is clear that the Ministers concerned—the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai, the present Leader of the Opposition, and the former member for Kirribilli—were incompetent, indifferent and insensitive to the deep-seated malaise that permeated the system and the department for which they were responsible. A Minister of the Crown might be excused for a single act of inefficiency or incompetence within his department, but not for a state of affairs that extended over many years and rotted the system and many of the people in it, root and branch.

I should like to say something now about Grafton gaol. For years rumours had circulated about the treatment of prisoners at Grafton gaol. The Royal commission report says at page 3:

Until May, 1976—the Royal Commission's first day of formal hearings was 14th April, 1976---there can be little doubt that: upon first admission to the gaol, intractable prisoners were the subject of a "reception biff", which consisted of a physical beating of the prisoners about the back, buttocks, shoulders, legs and arms by two or three officers using rubber hoses.

These facts were established by the commission. Similar disgraceful practices were established at Bathurst. What were the Liberal Party Ministers doing during these periods? I shall tell you what they were mainly doing.

[Interruption]

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

Mr WRAN: But for the persistence of the honourable member for Illawarra —

[Interruption]

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

Mr WRAN: But for the persistence of the honourable member for Illawarra, there never would have been a Royal commission into prisons.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: The honourable member for Clarence, who has a low intelligence quotient, has the hide to interject. He was a member of a party that was in office when this was happening. Indeed, he lived in the Grafton district and probably knew what was going on at the gaol. However, he attempts to make some aspersions about the character of the honourable member for Illawarra. The honourable member for Illawarra has more decency in his little finger than the honourable member for Clarence has in his whole body.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: The honourable member for Hornsby said, "Why don't you pull it out and see?" That is a nice thing for a defrocked minister to say. There are more defrocked ministers than ex-Ministers in the Opposition.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: As I was saying, these facts were established by the commission. Similar disgraceful practices were established at Bathurst. What were the Liberal Party Ministers doing during these periods? Could any Minister of the Crown be other than condemned by these comments of the Royal commission at page 697?

There can be no doubt that during the time some attempt was made to introduce long overdue reforms and innovations into the prison system and to liberalise an outmoded and outdated Department. What started out with the best intentions ended merely in euphemisms and official euphoria. There still remained an inefficient Department administering antiquated and disgraceful gaols; untrained and sometimes ignorant prison officers, resentful, intransigent and incapable of performing their tasks; and a high proportion of restive and rebellious prisoners. Disturbances and industrial strife abounded as never before . . .

There are three particular areas where the Ministers responsible for the administration of the Department of Corrective Services failed completely in their duties. First, in 1971 the Liberal-Country party Government established a corrective services advisory council for the purposes of advising on corrective policies, principles and practices. But on many occasions the council, which made numerous studies and made numerous reports to the Minister, was completely ignored. The advisory council was not even informed about the construction of Katingal until it was too late to make any but the most superficial of alterations to it. The findings of the commission are that though the council vigorously pursued its functions by submitting numerous reports and recommendations "its vigour was not matched by comparable enthusiasm in the department." Page 359 of the report contains this statement:

There can be no doubt that much of the fault was due to a breakdown in communication between the Council and the Minister, for which Mr McGeechan must accept the blame.

It is obvious that the advisory council felt quite some concern about the situation. This is revealed in a letter that it wrote to the responsible Minister, then the Hon. J. L. Waddy. In this letter, which is set out on page 360 of the report, the council expressed concern that it was not kept informed of the department's planning, and had often learned of the activities of the department from press reports. The Hon. J. L. Waddy, however, replied to this criticism as follows:

You may advise the Council that all its reports and recommendations made in accordance with its terms and references have received, and will continue to receive, close and careful consideration.

The council pressed also for secretarial facilities, not in the Department of Corrective Services, but in the Department of Services, which also came within the jurisdiction of the same Minister. To that request the Hon. J. L. Waddy replied:

The suggestion that secretarial assistance to the Council should be within the Corrective Services Administration is not regarded as practicable.

Honourable members may be assured that the attitude of this Government is distinctly **different** from that of its predecessors. Shortly after assuming office as Minister responsible for corrective services, the Hon. W. H. Haigh took steps to consult the chairman of the council in order to arrange for better liaison and more effective use of the council as an advisory body. Members will recall that earlier this year a series of matters were referred to the advisory council for comment and report. This Government values and

acts on advice from the council and it will continue to do so. The Royal commissioner has recommended that the council be given statutory functions, and the Government will give this recommendation serious consideration.

In 1973 the Liberal–Country party Government set up a committee of inquiry comprising Mr Justice McClemens, the Chief Judge in common law of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and now deceased; Professor Gordon Hawkins, Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of Sydney; and Mr Barry Barrier, an assistant commissioner of corrective services. The committee presented its report, which was tabled in this Parliament on 27th November, 1974. Many of the recommendations of that committee, which were not implemented, are similar to those of the present Royal commission.

Where were the coalition Government's Ministers between 1974 and when they were dismissed from office in 1976? Why was Mr Justice McClemens's report allowed to gather dust? Why was it ignored? Why was the obvious breakdown in the prisons system allowed to worsen and to decay even further? One must ask, why was not effect given to the recommendations contained in the McClemens report? More than thirty of the recommendations in the report of the McClemens committee almost coincide with those of the Nagle Royal commission. It will take a little time and, for former Ministers in charge of prisons it will be a little painful, but I propose to compare some of those recommendations.

First, Mr Justice McClemens recommended the establishment of a corrective services commission subject to the direction of the Minister. Mr Justice Nagle recommended the establishment of a statutory prisons commission under the direction and responsibility of the Minister. Second, Mr Justice McClemens recommended that probation and parole should move into the top area of policy making and management. Mr Justice Nagle recommends that the status of the probation and parole service be upgraded.

Third, Mr Justice McClemens recommended the establishment of advisory bodies, comprising leading citizens. Mr Justice Nagle states that statutory recognition should be accorded the advisory council and that it should report directly to the Minister. Fourth, Mr Justice McClemens recommended that officers of the corrective services commission be bound by oath. Mr Justice Nagle recommends in his report that prison officers should take an oath. Fifth, Mr Justice McClemens recommended an interchange of officers within the service whereas Mr Justice Nagle recommends that lateral transfers be made in the interests of the service, and in this respect he referred also to prison superintendents.

In comparing a number of the recommendations contained in the McClemens report with some that are in almost identical terms in the report of the Nagle Royal commission I am seeking to show that, after obtaining an authoritative report from a committee led by Mr Justice McClemens, during the ensuing two and a half years the former Liberal–Country party coalition Government did precisely nothing about implementing the recommendations contained in that report.

The next recommendation by Mr Justice McClemens was that offences by prison officers be spelt out, whereas Mr Justice Nagle recommended that the prison regulations and rules relating to the duties of officers, particularly dealing with the use of force, be explicitly stated. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that women be used as prison officers in male prisons and *vice versa*. The recommendation made by Mr Justice Nagle was that there should be no objection to the employment of women in male institutions, and *vice versa*. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that the functions of chaplains be clarified, while Mr Justice Nagle said that the role of chaplains should be clarified. Another recommendation by Mr Justice McClemens was

that classification be kept continuously under review. On this aspect Mr Justice Nagle recommended that a programme review committee review long-term prisoners on a six-monthly basis.

A further recommendation by Mr Justice McClemens was that categorization of prisoners be undertaken. Mr Justice Nagle recommended that there be three categories of security classification. Another recommendation by Mr Justice McClemens was that remand prisoners be classified, while Mr Justice Nagle recommended that remand and unconvicted prisoners be classified. In other words, many of the recommendations subsequently made by Mr Justice Nagle were awaiting some action by the former Government at the very time it was finally compelled by the honourable member for Illawarra and others, who until then were voices crying in the wilderness, to appoint a Royal commission. In a further recommendation Mr Justice McClemens said that prisoners should have an unfettered right of complaint to the Minister, a member of the commission, a visiting magistrate, a superintendent and the ombudsman. Mr Justice Nagle's recommendation was that a special prison ombudsman be appointed.

Another recommendation by Mr Justice McClemens was that the commission have a health service in each prison. Mr Justice Nagle's recommendation was that adequate medical service and treatment be made available to all prisoners. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that provision be written into the Act for home leave, while Mr Justice Nagle recommended that, where appropriate, prisoners be permitted weekend home visits in preference to conjugal visits in prison surroundings. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that the commission be empowered to enter into contracts for the purchase and supply of goods. Mr Justice Nagle recommended that a permanent body be established to plan and run prison industry and to market its products.

In a further recommendation Mr Justice McClemens said that the regulations as to food services should be modernized. Mr Justice Nagle recommended that a dietitian be appointed to ensure that the standards of prison food are adequate. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that the rights of correspondence be liberalized. Mr Justice Nagle recommended that all prisoners be entitled to send and receive as many letters as they wish. In another recommendation Mr Justice McClemens said that the limitations in regulations on the use of languages other than English should be modified. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that the special needs of non-English-speaking prisoners be recognized and catered for. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that there be free communication with legal advisers, while Mr Justice Nagle recommended that legal visits should not be restricted in any way.

Mr Justice McClemens recommended that the rights of prisoners to visits be liberalized. Mr Justice Nagle recommended that the regulations relating to visits of prisoners be re-examined; he added that visiting hours should be expanded, **monitoring** of conversations should cease and facilities for visits should be improved. A further recommendation by Mr Justice McClemens was that reasonable facilities be introduced for visits by legal officers, out of the hearing but in the sight of an officer. Mr Justice Nagle recommended that legal visits should not be restricted in any way and that facilities should exist to permit of private conversations and joint access to documents. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that in appropriate cases travel vouchers should be issued to relatives or close friends to enable them to visit prisoners, while Mr Justice Nagle recommended that in cases of hardship the prisons commission should issue travel vouchers to visitors.

Another recommendation by Mr Justice McClemens was that the records of young offenders should, in certain circumstances, be expunged, while Mr Justice Nagle recommended that a scheme be established for gradual expungement of a prisoner's

Mr Wran]

past convictions. Mr Justice McClemens recommended that statutory provision be made regarding the rights and duties of armed prison officers, and that rights of prison officers to use force be codified. Mr Justice Nagle recommended that the prison regulations and rules relating to duties of officers be revised, particularly in regard to the use and application of force by officers. And so on and so forth. There is this historical record of the fact that Mr Justice McClemens made recommendation after recommendation to Ministers of the previous Liberal-Country party Government and that in each instance they were ignored.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: The honourable member for Northcott, the great defender of the oppressed, the great supporter of Christian virtues, was a member of the Government that allowed these practices. He knew of them. He is a pious hypocrite. As I said earlier this report was tabled in the Parliament on 27th November, 1974. Again it is a shocking indictment of the former Government and its Ministers that the recommendations of such a report were ignored and swept under the carpet and that now, four years later, the Royal commissioner has had to repeat such recommendations.

I assure the House and the public that the recommendations of this Royal commission will not be swept under the carpet. Each recommendation will be evaluated and a decision made public as to whether it will be adopted or not. Indeed, I propose to make a public statement announcing the Government's decisions and progress before Parliament next resumes. On the other hand, this Government cannot work miracles.

[Interruption]

Mr WRAN: The Government is not like the honourable member for Kirribilli and Ellery Queen—the honourable member for Lane Cove—who sits next to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. They have become the super sleuths of the Parliament. They can always work miracles because they do not have any responsibility. They are always quick to drag the names of people into the mud. I repeat that the Government cannot work miracles. Much money will be needed. The re-organization of the department and the motivation of staff and their further training and development will be difficult tasks. However, we are determined to start implementing solutions to the problems identified in the report and we are determined to finish that implementation.

[Interruption]

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

Mr WRAN: You have to forgive him, he is not quite himself. The third area of evaluation—and indeed the most important one, because it was the crux of the problem in the department—was the failure of the previous Government to lay down any clear or constructive policy to which the department should adhere. At page 43 of the report the commissioner says:—

Any aims and objectives it has have remained obscure to both prison officers and prisoners alike, and its future planning is confused and incomplete. Above all, the public has no idea of nor interest in the work the Department is doing because of the total failure of the Department to keep the public informed of its aims and objectives.

At page 48 the matter is further dealt with:

But, having pointed to the difficulties involved in formulating and defining an overall policy of aims and objectives, and having referred to the

views of at least one eminent criminologist that such a task in any event is probably an unnecessary one, this Commission remains critical of the Department's and in particular Mr McGeechan's failure properly to carry out that task.

It criticizes Mr McGeechan because of the inevitable confusion his failure to lay down any clear policy has caused and because it is obvious that he has attempted to cover up that failure by the use of the abtruse and inexact jargon and meaningless clichés to which reference has already been made.

No doubt the Royal commission reached these conclusions with justification. But what of the role of the Government and the Minister in policy making? Where was the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai, the present Leader of the Opposition and Mr Waddy as Ministers responsible to their Cabinet, and more important to the Government, in devising, initiating and administering a policy for the department? The Royal commission has described the policies as abtruse and inexact. There is much comment these days on the relative roles of Ministers and heads of departments in policy formulation and administration. The one area that no Minister can absolve himself from is that of policy determination. The role of the permanent head is to ensure the effective implementation and administration of those policies. It is quite clear from the Royal commissioner's report that the Liberal Party and Country Party Ministers and the former Government failed abjectly in their role of policy formulation and determination.

The report contains a number of references to the conduct of prison officers, some of whom are named and some of whom are still employed in the department. The Government is shocked at the behaviour described in the report, much of which occurred some years ago. The Government, however, does not propose that this report should become the basis for a witch hunt in respect of what has happened. Though lessons must be learnt from the past, the important thing for the Government is its determination to look to the future, to look to the means of improving the recruitment, training and development of prison staff, to ensure that adequate status is granted to prison officers and to boost morale within the prison service generally. The report points to the directions of change which the Government believes can be used as a basis for eradicating the sores of the past from the prison service.

The vital issue that I want to emphasize is this: the Government is adamant that this report will not be allowed to lie as others before it have lain; it is fixed in its determination to do as much as it can, and to do it quickly. There are many worthwhile recommendations in the report which the Government can act upon without a consideration of the financial constraints that impede all governments in doing everything that they would wish to do. Already some have been implemented; others can and will be implemented shortly. In this report a firm forward programme emerges. It gives a basis for future action. It is a clear and positive statement of what can be done and what should be done to improve the penal system. Let me give the House and the public a firm assurance that this will not be another McClemens report: it will not gather dust. The Government has already said that within four weeks of the tabling of the report the Department of Corrective Services and the Public Service Board should report to me as Premier on the implementation of the report.

Mr Coleman: Have a seminar.

Mr WRAN: This is not a matter for levity. The Leader of the Opposition says, "Have a seminar". I take it that was a reference to the forthcoming seminar on education. Having been criticized by, of all people, a feature writer of the *Sydney*

Morning Herald, the Leader of the Opposition yesterday had the temerity to say that the examination system for the school certificate should be restored. He forgot to tell the public who took away the examination system.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr WRAN: Action has already been taken to draw up riot plans in accordance with recommendation 12 at page 710. The Government had already determined, as covered in recommendation 2, chapter 36, on page 730, that unless the report recommended otherwise it would proceed with a maximum security prison at a suitable site in the metropolitan or near-metropolitan area immediately after receipt of the report. The Government has determined that the Bathurst complex is to be developed immediately. The Royal commission confirms the Government's decision in this matter. The nature of the establishment is now a matter for determination within the overall recommendation plans.

The Government has already determined that the Department of Corrective Services should undertake an immediate review of the five-year plan for prison redevelopment and construction. These decisions are in accord with the findings of the commission. In accordance with recommendation 8 on page 731, the present use of Katingal shall cease within one month. There are a vast number of recommendations to be considered. Some will be capable of implementation immediately: some will require the approval of Cabinet: some will affect more than one government administration; and some, of course, will require legislative amendment. The Government will examine all implications of the recommendations as soon as possible and take action as expeditiously as possible to give effect to the recommendations that it can practicably implement.

Recommendations 1 to 4 on pages 729 and 730 under the heading Alternatives to and Variations of Imprisonment are of particular interest. The findings of the commission accord with those of other inquiries and of academic and practical writers on the excessive zeal with which our society tends to imprison its transgressors. The incarceration of young wrongdoers, for offences of a less important nature, can sometimes do more harm than good. More significantly, the use of prisons at vast expense to the public purse for enforcing the non-payment of fines for offences should be progressively eliminated. I agree with the commission in its conclusion that alternatives to imprisonment should be used as extensively as possible, and that prisons should be used only as a last resort.

This is a good report. The dedication of Mr Justice Nagle is illustrated not by the size but rather by the quality of the report. The Government is indeed grateful for the completing of this task in most difficult circumstances. His Honour has performed an outstanding service to the State. Without prejudicing all the recommendations, this report will serve as a fine blueprint by which the present Government might tackle the momentous task before it. Implementation of the report will not be achieved overnight; there have been years of neglect. Years of work will be required to eradicate the problems. It is not only a question of money; yet no Government is in a position to spend unlimited funds for any one purpose.

Let me say this on behalf of the Government. We shall aspire to the implementation of the recommendations to achieve a prison system that will ensure that those who are imprisoned will be justly and fairly treated, will have reasonable opportunities to rehabilitate themselves, and will thus be enabled to return to society as worthy citizens if they merit that chance. At the same time the Government must be conscious of the realistic but unfortunate fact that some members of society refuse to comply

with the norms of society and must, for the protection of society as a whole, as well as for punishment of the individual, be removed from the community for long periods. This does not mean that they must be treated like animals, that their pride and self-respect should be stripped from them, and that they must be beaten into submission by inhumane and brutal methods designed to take away any last vestige of self-esteem with which they may once again face the community at large after having paid their debt.

There is a need for prisons for those who cannot abide by the accepted mores of society. This report gives us the blueprint for change by sensible and attainable means. It puts the blame where it most rests—on those governments and ministers of the past whose record of management of the State's penal system was appalling. More important, it provides a blueprint for reform in the future. As I intimated earlier, before Parliament resumes the Government will announce its decisions on the Royal commissioner's report and the progress of the implementation of the recommendations. Earlier in the day I made a copy of the report available to the Leader of the Opposition and, at his request, to the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai. There are adequate copies to have one copy made available to each member today. I table the report.

Mr COLEMAN: As the Premier mentioned, he was good enough to make available to me at 10 o'clock this morning a copy of the report. I have had a short time in which to go through it quickly. I am glad of the opportunity to make what I stress must be at this stage preliminary remarks. It is fair to say that the report contains much that will be helpful. It is fair to say also that any inadequacies in it must be placed squarely at the feet of the Government, which emasculated the Royal commission that was established by the former Government. That Royal commission was set up with high hopes by the former Government. It involved a great deal of planning and discussion with the former Attorney-General, a former **Agent-General** in respect of the involvement of a prominent British criminologist, the Public Service Board, the Chief Justice and a number of individuals, including Professor Mitchell and Mr Derwent. The terms of reference, which have not been changed in any way by this Government, were drafted and considered generally to be good ones.

Almost immediately upon its election the **Labor Government** proceeded to undermine the Royal commission. First, it sacked two of the Royal commissioners. It is fair to say that their contribution is seen to be missing from the report. In other words, their contribution would have improved it a great deal. Professor Mitchell and Mr Derwent would have had a great deal to contribute to this particular discussion. Further, the Government proceeded to sack Mr Porter of Queen's Counsel, who appeared for the Department of Corrective Services, after he had done some months' work of preparation for the Royal commission. As the Minister of Justice and Minister for Housing is aware, some months passed before the Department of Corrective Services again had the services of a Queen's Counsel. Indeed a great deal of damage was done to the corrective services system and its establishment, and certainly to the morale of its officers, during the period when the department, which was basically the subject of the inquiry, was no better represented than miniscule radical prison groups such as Women Behind Bars and the Prisoners' Action Group.

When the Government decided to give Women Behind Bars legal representation equal to that which it was willing to give the Department of Corrective Services, the group had only four members. Further, during this period the Government decided to dispense with the advice and services of Professor Radzinowicz, a most prominent British royal commissioner on prisons and an internationally respected criminologist. In all these ways the Royal commission was emasculated and an **unfair** burden was imposed on the remaining Royal commissioner, who had to deal with a

great range of questions that came before him and complete the inquiry without the assistance of Professor Mitchell, Mr **Derwent** or Professor Radzinowicz. If there are weaknesses in the report—and plainly there are some—it is fair in every way to blame the Government for its handling of this matter. Nevertheless, the recommendations will be useful.

The report recommends that a new high security prison be established in Sydney. That project, which was being undertaken by the former Government, was scrapped by this Government. A number of recommendations dealing with health and hospital services in prisons will be a useful guide to the Government if they are considered in conjunction with the recommendations of the Corrective Services Advisory Council on health services, whose report is more thorough in some respects than that of the Royal commissioner on this aspect. Some of the recommendations of the Royal commissioner are a little difficult to follow. For instance, the Royal commissioner suggests that there be no monitoring of conversations in prisons between visitors and prisoners. However, he then says that telephone conversations between prisoners and people outside prisons may be monitored on security grounds. That is a distinction that is too subtle for my simple mind. If it is wrong to monitor conversations, then telephone conversations should not be monitored. Conversely, if it is right to monitor telephone conversations it is difficult to understand why other conversations should not be monitored. Nevertheless, those are the recommendations of the Royal commissioner.

It is difficult also to see the sense in having riot plans and riot gear in every State prison, no matter how small. In some prisons there may be only a handful of prisoners. The Premier, with his knowledge of the report earlier on, adopted this proposal. To suggest that there should be riot gear and trained riot personnel in prisons where there may be more prison officers than prisoners seems to be taking the problem to absurd extremes.

There are a number of recommendations that are of great importance. According to the Premier, thirty of them were drawn from the **McClemens** report, which, I might say, was in the hands of the Government of that time for eighteen months, whereas it has been in the hands of the present Government for twenty-three months without being acted on. It is hard to understand the Premier's apparent indignation on that point. It is disappointing that there is no serious discussion of the great questions of penology in this part of the twentieth century, no discussion of the nature of crime or the role of decarceration as opposed to incarceration. It is very much a nuts-and-bolts report, although it is of great range. It is amazing that after two years a Royal commissioner has felt that he is in a position to comment on almost everything under the sun of the nuts-and-bolts kind in the present system. If the depth of the report does not match its width, if at times it seems a little superficial, it is fair to remember that within a couple of years—even if it has cost many millions of dollars—it is difficult for one man to achieve that range and to comment on it in any depth at all.

Above all, the report plainly lacks perspective—not only the international perspective that Professor Radzinowicz could have brought to it, but also interstate perspective. It lacks any awareness of the situation that the former Government and the former commissioner inherited. There is little awareness in the discussion on **Grafton** prison that it operated for twenty-two years under the former **Labor** Government. In 1943–44 it was established as a prison for intractables. It operated for twenty-two years under a **Labor** government, with all the practices, including biffing, that grew up in that time. There is no awareness of that fact in the Royal commissioner's report. The Premier did not note—and I do not believe the Royal commissioner noted—that it was under a Liberal government that this **Labor** Party creation was closed down.

Indeed, it was one of the recommendations of Mr McGeechan, which I accepted as Chief Secretary, that closed down Grafton gaol. This Labor Party prison that operated for twenty-two years was closed down under a Liberal administration. It is all very well to say that it should have been closed down sooner. No doubt we should have preferred that, but the facts are there.

In the Royal commissioner's report there is little interstate comparison. We do not get any awareness of the sort of inquiries undertaken by Dr Rinaldi into Australian prisons. He pointed out that, whatever may be the weaknesses in the New South Wales prison system, it has still been the most progressive and advanced system in Australia. It is all very well to say that there is little to live up to in the other State prison systems and that New South Wales ought to do better still. Nevertheless, it would have been desirable to show some awareness of this comparative position. I am afraid that the Royal commissioner has shown little awareness of it. The worst and most unsatisfactory feature of the report is the constant and ceaseless attack on the former Commissioner of Corrective Services, Mr McGeechan. It gets to such an extent that at times there is something approaching malice in the treatment of the former commissioner.

Mr Wran: Is the Leader of the Opposition imputing malice to a Supreme Court judge?

Mr COLEMAN: You just be quiet for a while.

Mr Wran: On a point of order, Mr Speaker. It is part of the practice and procedure of this Parliament that if an attack is to be made upon a member of the judiciary it must be done in a formal way by a formal motion. What the Leader of the Opposition is imputing—not impliedly but actually—to His Honour Mr Justice Nagle, a judge of the Supreme Court of this State and the Royal commissioner responsible for this report, is malice in his treatment in the report of the former Commissioner of Corrective Services, Mr McGeechan. I submit that the honourable gentleman should withdraw that accusation against Mr Justice Nagle or have the courage to move a precise motion. Then the matter can be properly debated and the integrity of the Leader of the Opposition can be set up against that of Mr Justice Nagle.

Mr Singleton: On the point of order.

Mr COLEMAN: Mr Speaker, I take it that you will treat this point of order with contempt.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has taken a point of order. Is the Leader of the Opposition rising to speak on the point of order?

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Clarence, who has risen.

Mr Singleton: On the point of order. The Premier has taken a superfluous point of order. During his ministerial statement he made dastardly attacks on all sorts of people, from officers of Grafton gaol to various Ministers in the former Government, and virtually without interjection. As the Leader of the Opposition endeavoured to explain his position in relation to this ministerial statement, the Premier, who is very touchy today, jumped to his feet and required a retraction of what the Leader of the Opposition said. I believe that is a frivolous requirement. The Leader of the Opposition is merely stating his case.

Mr Coleman: On the point of order. Mr Speaker, I am sorry that you objected to my rising earlier.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Is the Leader of the Opposition speaking to the point of order?

Mr Coleman: Yes. I assumed you would treat the point raised with the contempt it deserves.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is now reflecting on the Chair. I ask him to come to the point of order.

Mr Coleman: I thought that it was plain to anyone listening with half an ear that I said that the Royal commissioner's attacks on Mr McGeechan were approaching the malicious or bordering on malicious—words to that effect.

Mr SPEAKER: Previous rulings have been given on this matter. It is clear, as the Premier said, that if the Leader of the Opposition wants to reflect on the character or any action of a judge, he may not do so except by way of a substantive motion. If he wishes to make a statement on the contents of the Royal commissioner's report he may do so provided he makes a statement in good faith. I warn the Leader of the Opposition to be cautious in his references.

Mr COLEMAN: I understand fully, Mr Speaker. For example I refer to page 336 of volume 1 of the report where, in discussing the training of prison officers, the Royal commissioner said:

The department has been particularly inept in attempting the re-appraisal that Mr Lewer suggested.

Mr Lewer was a stipendiary magistrate who commented on this matter. The Royal commissioner continued:

Perhaps its attitude can be best summed up by the reply by Mr McGeechan to one of his prison officers at a staff function at Bathurst in 1969. The officer said in evidence:

"On one occasion . . . myself and another officer suggested to the Commissioner, Mr McGeechan, that it might be a good idea to train prison officers in the area of problem recognition, solving techniques and perhaps some basic psychology. To this suggestion, the Commissioner replied: 'If you educate people, all you do is create individuals'."

The obvious implication is that this heinous attitude on the part of the Commissioner of Corrective Services is plainly disgraceful and that that is why there was no further attempt to train prison officers. That was a statement by one witness. It was not tested. Mr McGeechan was not examined about it. He never admitted that he said it. There is not the slightest evidence in the report, other than that statement, that Mr McGeechan ever said anything of the kind. Indeed, from everything else that he said his view was exactly the opposite. Nevertheless, the Royal commissioner took this untested, unconfirmed, alleged statement by Mr McGeechan. When matters of that nature are contained in a report from a distinguished judge of the Supreme Court, it gives one cause for some concern. I find it alarming and distressing.

One way or another, the whole report from beginning to end is a constant assault on a person whose record of public service in this State is a distinguished one. Of course Mr McGeechan's record is subject to criticism. The former Commissioner of Corrective Services can be criticized for many reasons. Sometimes his plans misfired. No public servant occupying a senior position of that kind and difficulty could spend ten years in it without deserving as well as receiving criticism, for no one is perfect in these matters. But no matter what history may say about this Royal

commission's contribution to penal reform in New South Wales, I have no doubt that history will recognize the great contribution that Mr McGeechan has made to penal reform in this State, especially during the ministry of the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai.

In order to set something of a balance to the ceaseless blast of Mr McGeechan throughout the thousand pages of this report, let me mention briefly some of the reforms associated with the period when he was commissioner. He introduced and established the work release programme, which certainly had succeeded until this bungling Premier stuck his big foot into it and even frightened employers away from participating in the scheme, or almost succeeded in doing that. I am pleased to say that that programme was expanded during my period as Chief Secretary, to use the jargon of penology, to what is called the out-residency or work release No. 2 scheme, under which some prisoners reside at home and go to work in prison. That was an innovation for which Mr McGeechan was responsible. Part of the work release No. 2 scheme, or the out-residency part of it, was very much urged upon me by Mr McGeechan.

He established the project survival scheme which has not yet been fully evaluated but is generally regarded as a significant experiment in prisoner rehabilitation. He established the periodic detention programme. He presided over and stimulated a vast expansion of the department's budget by something like 400 per cent in the ten years that he was there. He was certainly associated, as were the relevant Ministers, with a vast expansion of the building programme during his period, whereas in the long period of Labor governments they were concerned and involved in the establishment of only a couple of prison farms. Let me list the great range of building programmes that were established under this commissioner and the former Government: the Mulawa training and detention centre; Silverwater House work release centre; Newnes afforestation camp; Irwin House work release centre; pre-work release centres of Blaxland House, Edrom Lodge and Strathmore; Milson Island; the metropolitan remand centre at Malabar; Cessnock corrective centre, which of course was the biggest of those mentioned and the only new prison built in this State in the twentieth century; periodic detention centres at Bathurst, Malabar, Parramatta and another one at Silverwater--Cadman House—and one could add Katingal to that list of building programmes.

Under this commissioner the research and statistics division was established, on which the Royal commissioner relies a great deal; the probation and parole services were merged; the Corrective Services Advisory Council was established and has served the department and the community well. I certainly emphasize that during his period of administration the percentage of prisoners kept in custody and the percentage kept under community supervision were reversed. Whereas formerly something like 70 per cent were in prison and 30 per cent under community supervision, by the time Mr McGeechan's ten years had passed the proportions were the other way round.

One should of course mention the expansion of the sewerage programme in prisons. Again, Dr Rinaldi says that undoubtedly the physical conditions of prisons in New South Wales are the best when compared with prison conditions elsewhere. I should mention also the expansion of sporting programmes, the introduction of the Parole of Prisoners Act, the establishment of representative prisoner groups and, one might add, since this is where Mr McGeechan began his work in the prison service, the great expansion of prison industries. The Royal commissioner says that these should be expanded and that the problems involving the Labor Council should be solved. Be that as it may, certainly great expansion took place during Mr McGeechan's period as commissioner.

Mr Coleman]

Formerly the range of prison industries was confined to mat making, weaving and a little subsistence farming. Under his administration there was a great expansion into the printing industry, bookbinding, furniture and clothing manufacturing and female prisoners operating computer punchcard machines and making their own clothing in well-equipped workshops. Excellent-quality products were coming out of the printery, the bookbindery, the bakery and machine shops and the furniture factories. That represents a significant expansion of the prison industries programmes. None of this is acknowledged in the Royal commissioner's report. Whatever criticisms the eye of history will see in the performance of Mr McGeehan there is not the slightest doubt that history will acknowledge his ten years, whatever its weaknesses, as an innovative and historic period. For the Royal commissioner's report to make no acknowledgment of that, and not even to admit it but to spend a thousand pages **rubbishing** that achievement, is extremely distressing. That period saw the turn-around of the approach to prisoners in the system.

It is on record that the Royal commission, which was established with the assistance and co-operation of Mr McGeehan, incorporated many recommendations of Mr McGeehan, the person who was so reactionary, who did no good, who contributed nothing. He was a person who contributed a great deal to the establishment of this Royal commission. When one looks at the report one finds that the Royal commissioner recommends, for example, that a prisons industry advisory council be established. That is a great recommendation. He seems unaware that it was recommended by Mr McGeehan and accepted by me in my period as Chief Secretary and was in train at the time of the change of government.

The Royal commissioner recommends the scrapping of the project survival programme because it has not been evaluated. An alternative approach might be to say, let us evaluate it before we scrap it. He says, no, scrap it; do not evaluate it. I consider that is an odd approach. He recommends the continuation of lateral transfers of prison officers. That is a matter of great concern industrially. It involves the transfer of a prison officer to another prison without promotion. The Royal commissioner recommends the continuation of it and says that the troubles with it began with Mr McGeehan's period of administration. He is apparently unaware that troubles over lateral transfers are greater this week and this day and will probably be greater in the coming week or two than they have ever been, though Mr McGeehan is no longer there to be blamed. No doubt the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier would be able to advise the Royal commissioner about that matter. When one uses the term scapegoat it is perhaps not entirely unjustified.

The Royal commissioner says the escape rate is acceptable. It is certainly not acceptable to me. It is not acceptable to the Opposition and it is not acceptable to the public. The Royal commissioner says that the trouble comes from the news media and that the department and Mr McGeehan have not been frank with the news media. I should have more confidence in that assessment of the Royal commissioner if he had called before him one journalist and questioned him about whether or not the department and Mr McGeehan had been frank with the news media. Then I should have felt a little more confident in his assessment that the department is to be criticized for not being frank with the news media. No evidence is advanced for that proposition, which in my opinion is a false proposition. The department and Mr McGeehan were sometimes criticized for being too frank with the news media, but the Royal commissioner sees a need to say that, so one can say that this anti-McGeehan theme throughout the report greatly damages it.

When the Royal commissioner describes the unsatisfactory and extremely repulsive aspects of some of the situations at Grafton prison, again he neglects to mention that it was on Mr McGeechan's advice that I closed down Grafton gaol as a prison for intractables. I have no doubt that future years will vindicate the record of Mr McGeechan. They will, of course, deliver many criticisms of his administration, just as they will deliver many criticisms of senior public servants, or of senior Ministers for that matter. Nevertheless, I believe Mr McGeechan's record will survive well the attacks by the Royal commissioner throughout this 1 000-page report.

One must ask whether the demoralization of the Department of Corrective Services referred to has been at least partly caused by this two-year inquisition into the department and into its commissioner by this particular Royal commission. That is a fair question to ask. It is not surprising that many officers of the department are in a state of demoralization—whatever longer term factors contributed to it—when for several months the department was deprived of representation by Queen's Counsel before the Royal commission, and when its commissioner was subject to daily attack, and now to a 1 000-page attack. Everybody in the State knows that the delicate and subtle touch of the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier has certainly not contributed in any way to the revitalization of the department. I should say that the Premier was wrong to dismiss Mr McGeechan in the way he did, and that the report of the Royal commission lacks balance in its attack on the former Commissioner of Corrective Services. I make those points by way of balance. I think the public would expect them to be made. The record speaks for itself on the matter.

Having said that, I should add that it is also the case that we in the Opposition, and I certainly, welcome the report and many of the recommendations made at the end of volume 2. Whether they are drawn from the McClemens report, whether they are based on independent investigation by the Royal commission, whether they are adopted immediately—or have already been adopted in some cases—or whether it will be some time before they are thoroughly investigated, they cover a great range and will be extremely helpful. This is not the sort of report that we in the Opposition parties expected. It is not as forward-looking as we expected. It does not go into the deeper questions that somebody like Professor Mitchell would have gone into had he been permitted to remain a Royal commissioner. Nevertheless, in its way, though narrower than we had hoped the report will be extremely helpful. Many of the recommendations that it contains, it should be said, were made by the Commissioner of Corrective Services, whom the Royal commission attacked so unfairly.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Royal assent to the following bills reported:

Coroners (Amendment) Bill
 Egg Industry Stabilisation (Amendment) Bill
 Local Government (University of New South Wales) Amendment Bill
 Local Government (Vehicles) Amendment Bill
 Lotteries and Art Unions (Amendment) Bill
 Main Roads (Vehicles) Amendment Bill
 Married Persons (Property and Torts) Amendment Bill
 Meat Industry Bill
 Meat Industry (Amendment) Bill
 Notice of Actions and Other Privileges Abolition (Amendment) Bill
 Pesticides Bill
 Sancta Sophia College Incorporation (Amendment) Bill

Mr Coleman]

CONSTITUTION AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORATES AND ELECTIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Message

Mr Speaker reported the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor stating that His Excellency had reserved the Constitution and Parliamentary Electorates and Elections (Amendment) Bill for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST POLICE

Mr COLEMAN: I direct a question without notice to the Premier. Did the Minister for Youth and Community Services recently allege that he had been the subject of a police vendetta for twenty years and that police had engaged in intimidation, extortion, theft, bribery and corruption? Did he state that a commissioner of police had illegally tapped his telephone? Has the Premier investigated his Minister's allegations? If so, what was the result of the investigation? If not, does the Premier's silence indicate his acceptance of the truth of the Minister's allegations about officers of the Premier's Department?

Mr WRAN: The only thing the Leader of the Opposition did not mention is that my Minister——

Sir Eric Willis: On a point of order. By what right is the Premier now speaking? He has made a ministerial statement, and the Leader of the Opposition has replied to it. The Premier has no right of reply.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! For the benefit of the honourable member for Earlowood, I point out that the House is now dealing with questions without notice.

Mr WRAN: One matter the Leader of the Opposition did not refer to in respect of the Minister for Youth and Community Services is that the Minister, in what was attributed to him in the newspaper that I read, said that he holds the present Commissioner of Police and the present members of the police force in the highest regard. To the extent that he was reported as having made any allegations against any police officers, those were allegations of some years ago. Just as I do not feel called upon to establish inquiries into allegations made by the prostitute, Miss Brisman, who was dead five or six years before I became Premier, so I do not feel disposed to use public moneys to investigate newspaper reports about which I have had no complaints directly from the Minister for Youth and Community Services.

ROAD FUNDS

Mr FLAHERTY: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways. Has the Minister's attention been invited to statements by the federal Minister for Transport to the effect that the New South Wales Government was unwilling to spend any of its funds on Sydney freeways? Will the Minister inform the House whether the Hon. P. J. Nixon's claims accurately reflect the freeway expenditure situation? If they do not, will he advise the House of details relevant to expenditure on freeways and road development in New South Wales by both the Commonwealth Government and the State Government?

Mr COX: The honourable member for Granville has raised an important matter. It is true that the federal Minister for Transport has accused the New South Wales Government of a failure to spend any of its own funds on freeway and urban

arterial road development. The allegations by the Hon. P. J. Nixon are absolutely baseless. None of his statements yesterday reflects the real situation in freeway spending. They were designed to achieve headlines at any cost, even to the point of making claims that Mr Nixon knows are deliberate falsehoods. For Mr Nixon to suggest that the New South Wales Government is not directing one dollar towards freeways is despicable and contemptuous: it is a flagrant, downright lie. The fact is that the New South Wales Government is spending on freeways and roads the largest sum ever spent on this work in the State's history.

A total of \$372 million will be spent in New South Wales this financial year on freeway and road construction, of which the **Labor** Government is providing a record total of \$218 million, while the federal coalition Government can manage a contribution of only \$154 million. The sum of \$218 million does not take account of a further \$18.6 million being spent on local roads by other government departments, including the Forestry Commission, the Department of Lands, the Housing Commission, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and various **instrumentalities**. It is lamentable that the Commonwealth cannot even match the State Government's financial input, particularly in view of the fact that it was Mr Nixon who said New South Wales would qualify for the \$154 million federal allocation only if the State Government spent \$147 million from its own resources. This State not only met that quota but also added not less than \$71 million to it. Nevertheless, the federal Government has not seen fit to match our expenditure in Australia's most populous State.

In addition, in a bid to obtain more funds for our massive freeways and roads programme, the Premier has already announced that he will ask the Prime Minister at the Premiers' conference to be held in June next for additional Commonwealth roads grants and Loan Council borrowings. The New South Wales Government has a strong case to put for additional funds, and through this approach will discover just where the federal Government's priorities lie.

With regard to the Hon. P. J. Nixon's statement that the New South Wales Government is not contributing one cent towards urban freeways, honourable members should remember that this financial year the State is spending \$90.2 million in the Sydney region on freeways, road construction, and traffic improvement schemes, of which not less than \$62.5 million comes from State resources and only \$28.7 million from the Commonwealth. A cutback in funds for federal urban arterial roads—into which category freeways fall—from \$36.6 million in 1976–77 to a mere \$28.7 million in 1977–78 is another factor to be taken into consideration. These funds have been cut back from more than \$46 million a year in 1974–75. If anyone is neglecting freeway and road development in New South Wales, and thus the private motorist, it is the federal Government.

Ten years ago the New South Wales share of fuel tax was 60 per cent; now it is receiving 39 per cent. There is no doubt that the percentage return of moneys collected from New South Wales motorists through fuel and sales taxes and other federal charges is critically unjust. The New South Wales Labor Government, despite the urgent need for more road funds for major urban programmes, will not tolerate any further slugging of the private motorists. For too long they have been the milking cow of coalition governments, both State and federal.

Who will forget, for instance, the infamous and iniquitous State fuel tax, introduced by our predecessors and abolished only on the eve of the 1976 election? The same applies with stamp duties payable on motor vehicle transfers; they were increased by the members opposite from 50c per \$100 to \$2 per \$100 in December, 1975. This Government rejects any suggestion that it is neglecting freeway funding. The facts speak for themselves. Equally, we reject suggestions that the private motorist should pick up the tab for further road construction. He is already getting a raw deal

Mr Cox]

on Commonwealth returns of his dollar spent. The time has come for the federal Government to recognize and act upon its heavy responsibilities on road funding for New South Wales, not only through increased allocations for urban arterial road programmes, but also through a bigger and fairer share on returns to the State Government.

It is simply not good enough for the Commonwealth, using the federal Minister for Transport as its mouthpiece, to float deliberate and shameful untruths about this Government's programmes, in a weak and cowardly attempt to shift the burden of responsibility. It is on record that at every ATAC meeting I have attended every Minister for transport—whether he be a Country Party Minister or a Liberal Party Minister—has criticized the Hon P. J. Nixon for his approach to the general transport issues and particularly his approach to federal financing of State roads. The Hon. P. J. Nixon has a habit of attending functions and deliberately making false representation, and telling deliberate lies in relation to road funding. What I have indicated here today is that, after taking the other instrumentalities into account, New **South** Wales is spending \$236 million on public roads, compared with \$154 million allocated by the federal Government. Those figures speak for themselves, and are a clear indication that the **Labor** Government of New South Wales is spending a record amount of money on road needs throughout this State.

NATIONAL PARKS

Urgency

Mr PUNCH (Gloucester), Leader of the Country Party [4.4]: I move:

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

- (a) That this House expresses its concern over the limited and political nature of the special announcement by the Minister for Lands specifying exemption for forestry and agricultural lands only from the Yuragir and other North Coast national park proposals; and
- (b) Calls upon the Government to immediately extend the same exemption principles to all national park proposals in all areas of the State, particularly the Border Ranges, Myall Lakes, Greater Southern Blue Mountains and South Coast national park proposals.

This matter is urgent because a short time ago the Minister for Planning and Environment advised councils on the North Coast, obviously with the concurrence of the Minister for Lands, of an interim development order over part of the councils' area which he proposed to include in a national park. The interim development order was a move by the Minister to control any development that may be proposed within that area. Yet in spite of this action the Minister for Lands has now reversed some of those decisions, but he has done so only in a deliberately selected area of the State for blatant election reasons to try to placate the people in the Casino electorate.

The matter is urgent because it is wrong that the Minister should make a statement affecting only one small section of the State when there are other vast areas right over the State equally affected—and the lives of many people are drastically affected. The matter is urgent because the news release issued by the Minister for Lands stated that he had instructed the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure that

active **farming**, forestry and residential areas were not to be included in any future proposals. If such things as farming, forestry and residential areas are not to be included in this proposal, why should they be included in other proposals in the State? The Minister in his statement said that farmlands used for agricultural purposes will not be included in this area. Why should they be included in other parts of the State?

The matter is urgent because the Minister said no areas of state forest are to be included, or any Crown land or Crown leasehold lands containing timber of commercial value are to be included without the concurrence of the Forestry Commission. Why should this apply only to this area and not to all the other numerous park proposals in the State? The Minister stated also that no existing villages or hamlets will be included in any of the proposals. What about other parts of the State? He stated that any instances of alleged hardship to individuals will be sympathetically considered. What about the innumerable representations that have been made by individuals who have been caused great hardship and have suffered huge financial losses?

Unless the Government makes a clear and unequivocal statement, as it affects **all** national parks, people will regard the announcement as a temporary measure **only**—and calculated as an election bribe. It is urgent that the issue be resolved before Parliament, in a proper manner, so that the rights of all people are safeguarded. Unless the Government is prepared to apply the same principle to all national park proposals, the people will have no alternative but to see the announcement as a political confidence trick.

This matter is urgent because people not only on the North Coast but also in other areas of the State are entitled to know why the Government has suddenly taken this action, and specifically in one area only. The urgency is underscored by the waves of protests that have been voiced in this area and other areas on the very same question. The urgency is further demonstrated by the fact that recently at **Grafton** a meeting of about 700 people overwhelmingly passed resolutions condemning the Government's action, and **large** meetings have **similarly** been held at **Kempsey**, Port Macquarie, **Myall** Lakes and other areas over the State. If it is good enough to alter dramatically the interim development order over the Lower Clarence areas, why is it not good enough to alter the interim development order in other areas such as **Myall** Lakes? Whether the changes are being made to interim development orders or to proposed national park boundaries does not really make a big difference. Both are government **instrumentalities**. Both seem determined to upset large numbers of property holders and a number of vital industries of this State, particularly the timber industry which will be dramatically curtailed if such extensive park proposals are proceeded with.

The organization, Neighbours of National Parks Association, has demanded that this exclusion policy must also apply to the Greater Southern Blue Mountains National Park. The association says it cannot submit to discrimination against its claims. Why should this area be any different? The same association rightly asks: does this policy **apply** also to other private lands? And, if so, does it mean that such exclusion would apply only to the lifetime of present owners? The matter is urgent because I have masses of correspondence relating to the rights of property-owners around **Myall** Lakes in my electorate of Gloucester. Why have their lands not been given similar exemption? In fact, the rights of property-owners even in parts of the metropolitan area are similarly involved. The matter is urgent because, if this exemption policy is to apply to forestry lands in the Yuragir proposals, there should be no further delay in resolving the Border Ranges issue.

This House should **immediately** demand that all forestry land, as well as agricultural and private lands, be released from all proposed national park extensions. That should, of course, include the Border Ranges, where extensions proposed are threatening the sawmilling industry and jobs around Kyogle. Simply put, there should be no need

Mr Punch]

for any further inquiry into the Border Ranges proposal and approval should be announced forthwith to allow future logging to proceed under forestry management as originally decided by the previous administration in 1976. In fact, no area of state forests, Crown land or Crown leasehold lands containing timber of commercial value should be included in national park extensions without the concurrence of the Forestry Commission.

Recently, on the South Coast in direct contradiction of the new policy for Yuragir, important forest areas were incorporated into the Mimosa Rocks park plan near Tathra, even though the Forestry Commission and the National Parks and Wildlife Service reportedly did not maintain that they should be included. In the Blue Mountains, the Mount Werong State Forest, of some 2 000 hectares, remains included in the plan for the Greater Southern Blue Mountains national park.

In general, the Government should either come clean now and make a firm commitment on all national park proposals or agree to previous requests for a moratorium on all park proposals pending a complete review of present national park policies which are causing uncertainty, personal hardship and financial loss to many people throughout the State. Also, it is urgent because, before further consideration can be given to enormous extensions to our national parks and the freezing of much private and forestry land, the Government should concentrate on developing existing parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of this State.

Mr WRAN (Bass Hill). Premier [4.12]: This is a misconceived motion. Indeed, it has always been the policy of this Government, when promulgating interim development orders as the forerunner to proclaiming a national park, to ensure that as far as practicable private lands or lands required for industrial or commercial purposes are identified so that at the time of actual declaration of the area as a national park those lands would be excluded from the area of the national park. To borrow a term often used by the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries, I am staggered that the member for Gloucester, the Leader of the Country Party, should display such a short memory.

The Minister for Lands borrowed a precedent from the Leader of the Opposition in what is colloquially called another place for the type of exemptions proposed for the Yuragir National Park and the Bundjalung National Park. The Hon. Sir John Fuller did precisely the same thing in relation to the Myall Lakes. He issued the same sort of direction and order with regard to the Myall Lakes located in the electorate of the Leader of the Country Party.

The Leader of the Country Party well knows what the Minister for Lands has done in this instance. His actions have been precisely on all fours with what the Leader of the Opposition in another place did in relation to that great part of our heritage, the Myall Lakes. One rather fancies that there is some division of opinion in the Country Party. It is a pity that as we go away for the winter recess we see members of the Country Party not as the usual big happy united family that we are told they are.

Recently when I picked up a copy of the *Daily Examiner* I was surprised to see that well-known proponent of our heritage and national parks, the honourable member for Clarence, reported as having said—and he has not denied it—that the national park proposals outlined in *Grafton* by the Minister for Lands were quite good provided the Minister had authority to put them forward.

I shall put at rest the uncertainty of the honourable member for Clarence by assuring him that the Minister for Lands did have the authority to make those statements. The Mayor of *Grafton*, Alderman W. R. Liddiard, one of the most

respected men on the North Coast of New South Wales, had a meeting with the Minister for Lands on 30th March. The discussion centred on national parks and subsequently the mayor said that the Minister had cleared the air in many respects.

We all know that the House will adjourn later this day. We know, too, that this is the last kick at the bucket by the Leader of the Country Party. We know that he is most disappointed that his deliberate campaign of fear on the North Coast has ground to a halt. The Minister for Lands went to the North Coast and told the truth as distinct from the fiction that the Country Party has been peddling in that area for the past several months. It is most disappointing to see members of the Country Party swapping verbal punches with each other over this matter. It must be disappointing to the Leader of the Country Party to have got away from all the matters with which people in the country are so vitally concerned—such matters as Abe Saffron, casinos and police corruption—and at last to come back for the first time in many months to something that mildly affects country people of this State.

Every honourable member representing a North Coast electorate knew what was happening on the North Coast with regard to Yuragir National Park **and** Bundjalung National Park but not a word was said by the Leader of the Country Party. It is a great pity that he does not speak to his colleagues as they could have told him with great satisfaction that the responsible and clear-thinking Minister for Lands had visited the North Coast and allayed their fears. All the seeds of despair that had been sown over a period of **months** by the Leader of the Country Party have fallen on barren ground. People in northern New South Wales will have even more confirmation of this Government's intentions as tomorrow I shall visit the North Coast. However, the air having been cleared and the honourable member for Clarence having so graciously and generously accepted the Minister for Lands' clarification of the whole situation, I doubt that there will be much left for me to do.

Already maps of the parks and the proposed boundaries have been published. The people on the North Coast will soon have them. They **will** soon be available to people on the North Coast so that they, like citizens who live in other parts of New South Wales, will have the opportunity, which they have not in the genuine sense had before, of making their submissions to the Government if they are personally and genuinely adversely affected and having those objections considered. Urgency is refused.

Question of urgency put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 47

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

Noes. 49

Mr Akister
Mr Bannon
Mr Barnier
Mr Bedford
Mr Booth
Mr Cahill
Mr Cleary
Mr R. J. Clough
Mr Cox
Mr Crabtree
Mr Day
Mr Degen
Mr Durick
Mr Einfeld
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 O'Connell
Mr Paciullo

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

Tellers,
Mr Brereton
Mr Face

Question so resolved in the negative.

Motion of urgency negatived.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

(Resumed)

PORT BOTANY TRANSPORT

Mr BANNON: My question without notice is directed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports. Is the Government currently concerned with the important question of provision of adequate transport to service Port Botany? Is it possible to upgrade existing rail facilities, thus relieving road transport? Can the Minister give an assurance that the Government will concentrate to the greatest extent on utilizing rail transport over road transport?

Mr FERGUSON: Yes, I can most certainly give the assurance sought by the honourable member for Rockdale, who has been most persistent in his representations to the Government on all aspects of the Botany Bay port development. I am sure that the residents of the Rockdale electorate and other electorates in the Botany Bay region appreciate the work being done on their behalf by the Labor members who represent the district. Doubtless they appreciate that they are now being consulted whereas under the former Government they were told to like it or lump it. I am sure that the honourable member for Rockdale and other honourable members representing electorates in the area will be pleased to know that the Government will spend \$8 million on the upgrading of rail facilities to serve Port Botany. This work will be finished before the first container berth comes into operation. At the same time, work is proceeding on the upgrading of roads to relieve traffic congestion.

[Interruption]

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

Mr FERGUSON: Recently my colleague the Minister for Planning and Environment announced a full environmental impact study of the proposed Kyeemagh–Chullorah county road. In addition, existing problems caused by heavy trucks using the residential streets of Rockdale and Bexley are being investigated. In both cases full public participation will be encouraged and residents will be given every opportunity to express their views and put forward alternative proposals. To sum up, I assure the honourable member for Rockdale that everything possible is being done to lessen the impact of the port development on residents in his electorate and nearby areas.

HEALTH COMMISSION INVESTIGATIONS

Mr CAMERON: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Health. Did the police fraud squad make extensive investigations within the Health Commission and public hospitals regarding corruption associated with the supply and maintenance of computers for regionalized pathology services? Were thirty individuals implicated by these inquiries, and was it discovered that a senior commission decision-maker held a credit card to the value of \$500 a month supplied by a manufacturer, whose records were subsequently seized by the squad? Notwithstanding the Minister's undertaking to recommend action if criminal activity was revealed, has the fraud squad since been called off? Has its investigation been replaced by a public service inquiry, which is making little progress? Has the key decision-maker been allowed to resign on the ground of "overwork"? Are prominent professional people alarmed—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I rule the question out of order because of its prolixity.

Mr CAMERON: Mr Speaker, you say you rule the question out of order?

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

Sir Eric Willis: On a point of order. Would you, Mr Speaker, indicate on what ground you have ruled the question out of order other than its obvious embarrassment to the Government?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! At this late hour on this last day of the session, which is probably the last day on which the honourable member for Earlwood will sit in the Chamber, I should not like to think that he would be named but, if he continues to reflect on the Chair, I shall have no alternative other than to do so.

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINE

Mr RAMSAY: I address a question without notice to the Minister for Health. Is the Minister aware of the low but ever-present risk of brain damage being caused to young children from the administration of whooping cough vaccine? Have there been new developments overseas in the production of safer vaccine and will it be introduced in New South Wales?

Mr STEWART: The honourable member for Wollongong is quite correct, as is his want, when he says that some danger exists and has always existed in the administering of whooping cough vaccine to young children in New South Wales and in other States of the Commonwealth. It is an established medical fact that there is an extremely low risk of a child suffering brain damage or convulsions after taking whooping cough vaccine. However, the almost total eradication of whooping cough—a disease that once used to decimate children—has far outweighed the extremely small risks associated with the use of the vaccine.

I understand that medical researchers in Sweden have developed a new vaccine that they claim promises greater protection from the ever-present, if small, risk of brain damage and other side effects of the present whooping cough vaccines. The new Swedish vaccine has been developed by microbiologists at the National Bacteriological Laboratory in Stockholm following twenty years of research. The vaccine is so pure that it is said to be one hundred times less toxic than the existing vaccines. Members will be interested to know that a child can suffer brain damage or convulsions because of the inability to render the present vaccine completely safe. To reduce this danger vaccines were made weaker and their effectiveness to protect against whooping cough was reduced. Nevertheless, a small risk of brain damage or of convulsions still remained.

It is claimed that the new vaccine will give not only greater protection against the catching of whooping cough but also will reduce even further the risks associated with these vaccination techniques. Arrangements have been made to test the new vaccine in several countries under the auspices of the World Health Organisation. If these tests are satisfactory it can be assumed that the new vaccine will be used generally to combat whooping cough.

[Interruption]

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

Mr STEWART: I have asked officers of the Health Commission of New South Wales to monitor the developments in Sweden and, as soon as the new vaccine is cleared for general use, it will be introduced in New South Wales.

EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVE

Mr HATTON: I address a question without notice to the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy. Has the Minister examined the formation statement of the proposed Shoalhaven Employment Co-operative? What recognition and assistance is the Government willing to give to this unique and imaginative attempt to alleviate the serious problems of the unemployed? Will the Minister discuss the project with the Minister for Youth and Community Services, the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies and the Premier so as to evaluate the project as a pilot scheme eligible for special financial assistance?

Mr HILLS: The honourable member for South Coast submitted to me the aims and objects of the Shoalhaven Employment Co-operative with which he has had a great deal of association. I know that for some months he has held discussions with younger people in his electorate about the proposed development of an employment co-operative. The honourable member for South Coast is to be commended for working with the young unemployed in his electorate. He feels that the matter is a serious problem for his constituents. I know he is deeply concerned about the level of unemployment in New South Wales generally, particularly among young people. He has asked me whether I will be willing to confer with my colleagues the Premier, the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies and the Minister for Youth and Community Services about the proposal. I am willing to have discussions with them because each of those Ministers, particularly the Premier, has quite clearly expressed concern about the high level of unemployment in New South Wales.

If it is possible to use the project as a pilot scheme whereby young people will get together to form a co-operative, obviously that technique should be considered for adoption not only in New South Wales but also throughout the Commonwealth of

Australia. It is proposed that the young people shall pay a small joining fee, approximately \$1, for the purpose of belonging to such a co-operative. The scheme could confer distinct advantages on the participants. For example, the young people concerned could be covered by insurance taken out by the co-operative. Such co-operatives could provide a service not only for residents in the electorate of the honourable member for South Coast but also throughout the State. The project has great potential and I am having it examined by officers of the Department of Labour and Industry. I know that Mr Mills, who on behalf of the Government is leading a group dealing with the problems of the young unemployed in this State, is aware of the details of the proposal and has been present during discussions on this important question. The project does have a lot to commend it. I sincerely hope that it will be possible to develop the scheme for the benefit of the unemployed in the electorate of the honourable member for South Coast and in other parts of the State.

HOMOSEXUAL ACTS

Mr PETERSEN: I direct a question to the honourable member for Lane Cove concerning his notice of motion calling for repeal of the existing laws relating to homosexuality, as this matter will lapse on the adjournment of the session. Is it his intention to raise the matter again in the forthcoming session of the Parliament?

Mr DOWD: I take the opportunity to congratulate the honourable member for Illawarra on his concern for minority groups. I do not share his views on socialism but on this matter he is at least more honest in expressing his views than most of his colleagues in the Government. In this respect he is unlike the Premier who holds seminars on such matters as victimless crime. When publicly pressed on whether he will bring forward such controversial legislation the Premier sweeps it aside, as he does all controversial issues. It is my intention to restore the **motion**——

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DOWD: In the event of the prorogation of the Parliament it is my intention to restore the motion to the notice paper. I think all honourable members, including the hypocrites on the Government side who are refusing to allow the matter to be debated, should have the opportunity to express their view. I know that the **Attorney-General** wishes the matter to be debated and he has told the House that time will be made available for the debate, but he lost out in caucus and I understand that the Premier will not allow this controversial matter to be debated.

Mr Mason: That is up to the Government.

Mr Wran: He is stabbing you in the back while you are on your feet.

Mr DOWD: I should have thought that the Premier might have called for a seminar on this subject to allow honourable (members to have the opportunity to debate a matter that is of concern to the citizens of the State because of the injustice that is caused.

ESCORT OF STATE WARDS

Mr MASON: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Youth and Community Services. Does the Department of Youth and Community Services employ approximately fifty people, mostly widows and pensioners, for day escort of

State wards and other children in the care of the Government? Are these people required to meet all their out-of-pocket expenses and then seek reimbursement of the funds that they have outlaid? Is the Minister aware of the great distress that these people are suffering because, despite constant representations to the department, they have had to wait for up to six weeks for reimbursement? Are some of these people, who are not able to afford it, owed up to \$300 and in one case \$800? Will the Minister ensure that this gross inefficiency is corrected and that these worthy people are paid what they are owed by his department?

Mr JACKSON: I am not aware of the problem outlined by the honourable member for Dubbo in relation to escorts who convey people under 18 years of age from a place of apprehension to courts and from courts to shelters where they are placed under detention. This is my first knowledge that some people claim they are suffering great hardship from meeting their own expenses and they have to wait some time to be reimbursed by the Department of Youth and Community Services.

[*Interruption*]

Mr JACKSON: I assure the three or four honourable members opposite who by interjection are claiming that I do not know what is going on in my department that, unlike my predecessor in the former Government, I have an intimate knowledge of what is occurring there. I doubt the existence of the problem to which the honourable member referred in relation to escorts. I shall carry out an immediate investigation. I assure the honourable member and the House that if such a situation does exist it will be rectified immediately.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMISSION BUSES

Mr COX: On 2nd March the honourable member for Wakehurst asked me a question without notice relating, *inter alia*, to the tenders for 550 new buses for the Public Transport Commission. In my reply I undertook to give the honourable member and the House detailed information about the examination of the tenders and selection of the successful tenderer when a decision in this regard had been made. Since then, as honourable members will be aware, it has been decided to let a contract to Yorkstar Motor6 Pty Limited for the supply of 550 new Mercedes buses with bodies built by the Pressed Metal Corporation, which will ensure a high local content in the new vehicles.

Before going any further, I want to make it quite clear that the remarks by the Premier at a function at the Pressed Metal Corporation's premises in December last, when he took delivery of the one-hundredth bus of the earlier order for 200 vehicles, could not in the slightest way be regarded as an attempt to suborn the judgment of those assessing the tenders for the supply of the new buses. The suggestion to this effect implied in the honourable member's question is nothing less than scandalous. The Pressed Metal Corporation is perhaps the major builder of bus bodies in this State at the present time. Its experience and success in this field must inevitably have put it in a position where it was reasonable to assume that it would have had at least a **fifty-fifty** chance of being involved in the construction of the new vehicles.

For the information of the honourable member and the House, the position is that tenders for the supply of the 550 new buses closed on 23rd November, 1977. **Six** companies submitted tenders. The tenders were examined initially by a technical committee set up to evaluate the technical aspects of the various offers. This committee consisted of the chief mechanical engineer of the Melbourne Metropolitan and

Tramways Board and two officials of the Public Transport Commission, one of whom is the works assistant at Clyde wagon works and the other the chief engineer of the bus division. The committee was unanimous in its report and recommendations. In addition to the technical committee, a review committee consisting of Mr G. A. Shea, chairman of the Metropolitan Transport Trust at Perth, Mr F. R. Harris, general manager, bus and tram division, State Transport Authority of South Australia and Mr E. W. Lyndon, General Manager, Bus Services, and Associate Commissioner of the Public Transport Commission, was established to consider the tenders and the report of the technical committee.

The review committee agreed with the recommendations of the technical committee, including the reasons put forward for passing over a number of offers. For final consideration on the grounds of suitability and price, the review committee narrowed down the tenders submitted to two. As the tender of Yorkstar Motors was lower in price and the vehicle offered was also clearly suitable for the commission's requirements in all respects, the committee recommended that the offer of Yorkstar Motors be accepted. The matter was then considered by the commission's contracts control board, which concurred in the recommendation of the review committee to accept the tender of Yorkstar Motors and recommended to the commission accordingly. The recommendations of the contracts control board and the various reports were considered subsequently by the commission and in a letter dated 16th February, 1978, the chief commissioner advised me that the commission had decided that the tender submitted by Yorkstar Motors should be accepted as being the lowest suitable tender.

In the reply that I gave to the honourable member at the time he asked the question, I intimated that the commission's recommendation would be discussed with the Premier. This was done. After careful consideration of all the factors involved, it was agreed that the recommendations of the commission should be adopted. A press statement regarding the awarding of the contract was issued on 9th March. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that there was nothing sinister about the Premier's remarks at the Pressed Metal function, as was implied by the honourable member, and that the contract was won by Yorkstar on its merits; the vehicle that was offered was the most acceptable from the point of view of price and suitability. When this massive contract is brought to finality, metropolitan bus users will be provided with the utmost in passenger comfort, service and reliability.

FLEMINGTON MARKETS

Mr DAY: On 15th March the honourable member for Hawkesbury asked me a question without notice in relation to Flemington markets in which he made a number of serious implications. I undertook then to have the matter investigated and I now wish to supply the House with the following information. At Flemington markets on Sundays there are about 1,000 stalls whose proprietors trade in merchandise other than fresh fruit and vegetables. Rentals for stalls at this Sunday market, which is managed for the Sydney Farm Produce Market Authority by a partnership called Viking Markets, are determined by authority resolution and the current stall rental determinations are: \$11.00 per stall per day for permanent stalls; and for casual stalls, \$14.00 per stall per day if located under cover and \$11.00 per stall per day if not located under cover. Stall rentals are not determined by reference to turnover and no stallholder is compelled to pay an additional 25 per cent or any other percentage of turnover to maintain security of tenure. Stall allocations are recorded in the office of the authority and may easily be verified.

Investigations have disclosed that in April last year a man who operates large mobile food vans applied in writing to the authority to place one of his mobile food vans or steak bars in the parking area at Flemington markets. The applicant represented that his mobile food vans are self-contained and independent of authority services. Consistent with its policy of exploring marketing and promotional ideas, the authority in August last permitted the applicant in question to operate on a trial basis in parking areas away from the large building, building D, where the Sunday Paddy's Market is conducted at Flemington. The trial period was terminated in October last. The applicant offered—and I emphasize offered—to pay 25 per cent of his **takings** for permission to operate one of his mobile food vans in the parking areas near building D. The authority regarded the permission that it granted in this case as being something distinct from the usual Paddy's Market stall trading. It regarded its permission as being a permission to conduct a service. Clause 21 of the Sydney Market Regulation provides that the charge in respect of such a permission shall be such as the authority may determine.

The authority's official receipt records that the money paid by this mobile food van operator for the permission in question was calculated at 25 per cent of takings. It is practice at some private enterprise retail markets similar to Paddy's Markets of the authority for proprietors to collect from food sellers a charge calculated as a percentage of takings. It is understandable that the authority is trying to maximise its income to help meet the onerous financial burden associated with new markets complex establishment costs. However, I believe that it is preferable for a public body to avoid determining charges by reference to any percentage of takings when granting service permissions which, although not identical with, can be related to trading rights of Paddy's Market stallholders. I have already issued appropriate instructions in this regard.

The one case of the particular mobile food van operator is the only one coming within the **ambit** of the honourable member's question. All moneys received by the authority are properly accounted for and its financial operations are subject to the scrutiny of the Auditor-General. It is noteworthy that the mobile food van operator under review made no complaints whatever to the authority, or to its Sunday market managers, as to the basis of the calculation of the charge paid by him for the permission he was granted. As I have indicated, he offered to pay a percentage of takings. This food van operator has claimed publicly that he did supply some information to the honourable member for Hawkesbury. However, at the same public meeting, the operator contended that assertions made outside this House by the honourable member on 16th March did not reflect or reproduce information he supplied to the honourable member. The public assertions of the honourable member represented that there is at the markets some system whereby key stallholders stand over newcomer stallholders. Investigations disclosed that there is absolutely no foundation whatever for these serious assertions.

If any stallholder-to-stallholder standover of the kind asserted by the honourable member for Hawkesbury did exist, there are numerous places where a victim could complain. There is a police office in the market D building and a large police station a few metres away in the market complex. There are always some authority employees on duty at the markets and the authority's office is situated a few metres away from building D. Additionally, stallholders could complain to their own stallholders association, to my office or to the news media. Complaint could be made orally and anonymously. It is therefore very significant that nothing is known of any complaint having any resemblance to the standover assertions of the honourable member. A quickly convened meeting of stallholders unanimously resolved to protest to the honourable member **and** that resolution reads:

This meeting of Paddy's Markets Stallholders—

Registers its very serious concern about the general assertion that a number of key stallholders at Flemington Markets have been using standover tactics on **new-comers** as a means of extracting up to 25% of the weekly turnover of victims;

Records its denial of any knowledge of any such standover tactics or similar tactics;

Requests that the relevant remarks, which by their generality, innuendo and implication are extremely detrimental and harmful, be retracted by Mr Rozzoli at least until such time as there is produced by him any proof of the allegations or justification for the making of them.

Although I appreciate that there is a duty to inquire and to seek information, there is clearly a big difference between that sort of inquiry and an unsubstantiated public assertion contending that something is actually happening and thereby doing substantial harm to very many innocent people.

Mr Morris: Is this a ministerial statement?

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

Mr DAY: I understand that the honourable member for Hawkesbury now knows that his assertions are unsubstantiated and without foundation. I put to the honourable member that he should withdraw his innuendoes and accusations and apologize to the people whom he has slandered.

ANAESTHETIC DEATHS

Mr STEWART: On 16th March the honourable member for Hurstville asked in this House questions related to the administration of anaesthetics, with particular reference to patients who died in Sydney during or from the effects of the administration of an anaesthetic by Dr A. Sinclair. I should like to say at the outset that I greatly appreciate the action of the honourable member in bringing to the attention of the House and to my notice the general issue of problems associated with investigation of deaths associated with anaesthesia in this State.

At present all deaths occurring within twenty-four hours of anaesthesia or as the result of an operation are required by the provisions of the Coroners Act to be reported to the coroner. On evidence submitted, the coroner may decide to hold an inquest or dispense with the matter without a full inquest if he is satisfied that there were no circumstances that would justify further inquiry.

In addition there exists in this State a special committee investigating deaths under anaesthesia, which was set up in 1960 by the Hon. W. F. Sheahan during his term as Minister for Health. The committee consists of medical representatives of the Health Commission of New South Wales; the Faculty of Anaesthetists, Royal Australian College of Surgeons; the Australian Society of Anaesthetists (New South Wales Section) and the Section of Anaesthetics of the Australian Medical Association; the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons; the Department of Anaesthetics, University of Sydney; the Department of Surgery, University of Sydney; the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners; and the New South Wales State Committee, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

This committee acts on a voluntary basis to receive confidential information on deaths occurring during or within twenty-four hours of an anaesthetic. In spite of the voluntary nature of reporting, a response rate of 92 per cent is achieved. The committee acts as a peer review mechanism and its overall findings are made widely known to the profession. There is evidence to suggest that the activities of the committee, as at present constituted, have resulted in a significant reduction in anaesthetic deaths. In the triennium 1960-62 there were 136 deaths in this State directly related to anaesthetic or the operation for which it was given. In 1974-76, despite increases in the numbers and complexity of operations performed, there were only forty-nine such deaths.

Following the honourable member's question in the House and the points he raised, I instructed the Health Commission to investigate the matters further. On my instigation, the commission established a committee consisting of an eminent physician, a practising anaesthetist and a senior medical officer of the commission. After considering the present systems, the committee advised me as follows:

- (a) the present requirements for notification to the coroner of all deaths during anaesthesia, arising from an incident during anaesthesia or within 24 hours of an anaesthetic, are adequate;
- (b) the coroner has wide powers to investigate any such case which would include the obtaining of all documentation, witnesses of fact and expert witnesses by subpoena, and this mechanism also makes possible legal representations by or on behalf of all parties concerned so that in the fullness of an inquiry, justice may be seen to be done;
- (c) the Special Committee Investigating Deaths under Anaesthesia is proving its value as an additional mechanism and as an avenue for the reduction of anaesthetic mortality and its value in its present role is very great and the privilege relating to confidentiality of this committee should be retained;
- (d) in addition to the coronial mechanism and the Committee Investigating Deaths under Anaesthesia, the boards of public hospitals have a specific responsibility in regard to the standards of patient care; and
- (e) action should be taken to formalise a similar responsibility in the private hospital sector.

I agree with the advisings of the committee. On the further advice of the Health Commission it is my intention to approach my colleagues the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice and Minister for Housing with a view to a joint working party being established of officers of the Department of the Attorney-General and of Justice and officers of the Health Commission to review means of improving and strengthening the present coronial inquiry system, especially regarding the provision of informed medical and other expert opinion to the coroner regarding his investigations of deaths and especially deaths associated with anaesthesia or operation.

The Health Commission has at my request investigated the matters raised by the honourable member for Hurstville in relation to Dr Agnes Sinclair. A senior medical officer of the commission has reviewed the relevant clinical records in three public hospitals and one private hospital. Over a seven-year period, six patients have died during or within twenty-four hours of an operation, the anaesthetic for which was administered by Dr Sinclair. The honourable member for Hurstville advised me of another death, which occurred four weeks after surgery, where the anaesthetic was also given by her.

All cases were referred to the coroner. Full coronial inquests were held into two of the cases and the coroner dispensed with an inquest in the remaining cases. In the two cases subjected to a full inquiry one death resulted from an adverse reaction to anaesthetic drugs. No culpability was found but the coroner **questioned** the advisability of some of the procedures undertaken in this case. In the other case subjected to full inquiry the finding was that death was due to multiple injuries together with ischaemic heart disease.

I intend to refer the Health Commission report to my colleague the Minister of Justice for his consideration that in future cases involving deaths during anaesthesia, arising from an accident during anaesthesia or within twenty-four hours of an anaesthetic being administered, a coronial inquiry be always held. With regard to Dr Sinclair's hospital appointments, she is under suspension at one hospital and has taken leave of absence from the other. I believe the actions outlined will have the effect of strengthening the present systems associated with investigation of deaths during or within twenty-four hours of the administering of anaesthetic. I thank the honourable member for Hurstville for bringing this matter to the attention of the House.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr F. J. WALKER (Georges River), Attorney-General [4.43]: I move:

That this House at its rising today adjourn until Tuesday, 20 June, 1978.

I should like to pay a tribute to the service to this House of the honourable member for Earlwood, Sir Eric Archibald Willis, who has intimated that he will be retiring from the Parliament in June. As the Leader of the House it is incumbent upon me to pay the respects of the Government to Sir Eric who has served well for **twenty-eight** years the people of New South Wales. I do not pretend that the honourable member is in any way a friend of the Government. On the contrary, he has done his job as a member of the Opposition and as a member of the former Government to see that the lives of Government supporters have been made as difficult as possible. He has carried out this function with supreme competence. On many occasions he has been acknowledged as one of the great parliamentary debaters of our time. Certainly he has been one of the great utilizers of the standing orders of this House. Although in more recent times he has suffered some misfortunes, one must recognize that there were periods when his contribution to this Parliament was indeed great. In the eight years that I have been a member of Parliament I have learned a tremendous amount from his performance in the House. I have heard few better debaters. In many respects the House will lose a great parliamentarian. My best wishes go with him for his future career.

Mr MASON (Dubbo), Deputy Leader of the Opposition [4.45]: The Opposition wishes to place on record its high regard for the honourable member for Earlwood, who over a period of twenty-eight years has held every significant appointment that it is possible for a member to attain. In opposition he was a most formidable opponent of the Government. When he was a member of the former Government he rose to its highest position of Premier. He retires with a record that has been equalled by few. As has been intimated by the Attorney-General, his contribution will be greatly missed from the future debates.

The Opposition is deeply concerned by the motion and by the whole procedure that has brought the House here today. Before the House rose recently the Attorney-General intimated in reply to some points of order that the debate on this special adjournment motion would be the occasion when major issues could be raised. However, the Attorney-General has not said anything that would justify a special adjournment of the House. He has not told honourable members what the future holds. Is the Parliament to be prorogued? The Attorney-General has not intimated whether the Government will continue to follow the strange procedure that has been followed over the past two years in which the practice of the Parliament has been changed to deny backbenchers the opportunity of participating in a debate after the formal opening of the Parliament by His Excellency the Governor. I have heard it suggested that one of the reasons why the Government has chosen not to follow the normal traditional practice has been to keep His Excellency away from the Parliament. I do not know whether that is correct. In any event, a shameful procedure has been followed for it has denied honourable members the opportunity to participate in the Address-in-Reply debate. This is the traditional opportunity—one of the few given to backbenchers—to speak about the general philosophy of government and about the problems in their electorates and in the State as they see them. Indeed, it is one of the few opportunities under the standing orders for members to raise a wide range of matters that concern them as members of Parliament. It is disgraceful that we have not had that debate for two years. The Leader of the House has not even given the House the courtesy of indicating what the procedure will be this year.

The Opposition considers that there is important legislation for the House to consider. Important matters are pending on the business paper. The Opposition is willing to debate those matters. I remind the House that a short time ago the honourable member for Illawarra asked a question without notice of the honourable member for Lane Cove, no doubt in an endeavour to embarrass him. When Mr Speaker went through the business paper and came to the motion standing in the name of the honourable member for Lane Cove objection was raised to its being taken as formal and thus the matter could not be debated.

Not one voice was raised in opposition on this side of the House. Where did the opposition come from? It came from the Government Whip. He is under instructions that in no circumstances is that matter to come up. Why does not the honourable member for Illawarra press the Government for an opportunity to give honourable members an indication of his stand on the matter that he has on the notice paper? The answer is that he has been done over by his caucus. The resolution standing in his name is an affront to this House. The Opposition knows that the Labor Party will never allow it to come on. Again, it was the Government Whip who raised objection when Mr Speaker called the number of that notice of motion.

I refer now to the legislation in regard to Lord Howe Island. I put it to the House that if the Government really has a genuine concern for individual citizens it will do something about proceeding with this bill. The rights of some people are being seriously affected because of the failure of the Government to go ahead with this legislation. I can give the House other examples but I know of a fine former public servant who served for many years as administrator of Lord Howe Island. When he came to the end of his career he wished to retire to live among the community there, which has a high regard for him. Because of the Government's failure to bring the bill before this House, and probably because of one of the worst examples of land-owner discrimination to be found anywhere under the administration of this Government, that man has been denied the opportunity to spend his retirement in the place of his choice. That is a dreadful state of affairs. Why is the legislation not being brought forward? The reason is that the Government is completely divided on one

question—the nature of a national park on Lord Howe Island. An incredible situation arose in this House when the Minister announced that if the Opposition would not oppose the legislation he would bring it in. How incredible that the Government should refuse to introduce legislation unless the Opposition gives an assurance that it will not oppose it. Is this the reforming government about which we have been told so much?

Mr Morris: Even if the Government had that assurance the legislation would still not have been brought forward.

Mr MASON: The honourable member for Maitland is correct. If the Opposition had taken the peculiar and unusual stand of saying to the Minister, "You are a nice fellow; we will not oppose the legislation", we would never have seen the bill brought in. There is no way in which the Government can resolve the divisions within its ranks concerning environment matters. It is common knowledge throughout the State that the reason why so little is being done is that the Government is divided within itself. The Opposition is ready to help the poor, deprived people of Lord Howe Island who are suffering grave hardship and discrimination.

Mr Gordon: For eleven years the Opposition did nothing for them.

Mr MASON: I drew up legislation in regard to Lord Howe Island and it would have been introduced but for the result of the elections in 1976. The Minister has had since 1976 to introduce that bill but he has refused to bring it in. It is a disgusting state of affairs. Many other pieces of legislation are in a similar category. The Opposition would like to know where the Government stands in relation to all the bills that have been returned from the Legislative Council. Important amendments were made there to the universities legislation. What is to happen about them? The House is assembled and members on this side are ready to debate those matters. We believe that the amendments that have been sent from the Legislative Council are of vital importance. The people of this State want an assurance that money that is compulsorily collected from university students will be applied only for university purposes and not misappropriated into all sorts of sleazy funds, as has occurred in the past.

Amendments have been made by the Legislative Council to other bills. You directed, Mr Speaker, that they be dealt with at a later hour of the day. What is happening to them? When the Leader of the House moved this special adjournment motion he made no reference to them or to the Industrial Arbitration (Reinstatement Awards) Bill and the Auctioneers and Agents (Amendment) Bill. Although the auctioneers legislation contained many good features and it was supported by us, the Opposition understands that because the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies did not like the amendments made to his bill by the Legislative Council, he has torn it up. He has taken his bat home and will not attempt to play the ball because he cannot have his way.

Why are these bills to be put into limbo? It is most disturbing that Ministers should make great public utterances that there would be fullscale debate on certain matters in the Parliament. Time and again we have heard that kind of announcement. The most recent was when the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways declared to all and sundry, including the press, that the Government would allow a fullscale debate in the Parliament on transport matters. I assure the Government that the Opposition believes it is expressing the opinion of the vast majority of the people of this State when it says that the public transport system is in the biggest mess that it has ever been in. The transport deficit increases at the rate of \$1,000 a minute; traffic flow on our roads is chaotic; public transport is often brought to a standstill; and there have been increases galore on country freights. Never has there been such a disastrous situation. The Minister promised a fullscale debate in this House but when the Leader of the Opposition sought such a debate the Premier squibbed it. Neither he nor the

Minister wanted to be in it. If this is the way the Parliament is to be run, with Ministers making misleading statements about permitting fullscale debates and refusing to do so when the opportunity arises, the situation is indeed most disturbing.

This is the second occasion within a couple of weeks when a special adjournment debate has taken place in this House. The Opposition does not know what is going on. This seems to be the perverse sort of way in which the Government feels the people should be served. This is the same Government whose leaders have declared—and unfortunately they still do in order to mislead the public—that they believe in open government. What hollow words they are falling from the lips of the leaders of the Government. In no way have we been able to be involved in some of the procedures that can lead to a better standard of debate, better procedures in this Parliament and better government. The Opposition is disturbed that it has come here for this half-hearted sitting. Parliament has received one report and now it is about to adjourn. Honourable members have not been informed of the date on which we shall meet again or whether Parliament is to be prorogued. It is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Mr EINFELD (Waverley), Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies [4.58]: I am delighted to support the motion moved by the Leader of the House and to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the honourable member for **Earlwood** who, having announced the date of his retirement, merits a great deal of praise for the way he has conducted his affairs over the many years that he has been a member of this Parliament. I speak as one who has engaged in debate, probably more often than any other member of this Parliament, with the honourable member for **Earlwood** during the time that he held ministerial responsibilities. I pay him the respect of saying that there was never a time when I found him without knowledge of the subject that he was debating. I always found him a most formidable opponent. Beating him consistently was quite a proposition and I found it always a big challenge.

The honourable member for **Earlwood** leaves this Parliament with the reputation of a man of good character and a man who merits a great deal of respect. You, Mr Speaker, will recall various meetings of the standing orders committee that we had with the honourable member for **Earlwood** when he was Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. You will recall the number of resolutions I moved and you seconded which the honourable member for **Earlwood** opposed and, having the majority with him, almost always won. When I moved the resolutions that you seconded and supported, I was in opposition; I then represented the Opposition on that committee. There were a number of standing orders that I wanted changed because I thought the Opposition was not getting a fair deal. The honourable member for **Earlwood**, with his outstanding ability, opposed almost every motion I moved. He had the majority to defeat them. In those days the standing orders committee had more members of the Liberal and Country parties than of the **Labor** Party, and the Speakers always supported the honourable member for **Earlwood**. I am delighted that on almost every occasion he defeated me, though at the time I thought—and I still think—that the motions which you and I moved, Mr Speaker, were meritorious and deserving of support. I now realize that the honourable member for **Earlwood** was very wise in opposing our motions. Every day as I stand here in my ministerial capacity I am beginning to appreciate more and more the honourable member for **Earlwood**'s sagacity in opposing many of the changes that you and I thought would improve the standing orders and conduce to free debate.

Sir Eric Willis: Things look different from over there.

Mr EINFELD: They do look entirely different from this side of the House. When I was on the other side of the House I used to look at those who held Ministerial office and think that a number of them were formidable. When I look at them now they are chickens; indeed, some of them are rabbits. So there is a great difference, depending on where one looks from. They do look different from this side of the House.

I do not intend to minimize the tribute I am paying to the honourable member for Earlwood, who has always steadfastly fought for the things in which he believes and has always earnestly and strongly debated the points that he put to Parliament. His resignation is a loss to the Parliament. In the Parliament he has demonstrated a good character and a sound understanding of what members of Parliament ought to be and ought to do. One must pay him that tribute. He earned the nickname "Stainless". I have never known exactly what this meant in its application to him. I readily agree that his personal character was without stain. He was without stain in the matters that he brought before the Parliament. That is without doubt. But he would use any way of winning an argument legally, within the standing orders, and I think he did. In that I pay him tribute. He was probably without stain. But I am not so certain that he was always stainless in the sense that he did not dance when he won victory over his opponents.

The honourable member for Earlwood has had a chequered career in this Parliament. He has risen to great heights. He became Premier of this State. He was Deputy Leader of his party for many years. Those were positions of honour, which he probably deserved to hold. I pay him that tribute. I am sure every member on this side will join with me in saying that we hope his retirement from this Parliament will not mean a cessation of all his activities. From now on he will be a farseeing character, for he has taken an office in the ophthalmological world which will give him a much more farseeing attitude than he has had in the past. This will benefit him greatly. I trust that he, Lady Willis and the members of his family will enjoy their memories of his stay in this Parliament and of the actions that he took on behalf of the citizens of Earlwood.

Today, when debating the adjournment of the Parliament, it is proper for members of the Opposition to attack the Government if they consider there are reasons why they should. I want to commend to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition a number of speeches published in *Hansard* that I made when I was Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He will make a better speech in the future if he uses them. Let me say quite clearly that there are always matters before Parliament which could well be attended to if we continued to sit. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows full well that all duties of parliamentarians do not stop when the Parliament is not sitting. All of us have duties to perform. Even if Parliament were to sit 365 days of the year, which I suppose it could do if we were physically able to do it, we should always find things to do for citizens that would help them in some way. After all, for eleven years when the former Government was in office we put up with complete neglect of the citizens of New South Wales. Merely to undo the things that were done by the former Government and to do the things that they should have done in those eleven years would probably keep us sitting every day for the next five or ten years, and even then we should probably not complete the task.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke of disrespect to His Excellency the Governor. That is certainly a long way from the truth. Nobody in this Parliament that I know, whether an anti-Royalist or a strong Royalist, would want to show disrespect to His Excellency the Governor, whom we all venerate as a great Australian and one of the great Governors, if not the greatest, that we have had. That would not be a good thing for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to press. He made

reference to the bill dealing with auctioneers and agents. The Government gave Parliament the opportunity to review an Act that had been in operation for forty-one years. One of its provisions would have replaced a chairman who was 79 years of age. Members of the Opposition here and in another place moved that all present officers and members of the council should remain in office until the expiry of their terms in May, 1979. The chairman is already 79 years old. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and others in this Parliament wanted to delay for six months a bill which provided that up to \$200,000 be paid to those who were in debt or in trouble because a member of the real estate agents' institute had robbed them. They tried to delay that bill for six months.

Mr Mason: That is not true.

Mr EINFELD: The honourable member voted to delay the bill for six months.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Dubbo has already contributed to the debate.

Mr ETNFELD: Included in the bill was the proposal of the Government raising from \$50,000 to \$200,000 the amount that any client of one licensee should be able to obtain from a fidelity fund that now holds \$2.4 million. Yet the Opposition wanted to delay the bill. In another place the bill was amended in ridiculous fashion. We do not have time today to deal with the amended situation. There was no offer by the Opposition asking members of the Government to change various aspects or to come to some arrangement in regard to these things. Therefore what is put by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is simply by way of figurative opposition to an adjournment motion that is proper at this time. Again I commend to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition the reading of some good speeches on why the adjournment should not take place; if he looks at *Hansard* he will find such speeches made by me when I held the august position that he now holds. The motion moved by the Leader of the House is a good one. It is in proper form, and it should be supported.

Mr PUNCH (Gloucester). Leader of the Country Party [5.10]: On behalf of my colleagues in the Country Party I wish to be associated with the remarks of the Attorney-General on the impending retirement of the honourable member for Earlwood. Also on behalf of my colleagues I pay tribute to his tremendous contribution to the work of this Parliament over a long period. Twenty-eight years is a long time for anyone to serve in one area, particularly in Parliament. The fact that Sir Eric has been continuously returned by the electors of Earlwood with a handsome majority reflects the high repute in which he is held by them. I have no doubt that the same support will be given to his successor, the next Liberal Party candidate for that seat.

The remarks made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and by the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies deserve support. Nobody in this Parliament has made a greater contribution to the debates that have taken place here, or to the operation of Parliament, or to the general behaviour of members over the years than has the honourable member for Earlwood. Nobody in this Parliament could claim to have made a greater contribution to public administration generally, first in Opposition for many years up to 1965, and then as a responsible and successful Minister of the Crown, culminating in a term as Premier after eleven years of Liberal-Country party government. He discharged his responsibilities as a Minister of the Crown with great dignity and responsibility at all times. For that he deserves the thanks of honourable members and the citizens of New South Wales

The honourable member for Earlwood was ably assisted at all stages throughout those years by his wife, Lady Willis, who contributed in her own way to a considerable degree. She is a charming person who has made many friends and done a great deal of work. I am sure Sir Eric would be the first to acknowledge the value of her assistance in carrying out his own tasks and responsibilities. Having worked with him closely over the years, I can say he is a man for whom I have a high regard and great admiration. This Parliament will be the poorer for his resignation.

Sir ERIC WILLIS (Earlwood) [5.12]: It would seem from what has been said that the House is to be prorogued some time before the date mentioned in the motion. If the House is to be prorogued, because of my announced intention to retire in June this will be the last opportunity I shall have of being present at a sitting of Parliament. Accordingly, I crave your indulgence, Mr Speaker, and that of the House, to say a few words by way of a swansong, though I do not profess to have the grace of a swan or to be able to sing.

I reached my decision to resign after a great deal of careful thought. As has been said by other members, by the time I retire I shall have been a member of Parliament for almost twenty-eight years. Give or take a month or two, that is half my life. During that time I have gone from being a {backbencher in opposition to Deputy Leader of the Opposition, to Minister, to Premier, to Leader of the Opposition; and back to being a backbencher in opposition. I have completed the full cycle. I thought it was time I sat down and gave some thought to whether I could make any further contribution. I reached the conclusion that I could, but on balance I felt it would be wise to retire from politics while I was still young enough to begin something new, and long before people reached the point of saying, "Why on earth doesn't he get out?" The alternatives, in my view, would have been to sit on the backbench, do nothing, say nothing, and quickly go to seed, or to participate in debate vigorously and quickly be accused of trying to upstage my successor. The one thing I never want to be accused of is disloyalty to my leader or to my party. For all those and other personal reasons I decided that this was an appropriate time for me to get out.

I should like to express my gratitude to a great number of people, but time requires that I be brief. During the twenty-eight years I have been in this Parliament I have found the experience rewarding in every sense of the term. That experience has made a profound impact on me. I thank my Liberal Party and Country Party colleagues in this Parliament, both those who are here now and those who have gone ahead of me. I worked with them over a long period through thick and thin. I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party for their kind remarks this afternoon. Whatever differences there are between members of the same political party—and there are many, as there will be in any organization with such differing persons in it—they are minimal compared with those that divide us from members of the opposing party. Those of us who believe in individual freedom and free enterprise are divided by a wide chasm from those who have pledged themselves to bring in socialism at some time in the future.

I thank the Attorney-General and the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies, and through them the Premier and all supporters of the Government, for their courtesies. The Attorney-General is also Leader of the House, a position that I occupied for ten years. In many ways I sympathize with him on occasion in the difficulties he encounters, though I cannot but smile at seeing him in such difficulties, which he always thought were of no consequence when he was in opposition. My old sparring partner, the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister

for Co-operative Societies, was shadow minister when I was Minister in the same area of responsibility. He and I crossed swords so many times that ultimately we came to like each other personally, though we never seemed to agree politically.

I express my warm thanks to you, Mr Speaker, and through you to the officers of the House, the members of the Hansard staff, the staff of the Parliamentary Library and other members of the staff of Parliament House for the co-operation and support I have had from them over the years. It would take me too long to enumerate the details, but I have appreciated their assistance greatly. In expressing my thanks I include the members of my personal staff when I was Leader of the Opposition and members of the staff of the various departments for which I had ministerial responsibility. In particular I thank Mrs Ruth Matthaai, my private secretary for so many years, whom I shall be sorry to leave behind. She has given me loyal and dedicated service over a long period.

I say through you, Mr Speaker, to the members of the parliamentary press gallery and to all members of the media here and elsewhere, that I am grateful for their treatment of me. I did not always agree with the way they reported me, but by and large I got along pretty well with the media. They have a difficult job, and I can understand why one cannot always appreciate what they say. I thank particularly the Liberal Party organization throughout the State, and especially the organization in the electorate of Earlwood. The members of that organization have given me a great deal of help during my years in politics. I could not have had more loyalty and support than I was given by the local Liberal Party organization. I take this opportunity of expressing in Parliament my gratitude for that, as I do to the people of the electorate of Earlwood, who showed confidence in me at ten elections between 1950 and 1976. It has been a great honour and pleasure to serve them.

Finally, I should like to express in public my sincere thanks to my wife and family for their loyal support and forbearance over the years. All honourable members appreciate that being a member of Parliament is something of a family business. One's wife must act as an unpaid secretary and assistant. One's family has to go without the presence of the husband and father on many occasions. I have never had any complaints from the members of my family about that state of affairs, though I must say that I have never seen a happier bunch than they were when I told them I had decided to announce my resignation.

On looking back over twenty-eight years, I see many things that have remained the same, and I see many things that have changed. My belief in the parliamentary system, as it has evolved over the past 1 000 years, has remained undiminished. The system might not be perfect, but it is easily the best of all the systems of government in the world. It is the nearest thing to the famous words of Abraham Lincoln—government of the people, for the people, by the people. I think that we, the members of this great institution, should do everything we possibly can on all occasions to ensure that the reputation and importance of Parliament are maintained. Also, we should be ever vigilant to ensure that nobody does anything to diminish the importance, power and respect of the parliamentary institution.

I have been concerned in recent times about certain trends away from that system. I am concerned about the growing power of the executive government at the expense of the legislature. I am concerned at the tendency these days—and it is growing every month—to couch bills in general terms and to leave all the details to be promulgated by regulation. This removes from the legislature to the executive the real power and responsibility in the community, and takes away from the area of public debate the real controls that are exercised or are intended to be exercised over the people. In that sort of trend I see the seeds of bureaucracy and totalitarianism.

Not much is done at first to implement these bureaucratic and totalitarian intentions, and any suggestion about this trend by people like me is ridiculed. But wait until after the election. If the present Government is returned, the true intentions of its legislation will be revealed.

Recent legislation has given almost unlimited powers to power-drunk Ministers. These bills have come forward in increasing numbers in recent times. They relate to price control, consumer protection, the energy industry, the mining industry, the real estate industry, travel agents and the dairy industry. I could go on giving examples. Always, these activities are dealt with one at a time. The Government is using the traditional technique of picking off people one at a time when their lone voice in opposition is weak. At the same time, the Government gives assurances that the powers contained in the bills may not really ever be exercised, that they are included only to cover the remote possibility of their being needed at some future time. But they always provide the potential for dictatorships—and unfortunately they will be legal dictatorships because the bills have been approved by Parliament.

Of course, there is no flagrant dictatorship or socialism in New South Wales yet; that will not come until after the gerrymander that will follow the next election, if Labor wins. That is why the Premier has told his Ministers to lay off anything controversial in the coming months. He has told them, "We must sail into the polling booths on tranquil waters. Therefore we must not do anything to stir up the mud at the bottom of the pool." That is why they will all be forced to save up these intentions until after the next election. The Minister for Lands, for example, has been told to drop suggestions about controlling real estate agents. That is why the Premier last weekend, without consultation with the Minister for Education, decided upon a series of education seminars though an inquiry is already proceeding on the same subject. The real reason is that the Premier knows that the Minister for Education has the Teachers Federation tiger by the tail and cannot let go, and the best thing to do with the controversial education commission is to leave it until after the elections. "By doing this," he says, "you will not get the teachers, the private schools and the parents offside. Indeed, you must not get anyone offside until after the election. Then, when you get the electorates gerrymandered, it does not matter who is offside."

For this reason, we hear nothing now about local government and county council amalgamations. They have been postponed until after the elections. Then it will be a different matter: out will come all the local government amalgamations. The protests from the community will not matter because Labor will be entrenched. This is a long-term scheme.

All I can say is that, if the election goes Labor's way and that happens, heaven help private enterprise in the State of New South Wales. There will be more bills of the type we have seen recently. I referred a moment ago to the fact that there will be more and stricter regulations of the type to which I have referred. Out from under the counter will come the things from the Australian Labor Party policy that have been put away out of sight since before the last elections. For example, I refer to a proposal in the Labor Party platform to have half the membership of the boards of corporations composed of trade union representatives. Of course, the Premier has assured us that this will definitely not be brought in during this Parliament, but he has not assured us that it will not be brought in during the next Parliament. He is hoping that the public will not be reminded of this plank in the platform, which will lead to worker control in this State.

Also, we shall see more examples of the Government's contempt for the parliamentary institution and for the traditional procedures. Already in many ways we have seen major decisions made by Cabinet and by the Premier alone, without any

Sir Eric Willis]

parliamentary consent or allocation of funds by Parliament. When I announced my retirement from Parliament, that very night on television the Premier told all the people who were watching all the television channels that when I tendered my resignation Cabinet would decide when the by-election would be held. That was in contempt of you, Mr Speaker, and in complete disregard of the law of this State. The law says—and the Premier, as a lawyer, knows it—that you, Mr Speaker, as the custodian of the rights of this House, decide the date of by-elections. Has the Premier come to assume that he makes the decision, and that you simply are the puppet at the end of the string who carries it out? We have seen many examples of the Premier, directly or through his leader of the House, telegraphing messages in this House, hoping that Mr Speaker will do the Government's bidding, as otherwise it might be embarrassing for the Government.

The fact is that this Premier and Government have now put themselves above the law. This is a very dangerous trend. I do not want to start talking about nude bathing beaches, gambling casinos and other police matters in which the Premier has instructed the law enforcement officers of this State not to enforce the law. He has done this without coming to Parliament and asking that the law be changed. Also, we have seen examples of expenditure of large sums of public money on purely political party propaganda, without any authority from Parliament. I am referring to notices in railway carriages and advertisements in newspapers. Only last week there was an unprecedented use of the grounds of Government House by the Labor Party for a propaganda exercise, involving the spending of public money without any authority, in the hope of winning the confidence of the older citizens of this State.

My proof of that is in the newspaper reports and in the Labor Party handout from the Premier's Department propaganda machine. It said that the Premier had had a busy day. One of the items in his busy day was that he had "co-hosted" with His Excellency the Governor a garden party in the grounds of Government House. When I read the vice-regal notices—these are always factual, although in very small print; they are issued not by a propaganda machine but by the dignified staff of Government House, which maintains the truth in all circumstances—the item said that His Excellency had attended a garden party at Government House. It did not say that the Governor had co-hosted a garden party. The Premier was obviously trying to use the honourable name of the Queen's representative, and the public purse, to ingratiate himself in the public mind. He implied that the Governor and he were buddy buddies, and that in effect the Governor was supporting the Labor Premier of this State. This was a **very** cheap attempt indeed by the Government to gain support. Its supporters have stooped to the point of spending public money without authority and falsely claiming that the Queen's representative was in partnership with their political party. I do not know how much further they could get from the honourable standards of the parliamentary institution.

This House, this very week, is seething with the rumour that the Labor Party has files of muck-raking rubbish, which it will pour on five or six members of the Opposition. That will be the only mud that Government supporters will stir up in the next few months. They will attempt the character assassination of a few members of the Opposition, one by one. This is public information throughout the House. I do not know whether the material came from the special branch of the Police Department, but the fact is that the only activity of any consequence in the Labor Party at the moment is the collecting of all possible innuendoes and propaganda, with a view to pouring out this material in an attempt at character assassination of distinguished members of the Opposition. Government supporters think that will win them support in the community. Regrettably, this type of thing will go on while the Labor Party remains in government. It has always happened with previous Labor governments, whether State or federal.

That is but one of the reasons why I shall always be a Liberal. I want to lay to rest once and for all any suggestion that I am getting out of Parliament because I have any quarrel or disagreement with the philosophy or the personalities of my political party. This nation of ours and this State of New South Wales became the great place that it is through the individual efforts and enterprise of its free citizens. It did not become the great place that it used to be to work in and to live in through a socialist system of administration. Its current progress has been slowed down by the socialist Government now in office and it will not get moving again until it is once more under a Liberal government.

As I go I appeal to the people of New South Wales, not only those in my own electorate of **Earlwood** but also those throughout New South Wales, to get rid of this Labor Government as quickly as possible and replace it with a Liberal—Country party government before it is too late. I trust that the power and influence of Parliament, which after all means the people, will be restored and strengthened in the years that lie ahead. I hope that New South Wales will be restored as the premier State of Australia through a Liberal—Country party government before it is completely ruined by the Government now in office.

Mr CAMERON (Northcott) [5.32]: I want to identify myself with what has been said about the honourable member for Earlwood. I regard my colleague as one of the great parliamentarians I have seen at work in this House. I admire his talents and always have done. I admire the gracious manner in which he has accepted the reversals which have been part of his life and the nobility with which he has accepted the great triumphs of his political career which have included attainment of the highest office in the government in New South Wales, the premiership of the foundation State of Australia. At a personal level I recall an evening a little more than twenty-eight years ago when the honourable member for Earlwood was then a young man, and I was much younger. I was present in the corridors of that venerable building in Ash Street, Sydney, when he lost preselection for, I think, the federal seat of Evans. However, such was the impression that he made upon those involved that they came to him in the corridors and said, "We must get you to stand for the seat of Lang". He did so and fought a magnificent campaign.

Fortuitously for this House, out of the seat of Lang was created the beautiful Liberal seat of Earlwood which he has represented ever since. I regard Sir Eric Willis as a man of outstanding talents. He has an absolutely gargantuan aptitude for work and he has demonstrated this throughout his career. He has an intense flair for detail and a preparedness to work around the clock getting down to the smallest detail of every issue with which he has to deal. We know that he has tackled the biggest jobs that the Parliament can throw at him and has carried them out in a magnificent manner. He has proved himself a tremendous debater on the floor of the House. I say these things with every ounce of sincerity that I can muster.

Mr Stewart: Then why did you not vote for him?

Mr CAMERON: I did, on every occasion when I had the opportunity, and I say that with great pride and satisfaction. The honourable member for Earlwood has been a victim of circumstances. The advent of the electronic news media threw into highlight facile attributes of political personality which he does not possess. The particular talents that he does possess are talents which at any other stage would have qualified him for leadership of this House and for consideration as one of the great Premiers, Liberal or Labor, of this State. I pay that tribute to him with a great deal of sincerity saying as strongly as I can that the House will never be able to replace him and the contributions that he has made.

This special adjournment debate is a most important one. Mr Speaker, you have given a number of rulings concerning the content of debate on this motion. With great humility I have studied carefully those rulings. I believe them to be slightly more restrictive than the rulings which have prevailed in previous times. You have made it clear that in debating the motion for a special adjournment honourable members may refer to issues that might be raised in giving reasons why the House should not adjourn at this stage. You have pointed out that they may not debate the question on that point.

Mr Speaker, in your rulings you have made it clear that honourable members may raise issues that should be debated. You have said that honourable members, when speaking against the motion for a special adjournment, may make brief reference to salient points that affect particularly their constituents and in the opinion of honourable members ought to be debated immediately and not on the date to which the motion relates.

I am interested in matters which stand on the business paper. These include notices of motions on a vast number of subjects. The motion standing in the name of the honourable member for South Coast deals with the mining and export of uranium. That is a matter which I believe should be debated by the House, though the views of the honourable member for South Coast are totally divergent from my own. Nevertheless, I should like to see that subject debated. However, it does not hold anything like the interest of another issue raised by two other honourable members.

The honourable member for Illawarra, in notice of motion No. 2, proposes to move that leave be given to bring in a bill for an Act to amend the Crimes Act, 1900, in relation to the procurement of abortion and for certain other purposes. The honourable member is seeking to sweep away the law of abortion. In contrast, there is another motion that I believe ought to be debated. That is my own motion on the business paper calling for stronger abortion laws. I do not want to see the House adjourned. Even if it were able to debate only the motion relating to the mining and export of uranium I should be glad to see that happen. But I should much rather see debated the issue of abortion upon which the honourable member for Illawarra and I strive to present to the House two different points of view. I should like the opportunity to put to the House facts about Population Services International. Radical feminists have described it as a cafeteria-style abortion system under which sterilization procedures are neglected and instruments boiled for only three to five minutes, thus increasing the chance of infection being passed from one patient to another.

These radical feminists went on to say that all but one operating doctor failed to use the no-touch technique and wore plastic, disposable, non-sterile gloves. They said that health workers frequently observed doctors smoking during an abortion and sometimes eating and drinking in the operating theatre. Here we have a great issue crying out for debate—triggered by people who passionately champion abortion on demand. These radical women—and I have been quoting from the Women's Liberation newsletter—are indicating that the abortion system that the Wran Labor Government is tolerating in New South Wales is intrinsically a health risk, that sloppy procedures are being used and that unsafe methods are in vogue. These women liberationists point out that a Queensland organization named Children by Choice—a Brisbane referral agency—sends 6 000 pregnant women a year to PSI in Sydney and that this would mean an annual cash return of \$900,000 a year, and that is in respect of only one facet of the operation. They claim that, in reality, the total cash flow involved is almost \$2 million a year.

These women point out also that when these Brisbane women arrive in Sydney, the pressure from overbooking is acute. They say that no real appointment system is in operation at PSI, that patients are block-booked and they have to wait many hours before they are seen. They say, also, that patients have to stand or sit on the floor, and are shunted around in large numbers at the convenience of the management, thus producing a process-line atmosphere. The newsletter points out that statements such as "I feel like I have been through a carwash". and "It feels like a sausage factory" were heard almost daily at PSI. These women say that patients returning to Brisbane were sometimes dressed and walked to a taxi while still recovering from their general anaesthetic and that as they got into the taxi they were heard to ask, "How did I get here?" They are not my words—they are the words of these radical women feminists, people whom the Attorney-General has championed and the honourable member for Illawarra serves.

These women go on to say that PSI policy is to give general anaesthetics for an abortion and to avoid local anaesthetics except in special circumstances. They add that workers at PSI noted that very little effort was made to ascertain when these special circumstances were operative and that no attempt was made to discuss the advantages of either method. The newsletter points out that the use of general anaesthetics allowed this entrepreneur, Dr Geoffrey Davis, to perform an average of eight abortions an hour, and that at \$110 an abortion it meant that he was pulling in \$880 an hour.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Northcott in his opening remarks drew attention to rulings that he said I have given. I do not agree that those rulings were specifically mine; they were rulings that the honourable member gave quite often when he occupied the Chair. The honourable member has been speaking for some considerable time on the order of the day on the business paper standing in his name. I remind him again that members may speak against a lengthy adjournment by making brief reference to salient points of matters that particularly **affect** their constituencies and which, in their opinion, ought to be debated without waiting as long as is proposed in the motion. I draw the honourable member's attention to that ruling and ask him to come to the reasons why he says the House should not adjourn and should get on with other business.

Mr CAMERON: I am interested by a large number of notices of motion appearing on the business paper. One notice of motion is in the name of the honourable member for Oxley and another in the name of the honourable member for Pittwater. All of these matters are, as it were, background material which is subsidiary to this one great cause which I shall not develop any further. I hoped that I should have got support from the honourable member for Illawarra. Although he wishes to put the directly opposite point of view. I know that he feels as passionately as I do on the issue of abortion. I believe it is extremely important that the Parliament ought to get down to matters that really count rather than going into recess for a protracted period.

Mr MALLAM (Campbelltown) [5 45]: I wish to compliment the Leader of the House for the language he used here today in reference to the honourable member for Earlwood. I compliment, also, the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies for the way in which he spoke about the honourable member for Earlwood. However, I was amazed to find the honourable member for Earlwood using this occasion to cast innuendos about certain people and to refer to their keeping dossiers. I should have thought the honourable member would have used the occasion to retire gracefully. Upon reflection he may wish he had done so. Since the honourable member for Earlwood has been a member of this House many things went on that I

did not approve of. I refer in particular to his walking in on a returning officer and attempting to influence him into reversing his decision after an election that returned me to Parliament.

I have been a member of this Parliament for almost thirty years and during that time I have heard plenty of speeches. The Attorney-General made some nice comments about the honourable member for Earlwood and the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies almost bent over backwards in praising him. However, the honourable member for Earlwood used this occasion on his last day in the Parliament to attack decent people. As I listened to the honourable member, I was shocked to think that after twenty-eight years service in this place, after enjoying all the privileges given to him as a member of this House, he could not depart gracefully. I was tossed out of this House for two years because I attacked the H. G. Palmer organization. Although I was the victim of a redistribution I said that I bore no ill-will and that I had a great respect for the parliamentary institution.

It shocked me today to hear a man who has been knighted claim that Government supporters were collecting dossiers on people and doing other evil things. I am proud to be a member of a government that has compassion for people. The honourable member for Earlwood attacked the Premier for going to Government House and entertaining some of our senior citizens. If the honourable member's party had been in office, it would have invited only the snob mob from Vaucluse—not the ordinary people in the community. The honourable member for Earlwood implied that the Premier had committed a great crime by helping to entertain our senior citizens. He could not even depart gracefully by praising the wonderful thing the Premier had done by entertaining these elderly citizens and pouring out a cup of tea for an old lady of 90 years. The honourable member even attempted to denigrate the Governor. He should realize that everybody respects the Governor.

The honourable member for Earlwood shocked me by his attitude, just as he must have shocked his own colleagues. He even attacked his former leader who is still a member of this House and will be entitled to draw a pension from this place. The honourable member for Earlwood will receive a higher pension because he is going out of here in a hurry—and that could be the driving force in his decision to retire. I hope that I never again witness the sort of behaviour in an adjournment debate after the Leader of the House rises to pay tribute to a member for having served twenty-eight years—almost a lifetime—in this place. Some people say that people who get life serve only twenty years. Every member of this Parliament gives a great deal more service than people realize. A member's wife and every member of his family help him to do his job here. It is fitting that the Attorney-General and the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies should have been so eloquent in their tribute to the honourable member for Earlwood, but I hope that I never hear another honourable member make a similar speech on the occasion of his retirement from this Parliament.

Mr BOYD (Byron) [5.49]: I rise to make a few brief remarks because I believe that the people of the Byron electorate would like me to pay tribute to the honourable member for Earlwood, Sir Eric Willis, on his retirement from this House. Sir Eric was born in the Tweed district, and I had the privilege of attending secondary school with him. As a matter of fact, we were in the same class. I have known the honourable member for Earlwood since I was 11 years of age. He was always the top boy in his class. Moreover, he was a great athlete and one who took up a challenge on every conceivable occasion. Every member of the class to which we belonged, tried to beat Sir Eric Willis at least once in every twelve months. The students in the class applied themselves to the formidable task of equalling him, if not excelling him, on the odd occasion. It is no secret that it was a top class because of that constant competition.

Sir Eric Willis is a man of great integrity. He is one of a family of three boys who were born in the little village of Tyalgum. His father worked in the Norco factory as a storeman. I have been intrigued on occasions when honourable members on the Government side have referred to Sir Eric as a silvertail. The fact is that he was born of humble parents. They were fine parents of whom any man would be proud. Eric and his brothers Max and Darcy—who is not in politics—did not let that deter them in any way. They set their sights on higher education and won every scholarship available to them. Subsequently they became distinguished people in the community. It was no surprise to me when Sir Eric Willis became Premier of New South Wales. Anybody who had seen him at school would have appreciated his talents. It was clear that he would get to the top, irrespective of how long it took. The great pity was that he was not Premier for longer. Had he had more time to exercise some of his wisdom and ability in the office of Premier the State would have been a great deal better for it.

The extraordinary thing is that a number of fairly highly placed political people have lived in the town of Murwillumbah. The former Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Sir Francis Nicklin, was educated and grew up in Murwillumbah. The Hon. Sir Harry Budd, President of the upper House was also a Murwillumbah boy. So was Senator Neville Bonner, who is making a mark in the federal political field. The Rt Hon. J. D. Anthony was a product of Murwillumbah high school. Not many high schools have made such a contribution to the political scene in the State or federal parliaments.

Mr Mallam: What about John Boyd?

Mr BOYD: I do not put myself in that class. I do not have any illusions about my greatness in this House. I am sure that those people would recognize that Sir Eric Willis is possibly their peer. He has had to fight his way up from the grass roots. He has done it so well that I can stand here and say: "Well done, Eric. The people of the Tweed Valley appreciate the contribution you have made to the Parliament of New South Wales. We are indeed proud of you."

Mr McDONALD (Kirribilli) [5.54]: I also shall be brief because the night is getting quite long. I join with my colleagues on this side of the House in the remarks of the Leader of the House and others congratulating Sir Eric Willis on twenty-eight years service in the Parliament. During that time he has held many positions in the ranks of the Government and the Opposition. It could truly be said that he has made his mark on Parliament. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to serve with him for a long time—it was less than two years—but I have welcomed the encouragement that he gave me both before I entered the House and during the time I have been here. I am sure the constituents of Kirribilli will welcome the fact that Sir Eric Willis has gone out in the manner he has. Those who attend the conferences of my party look forward to seeing a lot more of Sir Eric and Lady Norma.

I cannot refrain from making some reference to the mendacity of the Minister for Consumer Affairs and the Minister for Co-operative Societies. This afternoon when the Minister spoke in this debate he mentioned the legislation that was supposed to be before the House, the Auctioneers and Agents (Amendment) Bill. He was involved in a continuation of the deception that he has carried on over recent weeks and particularly——

Mr F. J. Walker: On a point of order. A wise Speaker ruled that honourable members may briefly refer to matters that require action but may not indulge in personal attacks on honourable members. That is what the honourable member for

Kirribilli is doing. You, Mr Speaker, have already intimated that an honourable member may make passing reference only to these matters. Issues requiring examination may be specified but not debated.

Mr Mason: On the point of order. When the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies spoke during the debate he made specific reference to the matter to which the honourable member for Kirribilli is now referring. I called out and objected strongly that the Minister was not correct. The honourable member for Kirribilli is merely referring to matter that is already the subject of debate.

Mr SPEAKER: The question of replying to matters raised in debate is probably the whole essence of debate. Nevertheless I can only remind the honourable member for Kirribilli that the question before the Chair is, That the House at its rising this day, do adjourn until Tuesday, 20th June, 1978. The matters that the honourable member for Kirribilli may raise are matters on the business paper or any other matters that he feels should be debated before the House adjourns, but he may make only passing reference to them. He cannot introduce new matter or enter into extensive debate.

Mr McDONALD: I am referring to the second item on the business paper, the Auctioneers and Agents (Amendment) Bill. In a press release given on 16th March last the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies intimated that he proposed to drop the bill entirely for the reason that it was allegedly emasculated by the upper House. I referred earlier to the deception of the Minister. It related to an article in the *Bondi Spectator* on 23rd March. This appears under his name in an article entitled "Your State Minister Speaks":

The Legislative Council's refusal to pass my Bill affecting the Auctioneers and Agents Council during the week has had a disastrous effect on 120 people who have lost more than \$170,000 in dealings with a Dee Why estate agent.

The deception of the Minister in relation to the legislation and the reason why it should be before the House constitute the point I am trying to make. The Minister used also these words:

But the Legislative Council spent such time hacking the bill about that it couldn't be returned to the Legislative Assembly before it closed down for the end of the session.

The session has not yet closed but the Minister was blaming the Legislative Council in relation to legislation that is still on the business paper and should have been debated by the House. That is the prime reason why the House should not adjourn. If it does not adjourn the truth can come out. The statements made by the Minister on this legislation are untrue. He was not willing, because of his petulance, to accept the amendments of the upper House which in no way amended the recommendations by the Council of Auctioneers and Agents brought before the House and incorporated in the bill.

If the legislation were debated and accepted by this House as amended by the Legislative Council, the people concerned with Shamrock Real Estate would be protected. In truth the Minister—not the Legislative Council—is causing the 120 people, who face a loss of \$170,000, to suffer. If the recommendations of the Council of Auctioneers and Agents had remained untouched, the legislation would have passed through this House and thus consumers and those concerned with Shamrock Real Estate would have been protected. There is no question that in the minds of the Opposition—and it will become increasingly obvious in the minds of the public—the

whole attitude and the mendacity of the Minister was to gain control of the council. That was the plan; not the protection of consumers, particularly those who would have been protected by the legislation if it had been permitted to be carried.

Motion agreed to.

JOINT COMMITTEE UPON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Mr O'CONNELL (Peats) [6.1]: I bring up and lay upon the table of the House the report and minutes of proceedings of and evidence taken before the Joint Committee of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly upon Pecuniary Interests for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 15th September, 1976.

Ordered to be printed.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

Thirty-ninth Report

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

ADJOURNMENT

Public Hospital Pathology Services

Mr F. J. WALKER (Georges River), Attorney-General [6.2]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr CAMERON (Northcott) [6.2]: I wish to raise an important issue that deals with the regionalization of pathology services in public hospitals. This matter has a history that displays all the classic features of public service empire building and from the outset gave rise to a potential for corruption. Summarizing it as best I can, as I see it the regionalization programme is being pursued despite some evidence that it cannot be justified economically. Such evidence has been suppressed by the Health Commission of New South Wales, particularly by those senior officers who support regionalization.

Although I do not say that the Minister for Health is directly implicated, he is indirectly implicated. Late in 1977 he refused a request to re-examine the economics of the scheme before it was further developed. That request was made by the Australian Medical Association, the Royal College of Pathologists, the Public Service Association, the Institute of Medical Technologists, the Health and Research Employees' Association and the Association of Clinical Biochemists. The programme is at present being implemented by inducement and even coercion, contrary to an assurance given by the Hospitals Commission that professional bodies would be consulted before the scheme was extended. Sophisticated computers and diagnostic machines are used in regional pathology laboratories. Senior officers of the Health Commission who have pressed for regionalization have, it seems, upon the basis of what the fraud squad inquiry has indicated, accepted gifts from computer companies and/or pharmaceutical suppliers.

The fraud squad investigated irregularities regarding computers in the Health Commission. It was taken off the job at the request of the chairman of the commission. A public service inquiry has replaced the police investigation. Real fears are held that

much of what the fraud squad discovered is not going to be rediscovered. The policy of rationalizing public hospital pathology services has had fashionable support for some years. An *ad hoc* subcommittee of the Hospitals Commission reported in 1970 that it would be economically and professionally desirable to establish a central pathology laboratory in each metropolitan hospital region. The major argument in support of this conclusion was financial: regional laboratories equipped with computers and automatic analysing machines would absorb the pathology services of satellite hospitals in their regions, thereby reducing the labour component and avoiding duplication of diagnostic equipment.

I have had the opportunity to look at a multiplicity of reports of various kinds. First I saw the Gormly report. Later I saw a further report prepared by several unnamed authors, which left out much of the Gormly report. The essence of what is involved is this: if one regionalizes pathology services, one requires enormously expensive new computers. They operate upon the basis that, although the unit cost of pathology tests by them is lower, they can operate efficiently only if an enormous battery of tests is run. In point of fact nobody really needs all the tests. So to justify their economics, one has to instal machines and run these enormous numbers of unnecessary tests at regionalized locations. Once one opts for a particular machine one is entirely dependent upon its manufacturer for the supply of expensive re-agents to keep that particular equipment operating. Then that manufacturer tends to supersede that machine and quickly introduce a new machine. All of this creates, as we have seen in another jurisdiction as it were, an obvious opportunity for pressure agents acting on behalf of particular manufacturers to cuddle up to decision-makers within the system for the purpose of having their particular equipment chosen. They are then assured thereafter of a constant demand for their re-agents and so on.

It is not a matter of dispute between the Minister and myself. Already he has made some comment in the news media about it and mentioned that the fraud squad had been called in. The Minister is reported as saying, "If any criminal activity is disclosed I will recommend action." I assert without any equivocation at all that it is clear that the fraud squad disclosed massive evidence of criminal activity, not affecting merely one man but affecting up to thirty individuals. Because somebody got wind of the implications, the fraud squad inquiry was called off and a Public Service Board inquiry was substituted. Who can say where the ill will lies? The plain fact is that that inquiry is not getting co-operation. People closely connected with the A.M.A. and other professional bodies are concerned that a cover-up operation is running. This is the Minister's opportunity to make the position completely clear and to challenge any of the facts that I have put to him. He has all the documents that I have. They run to a thick wad of technological matter. The key man, the key decision-maker—and, if I am challenged to name him, be sure that I shall name him—has resigned, allegedly because of overwork. I put strongly to the House that this creates a situation of great **alarm**. The Minister is responsible to the extent that, first, he should never have permitted the fraud squad to be called off.

Mr Stewart: It would be helpful if I were to know who it was that resigned from overwork.

Mr CAMERON: Has the Minister heard of Dr Frank Radcliffe?

Mr Stewart: Yes, I have heard of him. Has he resigned because of **overwork**?

Mr CAMERON: He has not resigned from all his activities, as I understand it, but he has resigned from the critical capacity. He was promoted to the key **decision-making** role in respect of this equipment and he no longer occupies that position. These are matters of grave concern. Without any animosity, heat, venom or anything of that kind I simply ask the Minister to make a further investigation of the matter.

Mr STEWART (Canterbury), Minister for Health [6.10]: The allegations made by the honourable member for Northcott are not correct. Dr Radcliffe is not an employee of the Health Commission of New South Wales or of the Public Service Board of New South Wales. He is responsible, under the terms of his employment, solely to the board of the Royal North Shore Hospital—that august body that has the support and confidence of the honourable member for Northcott, the honourable member for Eastwood and the Leader of the Opposition. If any snide remarks or allegations are to be made about an inquiry being called off or the police being asked not to continue with inquiries, that is a distinct and direct allegation against the board of the Royal North Shore Hospital and certainly not against me as Minister for Health.

Investigations have been going on concerning computers and contracts within the Health Commission and the hospitals system in New South Wales. I shall not mention the other hospital involved but it operates under its own Act of Parliament and does not come under my control very much at all. It is one of the largest health and hospital institutions in this State. No one has given instructions to the police to cease inquiries. Only today the chairman of the Health Commission, Dr McKewan, told me that as late as last week he had been talking with the police officer investigating the matter. It is still being investigated. If I were the honourable member for Northcott I should check to see whether my advisers were acting because they had the public interest at heart or because they had some sort of personal animosity towards regionalization of pathology services throughout New South Wales. If there is one thing that has succeeded in containing health costs in this State, it is the regionalization and rationalization of certain services. That was instituted by the Liberal-Country party Government before the Labor Party became the Government in 1976. It was instituted by Ministers for Health of the political colour of the honourable member for Northcott. It has been supported by me.

The honourable member talked about having one unit or one service for the whole of the region being an opportunity for a computer firm to capture the market in that region. What he would suggest as an alternative is that every hospital in New South Wales should have its own exotic, sophisticated, expensive machinery, all of them having the same pressures of utilization. I remind the honourable member that there are 270 hospitals in this State. In May of last year I visited the United States of America. In that land of free enterprise I found that, because the federal Government was alarmed at the over-utilization of exotic, sophisticated, expensive equipment, it worked on a needs basis. There are not many public hospital institutions in the United States of America, but before any private entrepreneur can instal this sophisticated equipment he has to convince the federal Government that there is a need in that region for the machinery and that it will be utilized. Perhaps the honourable member for Northcott wants to carry the flag for some employers in hospitals, or pathologists or a group of doctors who want that system. They do not mind rationalization or regionalization of pathology services as long as they carry them out for everyone in the region. That is the sort of pressure I am under. The honourable member can disabuse his mind of any notion that I or the chairman of the Health Commission asked the police to discontinue any investigation. The investigation is still proceeding.

[Interruption]

Mr STEWART: The fraud squad is conducting the investigation. It involved Dr Frank Radcliffe, who is an employee of the board of directors of the Royal North Shore Hospital. Perhaps all the sinister things that the honourable member imputes against me and the chairman of the Health Commission should be imputed against his own colleagues who are on the board of the Royal North Shore Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m. until Tuesday, 20th June, 1978.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

TEACHERS

Mr BOYD asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many women teachers in his department availed themselves of accouchement leave last financial year?
- (2) What are the precise conditions of this leave?
- (3) What **was** the total cost?

Answer—

(1) 1 505 teachers availed themselves of maternity leave in the 1976–77 financial year.

(2) The conditions of maternity leave are set out in Determination 12 of the Public Service Board of N.S.W. under Section 26 of the Teaching Service Act, 1970. Advice also is conveyed to teachers in the "Leaflet for Information of Teachers", and a statement concerning intermittent relief which is an amendment of section G contained in the aforementioned leaflet.

(Copies of these references will be made available to the Honourable Member for Byron.)

(3) Estimated cost of maternity leave payments assuming resumption of duty and required after service given—\$2,298,060, as at January, 1978.

(This figure takes into account payments actually made to teachers who sought payment in advance or after resumption of duty and payments which will be made if all other teachers resume duty and provide the required afterservice. No provision has been made for the payment of the employer's contributions to the State Superannuation Fund and the long term effect resulting from recognition of this leave as service.)

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) In view of the many predictions, made after last year's Higher School Certificate Examination results, that the numbers attempting 3 unit courses in the 1977 H.S.C. Examination would show a significant decline, will he table the entry numbers for the 1976 and 1977 H.S.C. Examinations at each unit level in each subject?

(2) If there has been a significant decline in 3 unit **enrolments**, will he ensure that this State's educational policy will not continue to produce young adults who neither possess nor value knowledge of our cultural and scientific heritage?

Answer —

(1) —

1976 Total Candidates—36 157

1977 Total, Candidates—35 754

| Subject | Course | No. of Candidates 1976 | Total per cent | No. of Candidates 1977 | Total per cent |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| English | 3 Unit | 3 577 | 9.89 | 2 037 | 5.70 |
| | 2 unit | 22 480 | 62.17 | 23 249 | 65.02 |
| | 2 Unit A | 9 476 | 26.20 | 9 919 | 27.74 |
| | | <u>35 533</u> | | <u>35 205</u> | |
| Mathematics | 4 Unit | 1 071 | 2.96 | 593 | 1.67 |
| | 3 Unit | 6 709 | 18.55 | 5 816 | 16.27 |
| | 2 Unit | 15 211 | 42.06 | 16 020 | 44.81 |
| | 2 Unit A | 8 574 | 23.71 | 9 280 | 25.96 |
| | | <u>31 565</u> | | <u>31 709</u> | |
| Science | Multi-Ph/Ch/Bio | 2 253 | 6.23 | 2 113 | 5.91 |
| | Multi-Ph/Ch/Geo | 381 | 1.05 | 232 | 0.65 |
| | | <u>2 634</u> | | <u>2 345</u> | |
| Science | Physics | 6 977 | 19.29 | 7 302 | 20.42 |
| | Chemistry | 6 572 | 18.17 | 7 151 | 20.00 |
| | Biology | 14 510 | 40.13 | 15 247 | 42.64 |
| | Geology | 1 063 | 2.93 | 1 102 | 3.08 |
| | | <u>29 122</u> | | <u>30 802</u> | |
| Science | 2 Unit A | 5 359 | 14.82 | 5 369 | 15.02 |
| Modern History | 3 unit | 2 388 | 6.60 | 1 248 | 3.49 |
| | 2 Unit | 10 884 | 30.10 | 11 196 | 31.31 |
| | 2 Unit A | 1 376 | 3.80 | 1 378 | 3.85 |
| | | <u>14 648</u> | | <u>13 822</u> | |
| Ancient History | 3 Unit | 1 153 | 3.18 | 692 | 1.94 |
| | | 5 695 | 15.75 | 6 277 | 17.56 |
| | | 410 | 1.13 | 305 | 0.85 |
| | | <u>7 258</u> | | <u>7 274</u> | |
| Economics | 3 Unit | 1 997 | 5.52 | 950 | 2.66 |
| | 2 Unit | 12 876 | 35.61 | 12 815 | 35.84 |
| | 2 Unit A | — | | 525 | 1.47 |
| | | <u>14 873</u> | | <u>14 290</u> | |

| Subject | Course | No. of Candidates 1976 | Total per cent | No. of Candidates 1977 | Total per cent |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Geography | 3 Unit | 2 326 | 6.43 | 1 175 | 3.29 |
| | 2 Unit | 14718 | 40.70 | 15 637 | 43.73 |
| | | <hr/> 17 044 | | <hr/> 16 812 | |
| Agriculture | 3 Unit | 223 | 0.61 | 126 | 0.35 |
| | 2 Unit | 950 | 2.62 | 1 178 | 3.29 |
| | 2 Unit A | 211 | 0.58 | 126 | 0.35 |
| | | <hr/> 1 384 | | <hr/> 1 430 | |
| Modern Greek | 3 Unit | 66 | 0.18 | 91 | 0.25 |
| | 2 Unit | 83 | 0.22 | 171 | 0.48 |
| | | <hr/> 149 | | <hr/> 262 | |
| Classical Greek | 3 Unit | 10 | 0.02 | 9 | 0.03 |
| | 2 Unit | 8 | 0.02 | 5 | 0.01 |
| | 2 Unit A | 2 | 0.005 | 1 | 0.003 |
| | | <hr/> 20 | | <hr/> 15 | |
| Art | 3 Unit | 1 345 | 3.71 | 976 | 2.73 |
| | 2 Unit | 3 074 | 8.50 | 3 478 | 9.73 |
| | | <hr/> 4 419 | | <hr/> 4 454 | |
| Industrial Arts | 3 Unit | 466 | 1.28 | 283 | 0.79 |
| | 2 Unit | 2 664 | 7.36 | 2 644 | 7.39 |
| | 2 Unit A | 303 | 0.83 | 346 | 0.97 |
| | | <hr/> 3 433 | | <hr/> 3 273 | |
| Food & Textile Science | 3 Unit | 31 | 0.80 | 72 | 0.20 |
| Home Science | 2 Unit | 1 774 | 4.90 | 2 270 | 6.35 |
| | 2 Unit A | 209 | 0.57 | 193 | 0.54 |
| | | <hr/> 1 983 | | <hr/> 2 463 | |
| Textiles & Design | 2 Unit | 1 062 | 2.93 | 1 243 | 3.48 |
| | 2 Unit A | 141 | 0.40 | 151 | 0.42 |
| | | <hr/> 1 203 | | <hr/> 1 394 | |
| Music (BSSS) | 3 Unit | 210 | 0.38 | 171 | 0.48 |
| | 2 Unit | | | 256 | 0.72 |
| | 2 Unit A | 245 | 0.67 | 138 | 0.39 |

| Subject | Course | No. of Candidates 1976 | Total per cent | No. of Candidates 1977 | Total per cent |
|---|----------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Music (AMEB) | 3 Unit | 195 | 0.53 | 88 | 0.25 |
| | 2 Unit | 223 | 0.61 | 155 | 0.43 |
| | 2 Unit A | — | | 34 | 0.10 |
| | | <hr/> 418 | | <hr/> 277 | |
| Music (ASCM) | | 20 | 0.05 | 24 | 0.07 |
| Sheep Husbandry & Wool Technology Farm Mechanics General Studies French | 2 Unit A | 34 | 0.09 | 31 | 0.09 |
| | 2 Unit A | 33 | 0.09 | 29 | 0.08 |
| | 1 Unit | 16661 | 46.07 | 18 510 | 51.77 |
| | 3 Unit | 849 | 2.34 | 427 | 1.19 |
| | 2 Unit | 1 883 | 5.20 | 1 771 | 4.95 |
| | 2 Unit A | 115 | 0.31 | 149 | 0.42 |
| | | <hr/> 2 847 | | <hr/> 2 347 | |
| German | 3 Unit | 318 | 0.87 | 164 | 0.46 |
| | 2 Unit | 636 | 1.75 | 675 | 1.89 |
| | 2 Unit A | 114 | 0.30 | 146 | 0.41 |
| | | <hr/> 1 068 | | <hr/> 985 | |
| Latin | 3 Unit | 93 | 0.25 | 51 | 0.14 |
| | 2 Unit | 133 | 0.36 | 159 | 0.44 |
| | 2 Unit A | 20 | 0.05 | 23 | 0.06 |
| | | <hr/> 246 | | <hr/> 233 | |
| Spanish | 3 Unit | 51 | 0.14 | 18 | 0.05 |
| | 2 Unit | 48 | 0.13 | 41 | 0.11 |
| | 2 Unit A | 9 | 0.02 | 15 | 0.04 |
| | | <hr/> 108 | | <hr/> 74 | |
| Indcaesian | 3 Unit | 236 | 0.60 | 88 | 0.25 |
| | 2 Unit | 391 | 1.08 | 418 | 1.17 |
| | 2 Unit A | 104 | 0.28 | 184 | 0.51 |
| | | <hr/> 731 | | <hr/> 690 | |
| Russian | 3 Unit | 15 | 0.04 | 16 | 0.04 |
| | 2 Unit | 16 | 0.04 | 13 | 0.04 |
| | 2 Unit A | 2 | 0.005 | 4 | 0.01 |
| | | <hr/> 33 | | <hr/> 33 | |
| Dutch | 3 Unit | 9 | 0.02 | 5 | 0.01 |
| | 2 Unit | 20 | 0.05 | 10 | 0.03 |
| | | <hr/> 29 | | <hr/> 15 | |

| Subject | Course | No. of Candidates 1976 | Total per cent | No. of Candidates 1977 | Total per cent |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hebrew | 3 Unit | 19 | 0.05 | 24 | 0.07 |
| | 2 Unit | 13 | 0.03 | 14 | 0.04 |
| | 2 Unit A | 6 | 0.01 | 11 | 0.03 |
| | | <hr/> 38 | | <hr/> 49 | |
| Chinese | 2 Unit | 160 | 0.44 | 191 | 0.53 |
| Japanese | 3 Unit | 23 | 0.05 | 21 | 0.06 |
| | 2 Unit | 28 | 0.07 | 28 | 0.08 |
| | 2 Unit A | 14 | 0.03 | 7 | 0.02 |
| | | <hr/> 65 | | <hr/> 56 | |
| Italian | 3 Unit | 97 | 0.26 | 73 | 0.20 |
| | 2 Unit | 97 | 0.26 | 133 | 0.37 |
| | 2 Unit A | 19 | 0.05 | 24 | 0.07 |
| | | <hr/> 213 | | <hr/> 230 | |

(2) The entry statistics shown in (1) above, indicate some trend for candidates to attempt **2 Unit** courses rather than the **3 Unit** courses. However, the extent of this trend away from the **3 Unit** courses varies from subject to subject. For some years now, candidates for the Higher School Certificate Examination have been counselled by the Board of Senior School Studies against **over-**extending themselves, thereby risking possibly severe penalties in seeking the potential bonus associated with entry at Level 1.

The effect of this wise counselling was apparent to some extent at the **1975** Higher School Certificate Examination when there were signs of a relative reduction in the Level 1 entry, although the bonus-seeking view was still held by some candidates.

The Board's restructuring of the Higher School Certificate Examination was directed, in part, towards eliminating the inducement to risk bonus-seeking. Although without foundation, some people tended to equate the old Level **1** courses with the new **3 Unit** and **4 Unit** courses. It would be reasonable to say that entry for **3 Unit** and **4 Unit** courses revealed a continuation of the trend that had been previously observed in connection with Level 1 entry, i.e., a relative reduction, although the **1976** entry still contained something of the bonus-seeking element.

A more widespread realization that no such bonus now exists is reflected in what was probably a more realistic entry for the **1977** examination.

MERIMBULA WHARF

Sir ERIC WILLIS asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports—

(1) Is the old steamer wharf at Merimbula a local landmark which has stood outside the entrance to Merimbula Lake since **1901**?

(2) Has it been used for the past 25 years or so solely for the pleasure of amateur fishermen as a deep water fishing platform?

(3) Is the wharf now in an extremely dangerous condition?

(4) Since the annual tourist industry injects something of the order of \$12 million per annum into the New South Wales economy, is the sum of \$150,000 needed to restore this wharf comparatively small?

(5) Has the Government recently made a sum of money available for the restoration of the wharf at Tathra?

(6) Is the wharf at Merimbula of importance to the seasonal inflow of tourists to Merimbula?

(7) What steps are being taken by the Maritime Services Board to provide a grant for the restoration of the wharf at Merimbula and what sum will be granted?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) The wharf has deteriorated to the point where it is now not safe for public use.

(4) The estimated cost of restoration would be to the order of \$200,000, but the benefits likely to accrue from renewal of the wharf are not considered sufficient to justify such a high rate of expenditure from Government funds.

(5) The position at Tathra is quite different in that the wharf at that centre has been listed by the National Trust of Australia as a "classified" structure. The Merimbula Wharf was considered by the National Trust for similar listing, but the wharf was not considered to be of sufficient merit to justify classification. Moreover, the amount of money provided at Tathra was only \$50,000.

(6) No doubt it is of some tourist significance, but this is only considered to be slight when compared to the other natural attractions of Merimbula.

(7) The Maritime Services Board does not have any responsibility or control in respect of the Wharf which comes within the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works.

In the interests of public safety, the Department had intended to arrange for demolition of the Wharf, but following representations from the Honourable Member for Monaro, I agreed to defer demolition so as to allow consideration to be given to proposals under which the ownership and responsibility for the Wharf would pass from the Department to a trust, or to some other appropriate body.

The present position is that a company has been set up for the development of the Merimbula Wharf area with the aim of providing a tourist attraction which includes a deep water launching ramp and slipway facilities, enclosed within a right-angled breakwater. Under this scheme, a portion of the Merimbula Wharf would be preserved, with a commercial development to be established utilizing the existing buildings. The proposal envisages provision for permanent moorings, parking facilities and a picnic area.

Investigations are now proceeding into the legal practicability of leasing the area, including the existing wharf and cargo sheds. The legal position is quite complicated, and a lease application cannot be considered until a full investigation has been completed indicating the authority available to me under the provisions of the Local Government Act. I expect to have a report on the avenues open to me in the near future, and a final decision will be made as soon as possible.

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr PICKARD asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many students are now on full teacher's scholarships with the State?
- (2) How many are on later scholarship awards?
- (3) How many persons are now being trained in various institutions as teachers on scholarships other than awarded by the State?
- (4) Would he give the figures for 1st year scholarships to be given this year and state (a) the amounts, including allowances, and (b) whether there is a decrease in the number of these scholarships?
- (5) What is the number of the present later year scholarships? How many are in each year and what is the value of the scholarships in each year of the various categories?
- (6) What was the total number, by year of scholarships, given in 1975, 1976 and 1977, and what will be the number according to the year on course, granted in 1978?

Answer—

- (1) At January, 1978, the total student population was 17 497.
- (2) It is not possible to give a separate figure for students who are on course and who received a "later-year" award. Of the 17 497 students detailed in question one, approximately 4 500 are in the first year of training and the remainder, viz, 12 997 are therefore, in the second and later years of training.
- (3) In 1977 there was a total of 19 409 persons being trained in pre-service teacher education in colleges of advanced education and universities in New South Wales. This figure is based on a number of assumptions regarding the definition of teacher education numbers as pre and post service. All post-graduate and external students are assumed to be involved in post-service study. Also excluded are students enrolled in non-teacher oriented undergraduate courses at universities (e.g. B.A. and B.Sc.) who plan to undertake a Dip.Ed. course after completion of the degree.

As students are not required to pay fees, information is only available concerning the number of students holding scholarships awarded by the New South Wales Department of Education, and the number of holders of *Commonwealth Teaching Service Scholarships*. (Approximately 120.)

(4) Scholarship quotas:

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------|
| | | | | | | 1978 |
| College Primary (1st Year) .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 650 |
| College Secondary (1st Year) .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 850 |
| University (1st Year) .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 200 |
| 2nd and later years .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 100 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> 3 800 <hr/> |

This represents a decrease of 828 when compared with the number of new scholarship students enrolled at the beginning of 1977.

The allowances for 1st Year scholars in 1978 are:

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Living at home .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 970 |
| Living away from home .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 720 |

No additional allowances or benefits will be paid.

(5) The 2nd and later-year scholarship quota for 1978 is 100. These have not been allocated for any specific year but have been restricted to students in specified subject areas of need.

The rates currently being paid to these scholars are as follows:

| <i>Year of Course</i> | <i>Living At Home</i> | | <i>Living Away From Home</i> | | <i>Adults 25 and over</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| | Under 21 | 21-24 | Under 21 | 21-24 | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| 2nd year .. | 1,820 | 2,125 | 2,730 | 3,035 | 3,035 |
| 3rd year .. | 2,125 | 2,125 | 3,035 | 3 035 | 3,035 |
| 4th year .. | 2,675 | 2,675 | 3,585 | 3,585 | 3,585 |

Married Rate: \$3,585 plus \$545 for Dependant Spouse and \$190 for each dependant child.

Students in Universities will receive an additional \$50 in each case paid in a lump sum.

(6) Previous years' figures are as follows:

| <i>Year:</i> | <i>Enrolment of Scholarship Students</i> | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1975 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 730 |
| 1976 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 982 |
| 1977 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 628 |
| 1978 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |

The information relating to the planning for 1978 has been given under Question 4, above.

DEMOUNTABLE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

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

(1) Has a tender been let for the removal and cartage of demountable school buildings?

(2) If so—

- (a) who was the successful tenderer?
- (b) what was the amount of the successful tender?
- (c) how many tenders were received?
- (d) was the successful tender the lowest tender? If not, why was the lowest tender not accepted?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

- (2) (a) Fleetxpress Pty Ltd of 33 William Street, Botany.
- (b) The contract is at Schedule Rates, but when extended works out to about \$1.7 million over a fifty week period.
- (c) Two.
- (d) No. The contract for the removal and re-location of demountable school classrooms is most important to the effectiveness of the Government's school building programme.

It is essential that the successful **cartage** firm have the capacity to quickly move large numbers of modules each week. It is also essential that he have other facilities such as cranes to overcome special loading problems, a large storage yard to hold laden vehicles overnight or during weekends to facilitate early starts or late country returns. It was considered that the lowest **tenderer** did not have the necessary number of vehicles at his firm's disposal, nor the necessary support facilities to carry out this contract with the degree of flexibility that was necessary.

CONCORD SCHOOL

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Since 1967, how much has been spent on Concord Public School, annually?
- (2) For what **purpose(s)** was the money spent?
- (3) What expenditure is planned in the current financial year?

Answer—

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Details of Work</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> \$ |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1968 | Repairs to playground seating | 502.00 |
| 1969 | Ground improvements | 9,550.00 |
| 1972 | Repairs to wall tiles | 1,200.00 |
| 1973 | Laying of vinyl tiles in library | 735.00 |
| | Security measures | 420.00 |
| | Provide door to storeroom | 352.00 |
| 1974 | Renewal of water service/carpet for kindergaten rooms | 17,346.00 |
| | Relocation of entrance gates | 1,000.00 |

| | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| 1975 | Fitting of flyscreens | .. | .. | .. | .. | 56.00 |
| | Moisture problems | .. | .. | .. | .. | 760.00 |
| 1976 | External painting of school | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,524.00 |
| | Laying of vinyl tiles to timber C/R's | .. | .. | .. | .. | 804.00 |
| 1977 | Installation of 8 module library | .. | .. | .. | .. | 50,000.00 |
| | Ceiling fans | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,400.00 |
| | Gas heating | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,638.00 |

At this stage **firm** details cannot be given in relation to expenditure in the **current** financial year at Concord Public School.

FIVE DOCK SCHOOL

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Education —

- (1) When will additional classrooms be provided at Five Dock Public School?
- (2) Will demountable classrooms be installed in 1978?
- (3) Is a dental clinic to be constructed at the school? If so, when?

Answer—

- (1) The school is not on the Department's active planning list for new accommodation.
- (2) Not at this stage.
- (3) The Dental Clinic Construction Programme is controlled by the Health Commission of New South Wales.

HIGH SCHOOL FOR CONCORD EAST

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Education —

- (1) Which primary schools will be "feeder schools" for the proposed high school at Concord East?
- (2) Will an Evening College be established in the school?

Answer—

- (1) Secondary enrolment is based on residential address not on the primary school attendance. At this stage boundaries for the Concord High School have not yet been determined.
- (2) Evening Colleges may be established in schools where there is evidence of sufficient community demand and provided that funds **are** available. The Board of Adult Education has not received any requests from the Concord community for the establishment of an Evening College.

It should be pointed out that there is an Evening College nearby at **Burwood**, as well as a number of other centres in the metropolitan west area. It should also be noted that the Board, in some cases, provides grants to assist local groups where an Evening College has not been established.

DRUMMOYNE BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Will the facilities for the library and **the** industrial **arts** department at **Drummoyne** Boys High School be improved?
- (2) When will the school become co-educational?

Answer—

The upgrading of facilities at **Drummoyne** Boys High School **and** the development and conversion to a co-educational school will be undertaken as soon as funds permit, having regard to my Department's priorities.

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

Mr BOYD asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What was the total expenditure on maintenance of school property by **his** department and the Department of Public Works for the years ending 1975-1976 and 1976-1977?
- (2) From what sources were these moneys derived?
- (3) What were the total amounts spent in the building programme from the Loans Account for the same period?
- (4) What fraction of these two amounts was spent in the Byron Electorate for the same period?

Answer—

- (1) 1975-76—\$17,800,623 (Maintenance)
1976-77—\$30,074,976 (Maintenance)
- (2) Consolidated Revenue.
- (3) 1975-76—\$118,495,073 (Loans)
1976-77—\$81,090,036 (**Loans**)
- (4) 1975-76—\$143,360 (Maintenance)
1976-77—\$355,714 (Maintenance)
1975-76-77—\$1,719,800 (Loans)

EAST KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr **MOORE** asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What planning, if **any**, has been carried out for a primary school on the East Killara site?
- (2) What potential school population from East Killara is required before the department regards a school at East Killara as being warranted on the site?

Answer—

- (1) There are no plans to build a primary and infants school in **the** East Killara Area at this stage.

(2) The criteria for the establishment of a primary school in ~~the~~ East Killara area are not solely based on potential school population. A decision to expand the nearby school at Lindfield ~~East~~ was taken having regard to both the educational and economic advantages which need to be considered in accommodating pupils in the East Killara area generally.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN EAST KILLARA

Mr **MOORE** asked the Minister for **Education**—

(1) ~~As~~ at 1 December, 1977, how many pupils were enrolled at Lindfield East Public School?

(2) As at 1 December, 1977, how many of these pupils enrolled at East ~~Lind-~~field Public School were from the East Killara area?

Answer—

(1) 951.

(2) Approximately 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the above figure were from the Killara East area.

MERIMBULA

Mr **COLEMAN** asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for **Tourism**—

(1) Will the viability of **Merimbula** as a coastal tourist resort suffer with the diminution of the attraction of its principal natural feature, Merimbula Lake?

(2) Will he request the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports to have a hydrographic survey of the lake at Merimbula undertaken urgently by his department?

(3) Will he request the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways to commence immediately the planning and building of a new bridge at Merimbula so that the flushing tidal action of the lake can be increased by the removal of the "Causeway"?

Answer—

(1) The Merimbula Lake is quite important to the tourist potential of the township of Merimbula. My colleague the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports has informed me that there is insufficient information available at this stage to indicate whether or not siltation is reducing the attractiveness of the area, and by implication affecting the tourist industry.

The Deputy Premier has informed me that investigations carried out several years ago—including observations on siltation—indicated the Lake was relatively stable and that it would be many years before any serious problems are likely to arise. Nevertheless, he has given an undertaking to make a further investigation of the siltation to assess whether any remedial action ~~L~~ necessary.

On present indications it appears that Merimbula will continue to grow in importance as a tourist destination. The town is expanding and has great appeal to N.S.W. tourists and visitors from Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. Its annual tourist income exceeds \$12 million.

A submission to the Premier by the Merimbula Chamber of Commerce last year indicated that Merimbula builders were "in no way" affected by the general slump in the State's building industry "and nor will they be in the foreseeable future". Building applications for Merimbula have increased from \$951,319 in 1972 to \$3,476,902 in 1976–77.

Although Merimbula represents only 24 per cent of the Imlay Shire's population, building applications approved were 46 per cent of the Shire's total. The heavy **inflow** of visitors has resulted in two new motels being built last year and large-scale extensions being completed to the Bowling Club and the R.S.L. Club. These extensions and additional building programmes imply an increase in employment in the town. A daily air service between Melbourne and **Merim-**bula also reflects the interest in the area.

In view of the foregoing it seems likely that the viability of Merimbula will not suffer.

(2) and (3) I will raise these matters with the appropriate Minister.

EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS

Mr **BOYD** asked the Minister for **Education**—

(1) How many bonded students were employed by the Education Department at the commencement of school term **1978**?

(2) How many non-bonded students were employed?

(3) How many non-bonded students seeking employment were unsuccessful in their applications?

Answer—

(1) 4 030.

(2) 3.

(3) 909.

CAMPBELLTOWN LAND

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

(1) What is (a) the amount and (b) zoning of land owned by department! under his jurisdiction in the Campbelltown Local Government Area?

(2) What is the total amount of rates paid on **this** land?

Answer—

The Department of Public Works does not own any lands for its own purposes within the boundaries of the City of Campbelltown, but land has been acquired for the various authorities and purposes listed below, and title has vested in

the Minister for Public Works. Under the provisions of Section 132 of the Local Government Act, 1919, these lands are not subject to council rates. Information relating to the zoning of these lands is not available within the Department, being the responsibility of the Macarthur Development Board.

(1) *Department of Agriculture*

Glenfield Veterinary Research Station

Resumed by the Public Works Department with title vesting in the Minister for Public Works.

Approximate area 127 hectares.

(2) *Department of Youth and Community Services*

Lark Hill Child Welfare Home

Purchased by the Public Works Department but title vested in Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Approximate area 3.4 hectares.

Reiby Training School for Girls

Resumed by the Public Works Department and vested in the Minister for Public Works.

Approximate area 6.5 hectares.

(3) *Police Purposes*

Police Station and Court House

Purchased by the Public Works Department but title vested in Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

Approximate area 2 750 square metres.

Police Residence

Corner of Lindesay and Broughton Streets.

Site was resumed by the Public Works Department and vested in the Minister for Public Works.

Area 550 square metres.

Insofar as the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board is concerned, the position is as follows:

| Lot or Por. No's | Street Name | Area | Zoning |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Upper Canal Lands | 7.628 hectares | Special Uses (Water Supply) |
| | | 1.194 hectares | " " |
| | | 2 782 square metres | " " |
| | | 3.326 hectares | " " |
| | | 3 376 square metres | " " |
| | | 2 000 square metres | " " |
| | | 750 square metres | " " |
| | | 2.366 hectares | " " |
| | | 9.692 hectares | " " |
| | | 5 109 square metres | " " |
| | | 2 175 square metres | " " |
| | | 4 047 square metres | " " |
| | | 12.727 hectares | " " |
| | | 4.113 hectares | " " |
| | | 3.384 hectares | " " |
| | | 3 516 square metres | " " |
| | | 29.347 hectares | " " |
| | | 14.409 hectares | " " |
| | | 1.1 hectare | " " |

| Lot or Por. No's | Street Name | Area | Zoning |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Por. 2 | | 2.102 hectares | Non-Urban (40 hectares min.) |
| | | 1.661 hectares | " " |
| | | 5 060 square metres | " " |
| | | 1 010 square metres | " " |
| | | 4 400 square metres | Special Uses (Water Supply) |
| Pt. Por. 17 | | 175 square metres | Non-Urban (40 hectare min.) |
| Pt. Lot 58 | Cnr. Fitzpatrick and Cummins Streets | 140 square metres | " |
| Lot 2 | | 3 375 square metres | Special Uses (Water Supply) |
| Lot 3 | | 5 845 square metres | Special Uses (Water Supply) |
| Lot 5 | | 4 680 square metres | " " |
| Lot 6 | | 1 795 square metres | " |
| Lot 1 | Ingleburn Dam No. 2 | 2.512 hectares | " |
| Lot 2 | " | 3.417 hectares | " |
| Lot 3 | " | 2.461 hectares | " |
| | Ingleburn Dam | 1 415 square metres | Scenic Protection Area |
| | | 3.205 hectares | Special Uses (Water Supply) |
| | | 6 685 square metres | " " |
| Lot 1 | | 4 000 square metres | Scenic Protection Area |
| | Venturi Meter House | 95 square metres | " |
| Pt. Lot 2 | Sydney Rd. or Queen St. | 78.4 square metres | General Business |
| Lot 1 | Georges River Road | 190 square metres | Special Uses Road |
| Lot 1 | Wedderburn Road | 9 255 square metres | Special Uses Reservoir |
| | | 1.433 hectares | " |
| Lot 1 | Old Kent Road. | 4 407 square metres | Special Uses Water Purpose |
| | Dagworth & Gibsons Rds. | 82.2 square metres | Scenic Protection 'D' |
| | Chester Road | 457.8 Square metres | Special Uses Pumping Station |
| | Glenfield W.P.C.P. | 39.7 hectares | Special Uses Waste Water Treatment Wks. Special Uses Road—Open Space |
| | Appin Road | 6 449 square metres | Non Urban (100 hectare min.) |
| | Collins Prom. | 2.024 hectares | Special Uses Reservoir |
| Lot 1 | Dumaresq Street | 739.8 square metres | Living Area |
| Lot 1 | Off Oxford Road | 4 382 square metres | Special Uses Reservoir |
| Lot 2 | Hansens Road | 2.028 hectares | Non-Urban (40 hectare min.) |
| Lot 1 & 13 | Elizabeth Street | 809.4 square metres | Residential 'D' |
| Lot 1 | Railway Parade | 175.2 square metres | Rural Area |
| | Pinaroo Cres. | 317.3 square metres | Proposed Open Space |
| Lot 1 | Harrow Road | 589.2 square metres | Special Uses Pumping Station |
| Lot 1 | St. Andrews Road | 966.2 square metres | Scenic Protection Area |
| | Campbelltown W.P.C.P. | 13.44 hectares | Industrial Area Class 'A' |
| Lot 128 | Trobriand Cres. | 227.5 square metres | Special Uses Pumping Station |
| Lot 1 | Loftus Road | 459.8 square metres | Open Space (Regional) |
| Lot 1 | | 1 312 square metres | Scenic Protection Area |

With one minor exception, these parcels of land are not ratable, and have been acquired for service reservoirs, canals, water pollution control plants and similar purposes.

CAMPBELLTOWN LAND

Mr MALLAM asked the Minister for Education—

(1) What is (a) the amount and (b) zoning of land owned by the Department of Education, and by the Department of Technical and Further Education, in the Campbelltown Local Government Area?

(2) What is the total amount of rates paid on this land?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Education owns a total of 187.6 hectares of land in the Campbelltown Local Government Area. This land is zoned "special uses—school".

Land held by the Department of Technical and Further Education in the Campbelltown Local Government Area is as follows:

| <i>College Site</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Current Zoning</i> |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Macquarie Fields Technical College, Victoria Road, Macquarie Fields | 6.58 ha | Special Uses—Technical Colleges. |
| Campbelltown Technical College, Camden Road, Campbelltown* * Known as the "Precinct Site". | 23.00 ha | Non-urban 40 ha. minimum under I.D.O. No. 15. |
| Queen Street, Campbelltown (This land is under offer to the Macarthur Development Board) | 1.52 ha | Living area--County of Cumberland Planning Scheme. |
| | <hr/> 31.10 ha <hr/> | |

(2) Under the provisions of the Local Government Act, normal rates are not payable on properties administered by the Departments of Education and Technical and Further Education. Payments are made for services provided such as water and garbage collection.

CROMEHRST SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What was the cost of acquiring the original site of Cromehurst Special School?
- (2) What was the cost of acquiring the adjacent property and former church rectory?
- (3) What building costs have been incurred on **this** site since the purchase of the original property?
- (4) What is the cost of any improvements to the grounds made by the department?
- (5) How many pupils attend the school and what **staff** are employed there?
- (6) What plans exist for future development of the site?

Answer—

(1) The original site, including school buildings, certain furniture and chattels, was acquired in 1954 at a cost of \$14,018.00. Extensions to the site were obtained at a cost of \$78,000.00.

(2) Consideration is currently being given to a proposal to extend the site to provide additional playground space for motor activity (physical development of pupils) and for recreational training. A decision on this proposal is expected in the near future.

(3) & (4) Building and ground works undertaken since the purchase of the original property include:

A double portable classroom building was transferred to the school in 1970 to cater for increased enrolments at a cost of \$8,455.00. This building was relocated on site in 1972 at a cost of \$2,355.00 to make way for a project comprising three (3) classrooms, staff room, clinic, craft room, store, shelter, toilet/ablution facilities and landscaping. This project was completed in November, 1973, at a cost of \$162,000.00 which included approximately \$13,500.00 for landscaping.

Gas heating was installed at the school in February, 1974, at a cost of \$1,197.00. In August, 1977, work was completed on a project comprising a home science block, covered ways, heating, car parking, landscaping and conversions and renovations of existing cottage to provide library/resource store, general activities area and observation room. The final cost is not available at this stage but Loan funds of \$146,900.00 have been approved for the project. Included in the approved funds is about \$9,000.00 for landscaping.

(5) There are 85 full-time and 12 part-time pupils at the School. The staff comprise 12 teachers, 5 teachers' aides 1 library assistant, 1 physiotherapist (2 days), 1 speech therapist (2 days) and 1 general assistant.

(6) At this stage no proposal exists for any future building programme at the **School.**

BARRENJOEY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr WEBSTER asked the Minister for **Education—**

(1) Are **Avalon** and **Bilgola** Primary Schools the main "feeders" for **Barrenjoey** High School?

(2) Do these schools have an Assembly Hall or other suitable facility for large assemblies and other activities?

(3) Is it satisfactory for children accustomed to such a facility in Primary School being denied it at High School?

(4) If not, will he act urgently to overcome this deficiency at Barrenjoey High?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) The situation whereby students from a primary school with "hall" facilities graduate to a high school without such facilities is not desirable but is not unique to the schools under review.

Students at Barrenjoey High School are able to use the hall at Avalon Public School and also the high school's large high shelter unit which can accommodate basketball and wet weather physical education activities and both junior and senior assemblies.

As Barrenjoey is a relatively new high school (opened in 1968) and as it has a semi-open high shelter unit, it must rate a lower priority than many other schools in the State.

(4) Priority in expenditure of funds must continue to be given to new schools and to major growth situations. At the same time, a place must be reserved for a measure of up-grading in older schools.

The needs throughout the State for additional accommodation including new multi-purpose centres are such that it is not possible to provide a multi-purpose centre at Barrenjoey High School at the present time.

EDUCATION LAND AT DUNDAS

Mr **WILDE** asked the Minister for **Education**—

(1) Does the Education Department own land with a frontage to Ingleby Street, Dundas?

(2) If so, what is its area, when was it acquired and for what purpose?

(3) What was the purchase price, and what is the current value?

(4) What has been the cost of improvements, including fencing and when was the fencing erected?

(5) What use is being made of the land at present?

(6) Is any fee being paid for use of the land? If so, by whom, for what amount and for what period?

Answer—

(1) The Department does own a site at Carlingford South which fronts Ingleby Street.

(2) The site comprises approximately 7 acres. The initial site was acquired by resumption in 1954 and additional adjoining land was purchased in **1955 and 1964**. The site was acquired for Public School purposes.

(3) Records of purchase price are not readily available. The current valuation of the land is available to my Department.

(4) Fencing was erected at the site in 1972 at a cost of **\$3,500**.

(5) No use is being made of this site at the present time.

(6) No fees are being paid for *the* use of this property and no users are apparent.

INFANT AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many primary/infant schools are there in the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong?
- (2) How many of these do not have a sports oval within a mile radius of the school?
- (3) What are the names of any such schools within the electorate of Gordon?

Answer—

(1) The number of primary/infants' schools in "Metropolitan" areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong are:

SYDNEY

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| Central Metropolitan | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 109 |
| Liverpool | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 119 |
| Metropolitan West | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 176 |
| North Sydney | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 151 |
| St George | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 88 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> 643 |

NEWCASTLE

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Hunter (Newcastle City Council area) | .. | .. | .. | 40 |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

WOLLONGONG

| | | | |
|---|----|----|-----------|
| South Coast (Helensburgh to Shellharbour) | .. | .. | 60 |
| | | | <hr/> 743 |

(2) It is my Department's policy to include the provision of minimum facilities for sporting activities in conjunction with the building of new secondary schools where the site permits and there is a demonstrated need.

No such provision is made for primary schools, although some landscaping may be included to make an area available for general use.

While some playing areas may be provided on site, schools generally find it necessary to seek the use of Council sporting fields to meet fully their needs and Councils have a responsibility to service the recreational needs of the community, which of course includes the general school population. My Department does not maintain a register of Council owned sporting fields or other facilities and their location in relation to schools in this State.

(3) A check upon school in the electorate of Gordon has disclosed that **only** one primary/infants' school is not situated within a mile of a sports oval—namely Gordon Public School.

MAIN ROADS WORK TEAMS

Mr BOYD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways—

(1) Has one of the Department of Main Roads work teams been transferred from the Tweed-Brunswick district to the Woodburn area since the commencement of work after the Christmas holidays?

(2) If so, (a) what are the reasons for this transfer; and (b) how long will these men be working away from their home base?

Answer—

(1) Seven employees of the Department of Main Roads were transferred from works in the Tweed–Brunswick area to roadworks near Broadwater in the Woodburn area.

(2) These men are employed by Ballina Works Office which is responsible for works on the Pacific Highway between Tweed Heads and south of Woodburn and works on the Bruxner Highway between Casino and Tabulam. To provide continuity of work it is necessary sometimes for employees to be transferred temporarily from their normal base.

It is anticipated that work will be completed at Broadwater by June, 1978.

EDUCATION LAND AT DUNDAS

Mr WILDE asked the Minister for Education—

With respect to the land owned by the Education Department, having a frontage to Pennant Hills Road, Dundas, between Gollan Avenue and Kissing Point Road:

- (1) What is its area, when was it acquired and for what purpose?
- (2) What was the purchase price, and what is the current value?
- (3) What use is being made of the land at present?
- (4) Is any fee being paid for use of the land? If so, by whom and at what rate?

Answer—

(1) The site in question has an area of approximately 17 acres. It was acquired in July, 1972, for high school purposes.

(2) The purchase price was \$650,000. A current valuation of the site is not readily available to my department.

(3) The land is a vacant site.

(4) No.

KARANGI CREEK BRIDGE

Mr SINGLETON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways—

(1) Has planning been completed for the bridge over Karangi Creek on Main Road 151?

(2) Have funds been made available for this work?

(3) When is it planned to commence construction?

Answer—

(1) Plans for the proposed new bridge over Karangi Creek will be completed this month.

(2) It is not possible at this stage to indicate when funds will be made available for the new bridge. However, the work will be included in a future Bridge Construction Programme of the Department of Main Roads as soon as circumstances permit.

(3) Having regard to the foregoing it is not known when a start will be made on the construction of the new bridge. However the position is being kept under close review.

MUSSAREDS CREEK BRIDGE

Mr SINGLETON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways—

(1) Has planning been completed for the bridge over Mussareds Creek on Main Road 151 between Coramba and Nana Glen?

(2) When will funds be made available for this work?

(3) When is it proposed to commence construction of this bridge?

Answer—

(1) Plans for a proposed multi-cell culvert over King's Creek to replace Mussareds Bridge have been completed by Coffs Harbour Shire Council.

(2) It is not possible at this stage to indicate when funds will be made available for the new structure. However, the work will be included in a future Bridge Construction Programme of the Department of Main Roads as soon as circumstances permit.

(3) Having regard to the foregoing it is not known when a start will be made on the new structure. However the position is being kept under close review.

DOBROYD POINT SCHOOL

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Are improvements and repairs to be made to the lavatories in the Infants' Department at Dobroyd Point School?

(2) If so, when will the improvements and repairs be completed?

Answer—

(1) An estimate of cost has been requested from the Public Works Department for improvements to the lavatories in the Infants Department at Dobroyd Point Public School. This work will include internal painting, overhaul of cisterns, renewal of fixtures and replacement of bubblers.

(2) At this stage it is proposed to include this project in the 1978–79 Maintenance Programme for the Central Metropolitan Region.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS FOR CONCORD

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways—

When is it expected that traffic control signals will be installed at the intersection of Major's Bay Road and Wellbank Street, Concord?

Answer—

The honourable member will recall that I wrote to him on 29th January, 1978, concerning, among other matters, these proposed signals.

At that time I informed him that the intersection of Majors Bay Road and Wellbank Street was a recognized signal site which would be considered by the Traffic Authority of New South Wales when a future programme was being formulated.

This is still the current position. I will inform the honourable member by letter at a later date should the Authority be able to include the site in the 1978–79 Programme.

The following questions upon notice and answers given up to the date of prorogation, 15th May, 1978, were circulated in Questions *and* Answers.

NATIVE WILD-FOWL

Sir ERIC WILLIS asked the Minister for Lands—

(1) What programmes are undertaken by the Department of Lands to improve the breeding grounds of native wild-fowl and similar species?

(2) What general wetlands policies are carried out by the Department, particularly in the western division of New South Wales?

Answer—

(1) The National Parks and Wildlife Service is researching the breeding ecology of native waterbirds in New South Wales.

The Service maintains continuing liaison with water management bodies (Water Resources Commission, Department of Public Works) to ensure that water development projects do not interfere with waterbird breeding requirements.

(2) The Service has a general policy of conserving wetlands to ensure conservation of their dependent wildlife. This is implemented by liaison with appropriate land and water use authorities and through acquisition.

The areas of wetland in the western division of New South Wales are very large and many flood only occasionally. It is not possible nor desirable for the National Parks and Wildlife Service to acquire these large areas. Wetland policy in the western division, therefore, is mainly concerned with ensuring that water supplies to wetlands are adequate for the breeding and feeding requirements of waterbirds.

MIGRANT EDUCATION

Mr PICKARD asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What money (a) did the Commonwealth Government make available for adult migrant education in 1976 and 1977 and (b) will make available in 1978?
- (2) What money (a) did the Commonwealth Government make available for child migrant education in 1976 and 1977 and (b) will make available in 1978?
- (3) Have there been any changes in the size of classes? if so, where and by what number?
- (4) Have there been any changes in the length of courses? If so, in which courses? What are the changes?
- (5) Has there been an increase in the number of staff since 1975, who service these courses? If so, what were the increases in each of the abovementioned years?
- (6) Are there any other moneys, i.e. multi-cultural or language funds, available in the above programmes? If so, what are the specific amounts in specific funds and how have they been applied?

Answer—

- (1) The funds made available by the Federal Government were:

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| 1975–76 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,794,410 |
| 1976–77 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,957,026 |
| 1977–78 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,466,000 |

- (2) Federal funds have been provided as authorised by the States Grants (Schools) Acts 1976 and 1977 (as amended) and the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act of 1976 (as amended); the level of funding is summarised.

Calendar year 1976 \$5,849,000 (final legislation)

Calendar year 1977 \$6,033,000 legislation upon June, 1975, index. rising to \$6,277,000 based upon June, 1977, index, and increasing finally to \$6,394,000. This final figure is based upon the anticipated indexation to December, 1977, and will be ratified by legislation about April, 1978.

Calendar year 1978 \$6,330,000 legislated in November, 1977, and based upon June, 1977, index. This figure should increase to \$6,629,500 based upon December, 1977, index and has yet to be ratified. Further increase in 1978 could occur through the effect of wage indexation approved during that year. It is possible that the level of funding could rise to \$6,900,000.

The Commonwealth moneys are not enough to employ all the E.S.L. teachers. Furthermore the difference and all the administrative costs associated with the employment of E.S.L. teachers are met from State funds.

- (3) In regard to the Adult Migrant Education Service, no.

Available teachers for migrant children are appointed to schools according to priority needs.

Wow they are organized within the school structure is a matter for individual school administration.

To qualify for consideration for the appointment of an E.S.L. teacher a minimum enrolment of 30 migrant children is necessary and this provision has applied for many years.

Whilst there is increasing emphasis on integrated teaching in normal classes it is not uncommon for migrant children to be withdrawn for periods of intensive tuition. The composition of these classes is variable and flexible in the primary situation.

Although it is usual to have withdrawal classes, there are parallel classes in the secondary situation and intensive classes (approximately 16 of them) exist where teachers are available. The maximum number in a secondary intensive E.S.E. class is 20.

(4) (a) In regard to the Adult Migrant Education Service, no.

(b) There are no prescribed lengths of courses for migrant children in schools. However, courses are conducted for E.S.L. teachers at the Child Migrant Education Centre.

One-day orientation courses are conducted for teachers who are new to this specialised teaching. Training courses have varied in duration viz.:

1970—one course only—4 weeks.

1971–73—One experimental 2 weeks course otherwise 3 weeks course (3 or 4 per year).

March, 1974, to date—one experimental 6-weeks course in 1977. Otherwise 4-week basic courses are conducted and consultants visit E.S.L. teachers at their schools, before, during and after their basic courses. From time to time one week refresher courses are held for experienced E.S.L. teachers. Subjects covered during all these courses include:

1. Basic linguistics.
2. Process of 2nd language acquisition and bilingualism.
3. 2nd language teaching strategies and methodology.
4. School organisation, 2nd language teaching, bilingual education and community language education.
5. 2nd language teaching and multi-cultural education.

(5) For the Adult Migrant Education Service the permanent staff increase in each of the last three years was:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1975–76 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| 1976–77 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4–85 |
| 1977–78 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — 3 |

In 1976–77 the number of casuals employed fell due to the provision of permanent staff.

In 1977–78 the expansion in industrial courses and the refugee programmes will call for an increase of approximately 15 effective full-time teachers.

Statistics of teachers engaged on E.S.L. teaching in schools (full-time equivalents) are as follows:

| | | <i>Infants/Primary</i> | | | | <i>Secondary</i> |
|------|----|------------------------|---|----|----|------------------|
| 1976 | .. | 373.8 | .. | .. | .. | 135.6 |
| 1977 | .. | 396.6 | .. | .. | .. | 157.7 |
| 1978 | .. | 400.0 | (Minimum number which is subject to review upwards) | | | 195.0 |

The following tables describe the composition of staff at the Child Migrant Education Centre who will inter alia service the courses for E.S.L. teachers.

| | | <i>O/C</i> | <i>Co-ordinator</i> | <i>Consultant</i> | <i>Departmental Teacher</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-----------------|----|------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| December, 1975 | .. | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 9 |
| September, 1976 | .. | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 11 |
| December, 1977 | .. | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 13 |
| January, 1978 | .. | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 12 |

N.B. Child Migrant Education staff have been assisted in servicing the courses by persons from schools, colleges of advanced education, universities, Commonwealth Department of Education, School's Commission, Commonwealth Department of Social Security and the ethnic communities.

(6) (a) The Federal Government is making additional funds available to the Adult Migrant Education Service for the cost of full-time English classes for newly arrived refugees from Indo-China. No specific figure has been finalized, however, a guarantee to recoup all relevant expenditure has been given.

(b) Within the budget papers for my Department of Education provision has been made to meet the difference between the continuing cost of services supplied by the Department of Education and the amount of funds provided by the Federal authorities.

It is to be remembered that every facility normally provided to a child in a government school is available to a migrant pupil, but isolation of the costs is not a practicable undertaking.

Additionally, funds have been provided within the 1977–78 budget to meet costs associated with the establishment of the following two new projects:

1. *Saturday School Community Languages*

A sum of \$120,000 has been provided to commence these schools in 1978.

The cost for a full financial year is estimated to be \$230,000.

2. *Reception Centre for Migrant Secondary Pupils*

A reception Centre has been established within the Central Metropolitan Region and the allocations for 1977–78 include an amount of \$181,288 to meet operational cost. The allocations are spread throughout budgetary items such as rent, salaries, stores and tuition fees. Additionally, an amount of \$400,000 was provided from within

the loans allocation to meet capital costs. Intensive centres were established within three other Education Regions from 31st January, 1978:

Liverpool
St George
Metropolitan West

Estimates of cost have been prepared and costs for each centre have been assessed for the remainder of the 1977–78 financial year at:

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| Operational | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | \$164,000 |
| Capital | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | \$271,000 |

Costs following establishment should abate to approximately \$200,000 for the three Centres for a full financial year, i.e. \$66,000 (approx.) per Centre.

Community Language Material Project

In July, 1970, a Community Language Material Project was established with seven full-time staff (a co-ordinator and one teacher in each of Arabic, Greek, Italian, Serbo-Croat, Spanish and Turkish). Approximately \$40,000 was allocated for salaries and \$10,000 for materials in the community languages.

E.S.L. Course for Refugee Children from Lebanon

In January, 1977, \$18,000 was supplied to run an intensive **three-**week E.S.L. Course for newly arrived Lebanese children of all ages.

BOARD OF SENIOR SCHOOL STUDIES

Mr PICKARD asked the Premier—

Will he refer to the Anti-Discrimination Board for determination, the action of the Board of Senior School Studies in discriminating against blind and partially blind children, by issuing Higher School Certificates carrying notations of a highly discriminatory nature?

Answer—

Under the terms of the Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977, unlawful acts of discrimination are based only on the grounds of race, sex and marital status. Discrimination arising from a physical handicap such as that referred to in question is not unlawful at present since this ground of discrimination was removed from the legislation by the Opposition parties when it was before the Upper House.

However, under section 119 (a) of the Act the Board is carrying out research on a number of matters including physical handicap or condition. The Honourable Member's question was drawn to the attention of the Board for its consideration during this research.

The Board has expressed the view based on its research findings that the proposal to endorse the Higher School Certificate Examination documents of physically handicapped students would unfairly discriminate against them and cannot be justified.

The Board's recommendation that the proposal not proceed has been accepted by the Board of Senior School Studies and the Director-General of Education.

The 1977 Higher School Certificates have not yet been issued and action is being taken to ensure that they will not be subject to endorsement. Action is also being taken to replace endorsed Higher School Certificate Result Notices which were issued in January by Result Notices which bear no endorsement.

The examination results of those candidates who, because of the proposal to endorse the certificates, chose not to utilize the concessions granted to the physically handicapped are being reviewed in order to ensure that the fairest possible result applies.

FISHING TRAWLERS

Mr PETERSEN asked the Minister for Conservation and Minister for Water Resources—

What restrictions concerning distance from shore **apply** to the operation **of** fishing trawlers based on:

- (a) New South Wales ports;
- (b) other Australian ports; and
- (c) foreign ports?

Answer—

- (a) As far as distance from shore, there are no fisheries restrictions on New South Wales licensed fishing trawlers operating in ocean water off the New South Wales coast.
- (b) The following details have been prepared from information provided by the other States and the Commonwealth.

| <i>State or Territory</i> | <i>Restrictions</i> |
|---------------------------|--|
| Victoria | There are no general restrictions concerning distance from shore applying to the operation of fishing trawlers in Victorian waters. |
| Queensland | No general restrictions. However, certain areas which are usually defined by lines drawn between easily recognisable geographic features are closed to trawling operations. |
| Tasmania | Both otter trawling and Danish seining are generally prohibited within 1,609 metres of the sea shore on any part of the coast and within three miles of a particular portion of the east coast in the vicinity of Schouten Island and Maria Island. |
| Western Australia .. | No restrictions. |
| South Australia .. | Trawling for prawns is prohibited in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Upper Spencer Gulf; (2) All South Australian waters less than 10 metres in depth; (3) Spencer Gulf waters near Cowell. |

The trawling for fish (other than prawns) is prohibited in:

- (1) Spencer Gulf waters less than 40 metres in depth;
- (2) Most of the waters of the Gulf of St Vincent;
- (3) All South Australian waters less than 20 metres in depth.

Northern Territory . . Trawl fishing operation in Northern Territory waters are all directed to the taking of prawns.

Restrictions on catching operations are from time to time implemented by closing sections of the territorial sea using the appropriate co-ordinates of latitude and longitude.

- (c) Foreign fishing vessels are not permitted to fish in the three mile limit off New South Wales nor in the nine mile contiguous Commonwealth Declared Fishing Zone.

CROWS NEST BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Mr McDONALD asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Has an official application by the Teachers Federation Representative at Crows Nest Boys High School been made **to** have that school recognized as a Disadvantaged School?
- (2) If so, what is the present situation?
- (3) Does a quota of disadvantaged schools exist? If so, must one be removed from the list before Crows Nest Boys High School can be added?
- (4) Does Crows Nest Boys High School have remedial and migrant language problems significantly different from those of other North Shore High Schools?
- (5) Will the Counsellor and Remedial Teacher be employed full time through 1978 instead of only part time, **as** at present?
- (6) Will he support the addition of an extra migrant teacher and at least two extra **general** teaching staff?

Answer—

- (1) Crows Nest Boys High School has made an application to be considered a disadvantaged school.
- (2) At the moment it is not a declared disadvantaged school.
- (3) In N.S.W. a maximum of 136,500 children only can be covered by the disadvantaged schools programme. The criteria used for identifying schools is economic poverty as reflected in the community of the school's feeder area.
It is a socio-economic programme. For Crows Nest Boys High School to be included there should be ample evidence that the community of its feeder area is within the 16.2% poorest group in New South Wales.
- (4) No.

(5) A very experienced Remedial teacher is appointed full-time at the school. However, it is unlikely that a counsellor will be appointed full-time at Crows Nest Boys High School.

(6) Crows Nest Boys High School already has 2 migrant teachers, 1 more than any other school in North Sydney Region. It is unlikely that an extra migrant teacher will be appointed to the school at the present time. The appointments of general teaching staff are made having regard to my department's staffing formula.

ROSEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DRAWING AREA

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Education—

What are the boundaries that have been established by the department as the drawing area, under normal circumstances, for pupils for the Roseville public school?

Answer—

On 9th February, 1978, the Director of the North Sydney Regional Office of my Department forwarded a statement of the school boundary to the Principal, Roseville Public School, which read as follows:

“The boundaries of schools in the North Sydney Region have been under examination. As a result the feeder areas for Roseville Public School will be as described below.

Northern: Clanville Road, Carnarvon Road; line to Moores Creek.

Note: The parents of pupils residing in above two streets and **Braemar** Place can elect to attend either school. Once enrolled, children cannot be transferred except when home address is changed.

The existing optional area with Lindfield East south of Clanville Road has been abandoned. Roseville is the appropriate school.

Eastern: (boundary follows centre of streets named)

From Victoria Avenue along Eastern Valley Way to Boundary Street, into Babbage Road to Roseville Bridge and around foreshore to Moores Creek.

Note: Scott Crescent children attend Castle Cove Public School.

Optional Area with Castle Cove Public School

The parents of children residing in Roseville Chase north of Babbage Road situated between Roseville Golf Club and Middle Harbour can elect to attend either school (same conditions as above).

Southern: Victoria Avenue (north side only) between Eastern Valley Way and Archer Street.

Western: Archer Street to Ashley Street—west to Railway line. Follow railway line north to Clanville Road.

Optional Area with Chatswood Public School

Area bounded by Victoria Avenue, Macquarie Street, Ashley Street and Archer Street. Once enrolled, children cannot be transferred except when home address is changed.”

POISON BAITING IN NATIONAL PARKS

Mr SCHIPP asked the Minister for Lands—

- (1) Did he announce the implementation of a 1080 poison baiting programme for National Parks?
- (2) When was this announced and what are the details of the scheme?
- (3) What steps have been taken to initiate the programme?
- (4) Where has it been used?
- (5) What results have been evident?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I announced the introduction of a programme of hand laid 1080 baits in national parks on 24th August, 1977. The programme, which was extensively publicised in the media, is aimed at the control and eradication of noxious animals in national parks. The types of animals involved are rabbits, wild dogs, feral pigs, etc. The programme is being carefully monitored to ensure that no non-target species are affected.
- (3) The programme has already commenced under the control of experienced Service Officers.
- (4) It is being used in any Service areas which have a noxious animal problem, provided, of course, the position is suitable for use in the particular area concerned. Some examples are the Cocoparra National Park, the Cocoparra Nature Reserve, the Kinchega National Park and the Kosciusko National Park.
- (5) Results have been encouraging and a decline in noxious animal populations has been evident wherever 1080 has been used, and this is proved by the dramatic drop in the number of complaints from adjoining landholders. Incidentally 1080 poison baiting was re-introduced into national parks after a period of approximately 14 months, during which research by the Department of Agriculture and the National Parks and Wildlife Service on controlled programmes in the Kinchega National Park and the Kosciusko National Park was reviewed. The review indicated that 1080 poison was very effective against certain noxious animals and, provided there were adequate safeguards, was of minimal danger to non-target species.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What area and value of land was acquired by what department or instrumentalities under his control for what purposes in 1976 and in 1977?
- (2) If no such statistics are recorded, why not?

Answer—

Of the Departments and instrumentalities under my control, namely the Department of Local Government, the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority and the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority, only the latter two bodies are involved in acquiring land from time to time.

The Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority acquired no land in 1976. In 1977 the Authority bought 2.276 hectares in Lindsay Street, Rockdale, for \$700,000 for a waste transfer station for acceptance of waste from the Municipalities of Rockdale and Kogarah.

The only lands acquired by the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority during 1976 and 1977 were two parcels, 327.4 square metres and 168.3 square metres off Circular Quay West between the Old Ordnance Stores Building and Campbells Storehouse, said to have been in the possession of the Maritime Services Board and the Council of the City of Sydney, respectively, by declaration in the *Government Gazette* of 22/4/77. The valuation of the improved capital value has yet to be determined by the Valuer-General.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Education—

(1) What area and value of land was acquired by what department or **in-strumentalities** under **his** control for what purposes in 1976 and in 1977?

(2) If no such statistics are recorded, why **not**?

Answer—

(a) *Site Acquisition by the Department of Education*

Expenditure

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| Total for 1976 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | \$5,578,927 |
| Total for 1977 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | \$13,207,551 |

Purpose of Acquisition

The land in question was acquired for school purposes.

Area of Land

The area of land acquired is irrelevant as one acre in Sydney could be equivalent in cost to 20 acres in a country centre.

(b) *Site Acquisition by the Department of Technical and Further Education*

Expenditure

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| Total for 1976 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | \$2,551,125 |
| Total for 1977 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | \$664,450 |

Purchases of Land—1976

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Property</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 0.032 ha | Armidale—Pt 203 Rusden Street |
| 0.068 ha | Bankstown—Raw Avenue |

| | |
|----------|---|
| 0.151 ha | Finley—Lot 2, Denison Street |
| 0.015 ha | Finley—Lot 3, Denison Street |
| 17.00 ha | Goulburn—Argyle School |
| 0.045 ha | Granville—12 Malcolm Street |
| 0.092 ha | Granville—6 Malcolm Street |
| 0.054 ha | Granville—21 Malcolm Street |
| 0.033 ha | Lismore—64 Conway Street |
| 0.04 ha | Lismore—127 Dawson Street |
| 0.076 ha | Narrabri—79 Barwan Street |
| 1.35 ha | Newcastle—Laundry Site and 7 Clyde Street |
| 0.108 ha | Newcastle—2/4 and 6/8 Clyde Street |
| 0.067 ha | Orange—285 Anson Street |
| 0.058 ha | Penrith—Additional Land |
| 0.111 ha | Sydney—N.C.R. Building, corner Harris and Mary Ann Streets, Ultimo |
| 1.981 ha | Taree—Additional Land |
| 0.068 ha | Wauchope—30 Campbell Street |
| 0.081 ha | Wyong—9 Porter Street |
| 2.135 ha | Tumut—Howick appropriation |

With the exception of Tumut and Goulburn, which were new sites, all land was acquired for additions to existing technical college sites. The Goulburn site, the former Argyle School, was secured as a terms purchase and is being used for the redevelopment of Goulburn Technical College. The former NCR Building at Ultimo is being converted for specialist training purposes as part of Sydney Technical College.

Purchases of Land—1977

| <i>Area</i> | <i>Property</i> |
|-------------|---|
| 0.025 ha | Armidale—Pt property 195 Rusden Street |
| 0.085 ha | Bankstown—23 French Avenue |
| 0.07 ha | Bankstown—480 Chapel Road |
| 0.07 ha | Bankstown—476 Chapel Road |
| 0.068 ha | Bankstown—6 Raw Avenue |
| 0.084 ha | Bankstown—8 Raw Avenue |
| 0.067 ha | Bankstown—21 French Avenue |
| 10.05 ha | Belmont—Pt lots 1, 2 and 3, section T |
| 0.062 ha | Gosford—115 Gertrude Street |
| 0.45 ha | Hornsby—Pts 211 and 213 Pacific Highway |
| 0.108 ha | Moree—22 Frome Street |
| 0.186 ha | Macksville—Lots 5–8, D.P. 9947 |
| 0.061 ha | Newcastle—101 Chin Chen Street |
| 0.102 ha | Newcastle—95 Chin Chen Street |
| 0.047 ha | Newcastle—93 Chin Chen Street |

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 0.061 ha | Newcastle—103 Chin Chen Street |
| 0.067 ha | Orange—287 Anson Street |
| 2.42 ha | Werrington—Lot 1, D.P. 205204 |
| 0.046 ha | Wyong—92 Alison Road |
| 0.055 ha | Meadowbank—Adjoining public lane |
| 2.164 ha | Tweed Heads—New Site |
| 1.626 ha | Cobar—New Site |
| 0.565 ha | Wollongong—Northfields Avenue |

All land was acquired for technical college purposes, Macksville, Tweeds Heads and Cobar are sites for new colleges. All other acquisitions were additions to existing sites.

(c) *Site Acquisition by the New South Wales Higher Education Board*

The following unimproved and improved sites and properties were acquired by the Board in 1976. There were no acquisitions in 1977.

| <i>Location</i> | <i>Area</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Purpose for Acquisition</i> |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| Brush Road, Ourimbah | 65.3 ha | \$339,000 | Future Development of tertiary educational facilities for Gosford/Wyong |
| 58 Allen Street, Glebe. Site and Buildings | 1013 square metres | \$300,255 | For use as a central campus for Cumberland College of Health Sciences |
| Henrietta Street, Waverley. Land and Buildings | 1 ha | \$750,000 | For use by Sydney Kindergarten Teachers' College—a College of Advanced Education |

It should be noted that negotiations for the acquisition of the above sites was initiated in the 1973–75 triennium and funded as follows—

1. Ourimbah—Federal:State 9:1.
2. Glebe—Federal:State 5:1.
3. Waverley—Federal:State 10:1 for a total of \$588,600 plus supplementation from the Federal Government for the balance.

(d) *Site Acquisition by the Teacher Housing Authority*

| 1976 | | | | | | \$ |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| Barraba | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 620 |
| Culcairn | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,000 |
| Ivanhoe | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 200 |
| Jindabyne | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17,000 |
| Walcha | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,000 |
| Culcairn | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,000 |
| Crookwell | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,000 |
| Yass | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,500 |

\$35,320

| 1977 | | | | | | \$ |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----------|
| Cooma | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,125 |
| Dubbo | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18,000 |
| Gilgandra | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 900 |
| Gulargambone | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 625 |
| The Rock | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,000 |
| Ashford | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 500 |
| Barraba | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 900 |
| Trangie | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 850 |
| Bourke | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,500 |
| Trangie | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,400 |
| Tenterfield | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,000 |
| Karuah | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,250 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | | \$45,050 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | | \$80,370 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> |

The Authority purchased the abovementioned vacant land in **1976** and **1977** for teacher housing purposes.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary **Industries**—

(1) What area and value of land was acquired by what department or instrumentalities under his control for what purposes in **1976** and in **1977**?

(2) If no such statistics are recorded, **why** not?

Answer—

Dairy Industry Authority

The following residential properties were purchased by the Authority to provide accommodation for field **staff** during the calendar years **1976** and **1977**:

| <i>Address</i> | <i>Settlement Date</i> | <i>Purchase Price \$</i> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 73 Prince Street, Inverell | 16- 1-1976 | 25,000 |
| 94 Russell Street, Deniliquin | 19- 1-1976 | 29,500 |
| 39 Humphries Street, Muswellbrook .. | 5- 3-1976 | 33,500 |
| 9 Weismantle Street, Wauchope | 16- 7-1976 | 38,000 |
| 13 St Vincent Street, Chatham, Taree . | 1-12-1976 | 40,000 |
| 50 Beltana Avenue, Dapto | 23-12-1976 | 39,950 |
| 8 Richardson Street, Wingham | 18- 7-1977 | 39,000 |
| 34 Molong Road, Orange | 22- 9-1977 | 36,500 |

Department of Agriculture

In the year 1976—

The former public school site, Merriwa (4 047 square metres). Transferred from the Department of Education for \$250 on a vestment/divestment basis for use as a field headquarters in the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign.

In the year 1977—

(1) Two (2) acres of Crown land in the possession of the Minister for Education, Shire of Kyogle, Parish of Ettrick and County of Rous resumed under Division 1 of Part 5 of the Public Works Act, 1912, to be used as Tick Control Eradication centre. The land is vested in the Minister for Public Works. (Government Gazette No. 18 of 18th February, 1977.)

(2) 8 094 square metres of land in Parish Coba, County of Montegale being the former Weddin Public School was reserved under the provisions of Section 28 of the Crown Lands Conservation Act, 1913, for use as a field headquarters site in the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign. The notification appeared in the Government Gazette of the 18th March, 1977.

(3) South Arm Public School site and improvements. Transferred from the Department of Education for \$1,000 on a vestment/divestment basis and to be appropriated for use as field headquarters site in the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign by notification under Division 1 of Part 5 of the Public Works Act, 1912.

(4) Limpwood Public School site and improvements. Transferred from the Department of Education for \$500 on a vestment/divestment basis and to be appropriated for use as a field headquarters site in the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign by notification under Division 1 of Part 5 of the Public Works Act, 1912.

(5) Proposed purchase of land—part Post Office site, Apsley Street, Walcha. Negotiations are in progress for the purchase of this site from the Commonwealth for \$750 plus legal and survey costs for use in the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign.

(6) Proposed purchase of land (from private vendor for \$1,750)—approximately 3 acres in the Parish of Irvine, County of Cook (Blue Mountains)—addition to the Mt Tomah annexe of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Department of Decentralisation and Development

The Minister's powers to acquire land for country industries, housing of key industrial personnel and for special industries stem from the State Development and Country Industries Assistance Act, 1966.

Under the provisions of the Act, substantial land purchases were made between 1968 and 1972.

No new purchases were made between 1972 and 1977 although agreement was reached late in 1977 as to the purchase of land in the Albury-Wodonga growth centre comprising 12 serviced industrial sites totalling 23.8 hectares for \$695,000 and 86 hectares of unserviced land for future industries requiring rail services for \$305,000.

These purchases will be settled within the next few months.

Details of all land held by the Minister for purposes of the State Development and Country Industries Assistance Act, 1966, are recorded in a Land Register held in the Department of Decentralisation and Development.

Grain Elevators Board

The following are details of land and property purchased by the Grain Elevators Board during 1976 and 1977:

Wagga Wagga—1.101 ha.

Acquired from City of Wagga Wagga—\$21,765. Site for Divisional/District Offices Store and Workshop—18-2-76.

Premier—2.555 ha.

Acquired from estate late N. A. Kerr—\$1,046. Site for additional grain storage—28-5-76.

Mangoplah—.687 ha.

Acquired from Public Transport Commission—\$450. To provide access to Mangoplah Silo—16-1-76.

Bogan Gate—.636 ha.

Acquired from Department of Administrative Services (Defence)—\$100. To enable construction of flood diversion bank to protect Bogan Gate Silo—1977 (not yet finalised).

Narrabri—.7651 ha.

Acquired from Department of Lands. Access and storage area for District Office, Store and Workshop—1977 (not yet finalised).

Walgett—13.66 ha.

Acquired from Department of Lands. Site for new grain storage, rail siding and ancillary facilities—1977 (not yet finalised).

Croppa Creek—10.125 ha (plus concrete silos and ancillary facilities).

Acquired from Oceania Grain Pty Ltd—\$523,000 (value of land—\$10,000). Required for grain storage—15-12-77.

Boggabilla—.81 ha (plus concrete silos and ancillary facilities).

Acquired from Oceania Grain Pty Ltd—\$500,000 (value of land—\$3,000). Required for grain storage—15-12-77.

9-25 Commonwealth Street, Sydney—Office building—comprising four floors and basement.

Acquired from Hardie Trading Pty Ltd—\$1,125,000 (U.C.V.—\$245,000). To house head office staff of G.E.B.—1-12-77.

Meat Industry Authority of N.S.W.

Question 1. What area and value of land was acquired by what department or instrumentalities under his control for what purposes in 1976 and 1977?

Answer. Nil.

Question 2. If no such statistics are recorded, why not?

Answer. The Authority has no power to acquire land.

Sydney Farm Produce Market Authority

So far as the Market Authority is concerned, no land was acquired in 1976 or 1977.

Albury–Wodonga Development Corporation

Land acquired by Albury–Wodonga (N.S.W.) Corporation in 1976 and 1977 is as follows:

| | Area | | | | | Value \$ |
|------|----------------|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| 1976 | 1 391 hectares | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,417,275 |
| 1977 | 850.3 hectares | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,580,150 |

All lands were acquired for growth centre purposes.

It should be noted that the values indicated are the totals of purchase prices paid in those years, such prices having been determined in accordance with the provisions of the Public Works Act, 1912, and the Growth Centres (Land Acquisition) Act, 1974.

Bathurst–Orange Development Corporation

The areas and values of land acquired by the Bathurst–Orange Development Corporation during the years 1976 and 1977 are as follows:

| | Area | | | | | Value \$ |
|------|----------------|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| 1976 | 3 126 hectares | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,935,000 |
| 1977 | 1 368 hectares | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,916,000 |

The land acquired was designated for acquisition under the provisions of the Growth Centres (Land Acquisition) Act, 1974, for the purpose of development in the Bathurst–Orange Growth Centre.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy—

(1) What area and value of land was acquired by what department or instrumentalities under his control for what purposes in 1976 and in 1977?

(2) If no such statistics are recorded, why not?

Answer—

(1) No land was acquired by the Department of Labour and Industry, the Department of Mines, the Energy Authority of New South Wales or the Electricity Authority of New South Wales in 1976 and 1977.

The undermentioned land was acquired by the Joint Coal Board and the Electricity Commission of New South Wales during this period.

Joint Coal Board

1976 and 1977

19 Macquarie Place, Sydney—

7 $\frac{1}{4}$ perches = 183.4 m²

\$375,000 investment

21 Macquarie Place, Sydney—

23 $\frac{3}{4}$ perches = 600.7 m²

\$925,000 investment

38-40 Pitt Street—

13½ perches = 341.5 m²

\$485,000 investment

Electricity *Commission* of N.S.W.

| | | | | ha | \$ |
|------|------------------------|----|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 1976 | Power Station Projects | .. | .. | 754.6 | 3,078,858 |
| | Transmission Projects | .. | .. | 75.4 | 220,420 |
| | Staff Housing | .. | .. | .2 | 62,000 |
| | | | | <hr/> 830.2 | <hr/> 3,361,278 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | ha | \$ |
| 1977 | Power Station Projects | .. | .. | 447.1 | 1,623,250 |
| | Transmission Projects | .. | .. | 32.7 | 117,150 |
| | Staff Housing | .. | .. | .5 | 41,950 |
| | | | | <hr/> 480.3 | <hr/> 1,782,350 |

(2) Not applicable (see (1)).

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What area and value of land was acquired by what department or **in-**mentalities under his control for what purposes in 1976 and in 1977?

(2) If no such statistics are recorded, why not?

Answer—

The area and value of land acquired by the Health Commission and Public Hospitals in 1976 and in 1977 was as follows:—

| | Area | | | | <i>Value</i> \$ |
|------|-------------------------|----|----|----|--------------------|
| 1976 | 71,587.88 square metres | .. | .. | .. | 1,725,846 |
| 1977 | 9,876.906 square metres | .. | .. | .. | 825,400 |

Land and properties were acquired for sites for the establishment of new hospitals, for the expansion and development of existing hospitals, the establishment of Community Health Support Centres and for the expansion and development of existing Community Health Centres.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister of Justice and Minister for **Housing**—

(1) What area and value of land was acquired by what department or **instru-**mentalities under his control for what purposes in 1976 and in 1977?

(2) If no such statistics are recorded, why not?

Answer—

(1)

The Housing Commission of New South Wales.

The Housing Commission of New South Wales does not maintain a central record of the area and value of land acquired by it. This information is available only by reference to the specific files for each transaction, and something in the order of 400 such transactions occurred in 1976 and 1977. Each member of the Legislative Assembly is advised direct of every acquisition of land by the Commission within his electorate.

N.S.W. Superannuation Office.

Nil. No land acquired for public purposes. Funds have acquired buildings as investments only.

Builders Licensing Board.

The Builders Licensing Board did not acquire any undeveloped land in the years 1976 and 1977. It has acquired the following properties as investments under the building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Act, 1974 (as amended).

| <i>Building</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Site area</i> | <i>Consideration</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | | sq. m. | \$ |
| 109 Woodpark Road, Smithfield.. | Factory | 237 | 155,000 |
| 5 Ladbroke Street, Bankstown .. | Factory | 1 290 | 310,000 |
| 23 Berry Street, North Sydney .. | Office block .. | 291 | 550,000 |
| 124 Vincent Street, Cessnock .. | Retail store .. | 737 | 130,000 |
| 584 Pacific Highway, Belmont .. | Retail store .. | 544 | 150,000 |
| 288 Main Road, Cardiff .. | Retail store .. | 433 | 95,000 |
| 137 Ballandella Road, Pendle Hill | Factory | 4353 | 240,000 |
| 21 Brighton Avenue, Croydon Park | Factory | 1 540 | 275,000 |
| Main Road, Kelso, Bathurst .. | Transport Depot .. | 15 453 | 290,000 |
| 275 Milperra Road, Milperra .. | Factory | 3 105 | 525,000 |
| 49-52 Beecroft Road, Epping .. | Shopping Arcade.. | 1 099 | 870,000 |
| 221-3 Macquarie Street, Liverpool | Retail outlets .. | 589 | 390,000 |

Land Commission.

The Commission did not acquire land in 1976. Acquisition for 1977 totalled 642 hectares with a cost of \$12.6 million. In addition the Commission in 1977 appropriated 558 hectares costing \$9.3 million from the Housing Commission which had acquired the land on behalf of the Urban Land Council of New South Wales. This land was acquired for present and future urban development.

Justice Department

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| 1976 | | | | \$ |
| 13-5-76 Bunwood—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 117,354.94 |
| 22-12-76 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 62,895.93 |
| Total for year | .. | .. | .. | <u>\$180,250.87</u> |

| 1977 | | | | \$ |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------|
| 24-3-77 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 56,880.00 |
| 7-4-77 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 65,000.00 |
| 22-6-77 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 48,872.90 |
| 30-6-77 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 42,630.00 |
| 1-7-77 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 43,052.00 |
| 30-8-77 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 247,987.00 |
| 9-11-77 Gosford—New Site (part) | .. | .. | .. | 86,039.24 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | \$590,461.14 |
| | | | | <hr/> |

The area of the Burwood purchase was 796.7 square metres whilst the total area of the individual purchases shown for Gosford (1976 and 1977) is reported to be 1 hectare (2.47 **acres**).

(2)

The information requested in respect of the Builders Licensing Board and the Department of Justice are set out in answers to question (1). In so far as the Housing Commission and the Land Commission are concerned, to maintain statistics in the form suggested or requested by the Honourable member having regard to the extent and number of their acquisitions would be a very extensive and time consuming operation which would serve no useful purpose.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Tourism—

(1) What area and value of land was acquired by what department or instrumentalities under his control for what purposes in 1976 and 1977?

(2) If no such statistics are recorded, why not?

Answer—

Department of Sport and Recreation

The Totalizator Agency Board acquired 8793.8 square metres valued at \$924,500 to provide for Head Office expansion and accommodation for agencies.

The Department of Sport and Recreation acquired four areas totalling 433.1 hectares to provide for future sport and recreation centre sites and expansion of existing sites.

The four areas are:

Minnamurra (39.3 hectares valued at \$30,000.)

Borambola (3.8 hectares valued at \$44,670. Another adjoining portion previously acquired is included in this valuation.)

Grose Wold (320 hectares. No valuation is available as the land is held as reserves and is not rateable.)

Narrandera (70 hectares. No separate valuation is available as the land is held as a reserve and is not rateable.)

Department of Tourism

- (1) The Department of Tourism acquired no land in 1976 or 1977.
- (2) If land had been acquired statistics would have been recorded.

LAND ACQUISITIONS BY ELECTRICITY COUNCILS

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy—

- (1) What area of land was acquired, for what purposes, for what total value for each purpose by all local government electricity bodies in New South Wales, in 1976 and in 1977?
- (2) What is the basis of collection of these statistics as to (a) minimum area or (b) value of purchase?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) There are 39 electricity councils in New South Wales, of which 33 are county councils.

These authorities are autonomous bodies and may acquire land for electricity purposes without, except in cases of compulsory acquisition, reference to the Department of Local Government.

The statistics kept by the Electricity Authority of New South Wales in relation to the operations of electricity councils do not contain the information sought.

KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK SURVIVAL HUTS

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Lands—

With respect to each of the 92 enumerated "survival" huts in Kosciusko National Park, what restrictions exist on their day-to-day use by bushwalkers or cross-country skiers?

Answer—

The National Parks and Wildlife Service does not apply any restrictions on the day-to-day use of huts in the park (other than certain management huts). However, the Service has been concerned for some time that people rely too heavily on these huts for shelter, and for this reason is presently drawing up a draft policy on huts in the park.

When finalized the draft policy will be discussed with interested groups, such as the Kosciusko Huts Association.

POLICE ACTION AGAINST MR TONY ABBOTT

Mr MOORE asked the Premier—

- (1) What representations were made either to himself or to the Commissioner of Police to commence prosecution of a Mr Tony Abbott, concerning an alleged offence against a Ms Helen Wilson at the Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced Education, Lindfield, on 31 October, 1977?

(2) By whom were such representations made?

(3) Why was the decision taken to have the police initiate this prosecution rather than having the complainant commence it as a private prosecution?

Answer—

(1) I am not aware of any representations addressed to me. In addition the Commissioner of Police has advised me that he has no knowledge of any such representations having been received by the Police Department. The Commissioner has informed me that on 1st November, 1977, Miss Helen Elizabeth Wilson attended Chatswood Police Station and laid a complaint that the day before she had been indecently assaulted by a Mr Anthony John Abbott.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) The Commissioner has also informed me that, from the evidence given by Miss Wilson and a witness, the Police reached the conclusion that the alleged offences came within the provisions of the Crimes Act and action was taken accordingly.

REVENUE FROM PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What is the annual revenue to the State from fees charged in psychiatric hospitals?

(2) What is the weekly or daily rate of fees for patients in Schedule 5 hospitals?

(3) Can he (a) distinguish the amounts received from social security benefits (2/3rds of the pension) from other fees and (b) give details?

Answer—

(1) The estimated collection by psychiatric hospitals in 1977–78 is \$8,113,000 as a result of maintenance charges made on patients direct by hospitals.

In addition the Protective Commission has estimated collections of \$3,653,000 in the current financial year; of that amount \$2,087,000 represents reimbursement from the Commonwealth for Australian Capital Territory and repatriation patients.

Accordingly, total revenue from such charges in 1977–78 is estimated at \$11,766,000.

(2) The Mental Health Act, 1958 (section 79), provides:

"The cost to the Crown of the maintenance of a patient or voluntary patient shall constitute a debt due to the Crown and shall be recoverable accordingly from the patient or voluntary patient or his estate before or after his discharge or from his estate after death."

Accordingly, in accordance with the Act, a patient is liable to meet the full cost of treatment.

In practice an assessment of the patient's ability to meet charges during his hospitalization is made and a charge is determined. In relation to pensioners this assessment is generally an amount equivalent to two-thirds of the pension. In addition pensioners in admission wards of the hospitals are allowed two periods of hospitalization up to a maximum of 28 days in a year without charge.

In relation to non-pensioner patients an assessment is made of their ability to pay charges up to a maximum of the cost of treatment rate determined for the individual hospital.

Notwithstanding such assessment the full cost of treatment remains as a debt to the Crown in accordance with the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1958.

(3) Of the \$8,113,000 estimated collections by psychiatric hospitals a total of \$7,993,000 is estimated to be collected from pensioner patients and the balance of \$120,000 is estimated as collection from non-pensioner patients.

LIBRARIES FOR THE BLIND

Mr WHELAN asked the Premier—

(1) Does the Government fund libraries or library facilities for the blind or poor-sighted people?

(2) If so, (a) what amount has been made available for this purpose; and (b) who have been the recipients of such funds?

(3) If not, is the Government considering funding libraries for blind or partially-sighted people? If so, when; and if not, why?

Answer—

The Government is interested in improving the services to the blind and partially sighted, and in particular their library services.

The State Librarian has been undertaking a comprehensive study of the library services available to the blind with the object of reporting on the adequacy of those services in meeting the needs of blind persons. Mr Doust was asked to recommend on what action the Government might take to encourage the co-ordination of existing services and their extension to cover identified inadequacies.

In undertaking this study Mr Doust has consulted organizations working in the field of the visually handicapped.

The Government will assess what can be done in this field when it has had the opportunity to study the results of the State Librarian's investigations.

HOUSING COMMISSION LAND AT CAMPBELLTOWN

Mr MALLAM asked the Minister of Justice and Minister for Housing—

(1) What is the total amount of land owned by the Housing Commission of New South Wales in the Campbelltown Local Government Area?

(2) What is the total amount of rates paid on this land?

Answer—

- (1) 718 ha approximately.
- (2) \$391,550.57 per annum, based on rates paid in 1977.

PAROLE FOR PRISONER CLARE ROSE REYNOLDS

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier—

- (1) Has a prisoner named Clare Rose **Reynolds** been going to work from the half-way house attached to Silverwater prison?
- (2) Had she been consistently informed by the department for the whole of her period of sentence until mid-December, 1977, that she was due for parole on 28 February, **1978?**
- (3) Was she informed by the superintendent of the complex in December, 1977, that the department had made a "dreadful mistake" and that she was now not due for parole until 3 May, **1978?**
- (4) **If** so, why had the department been continually informing this prisoner that she was due for parole at an incorrect time?
- (5) What is he doing to (a) take account of this mistake by his department and (b) prevent a repetition?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. On 29th November, 1976, The Superintendent, Mulawa Training and Detention Centre for Women, personally informed the prisoner that a letter had been received from the Head Office of the Department of Corrective Services containing the following information in relation to her application for release on licence;
 - (a) her non-parole period expired on 3rd May, 1978, and that shortly prior to that date, the Parole Board would consider her release on parole;
 - (b) insufficient grounds had been advanced for any earlier consideration of release on licence.

The Superintendent recorded the fact on the original letter that the prisoner had been duly informed.

- (3) Prior to the prisoner's transfer from Mulawa to **Silverwater** Complex, the prisoner had lodged an appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal. The Court dismissed the appeal and determined that four months out of the six months spent on appeal were to count as time served. Accordingly, the original date of the expiry of the non-parole period required amendment from the original date of 13th February, 1978, to 3rd May, 1978.

Due to a clerical omission, the prisoner's gaol record file did not contain a record of the amended date. The file, however, did contain the Head Office letter referred to above and specifying the correct date of the expiry of the non-parole period. Unfortunately, all records relating to the prisoner had, immediately prior to her transfer from Mulawa to Silverwater Complex, been tendered as an exhibit by Counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Prisons and are still retained by that Commission.

The Superintendent, Silverwater Complex, was therefore unaware of the contents of the Head Office letter which specified the correct date of expiry of the non-parole period. In early December, 1977, however, he was able to inform her of the correct date.

(4) Refer to (2) above.

(5) It is unlikely that a similar incident will occur again as the Royal Commission has concluded.

GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE HILLS ELECTORATE

Mr CATERSON asked the Premier—

(1) What Government-owned land zoned:

- (a) residential;
- (b) commercial;
- (c) industrial; and
- (d) other (e.g., special **uses**),

is available within The Hills electorate for **purchase**?

(2) (a) Where is the land located; and (b) what prices, if any, have been **fixed** for the land?

Answer—

Since coming to office the Government has conducted a comprehensive survey of all surplus land held by Government Departments and Authorities, taking into account immediate and prospective needs. The register of surplus land which has been compiled has not been prepared on an electorate basis.

The Government has established a procedure whereby all Departments and Authorities are required to consult an Inter-Departmental Committee established for the purpose, to ascertain whether there is suitable Government land available before they proceed to acquire private land. Similarly, Departments and Authorities consult the Committee before disposing of surplus property, to ensure that no other Government need exists for that land.

Where Government land is surplus, consideration is being given to disposal, either by lease or sale. In each case full consideration is being given to all the relevant issues, including Planning Schemes for the locality, **zonings**, housing and community needs, commercial and industrial development and environmental aspects.

Where practicable, land will be released for housing development through the Housing Commission and the Land Commission and possibly in co-operation with private developers. Land will be released for commercial and industrial development in consultation with the Industrial Development Unit of the Premier's Department and the Department of Decentralisation and Development.

In all cases the Government will proceed to disposal in an orderly marketing fashion and disposal will generally be by the usual processes of tender or auction.

ERARING POINT POWER STATION

Mr WEBSTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy—

(1) Has the Electricity Commission asked I.H.I., the successful Japanese tenderer for the turbines and boilers for the Eraring Point Power Station, to manufacture as much as possible in Australia?

(2) Has I.H.I. accepted the invitation, but at an increased price?

(3) If so, what is the new price, and if new conditions exist, what are the advantages to the people of New South Wales?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Negotiations in respect of the supply of certain minor items are still proceeding. It is estimated that the total adjusted price will be of the order of \$92 million at the contract base date. There have been no changes in the conditions of contract.

The advantage to the people of New South Wales relates to the provision of employment in various firms in the Newcastle and Sydney areas.

PAROLE FOR PRISONER GREGORY FRANCIS MCCARTHY

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier—

(1) When was the expiry of the non-parole period of the sentence of a prisoner named Gregory **Francis McCarthy**?

(2) When was his case considered by the Parole Board?

(3) What was the decision of the board and the reasons given?

(4) If no reasons were given, what were the grounds for the decision?

(5) If parole was refused, when will Mr **McCarthy's** case next come before **the** Parole Board for **reconsideration**?

Answer—

(1) The prisoner's non-parole period of six years expired on 21st November, 1977.

(2) 14th October, 1977.

(3) The Parole Board did not approve of Mr McCarthy's release on parole but decided to review the matter on 12th April, 1978. Mr McCarthy was informed by the Board that consideration of the matter was deferred to enable his progress to be further assessed.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Mr McCarthy was released on parole on 20th April, 1978.

SERRATED TUSSOCK

Mr SCHIPP asked the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) Is Serrated Tussock classified as a noxious weed?
- (2) Is its incidence (a) widespread and (b) increasing or (c) decreasing?
- (3) What are its effects?
- (4) What control measures are available?
- (5) What assistance for its control is available through:
 - (a) the Department of Agriculture;
 - (b) Weed County Councils; and
 - (c) local councils?
- (6) Is there any intention to increase the aid available?

Answer—

- (1) Serrated tussock is a declared noxious plant in those council areas in which it occurs.
- (2) (a) The plant is widespread on the central and southern tablelands of this State, and in some adjacent areas. Minor infestations also occur on the northern tablelands.
 (b) and (c) Serrated tussock is increasing overall, although it is being contained in some council areas and reduced in others. The laxity of some councils and the inadequacy of Government support in the past have allowed the infestations to increase in many areas.
- (3) The plant is almost useless as stock feed, and will progressively reduce the stock carrying capacity of infested land.
- (4) Techniques have been developed to control serrated tussock on both arable and non-arable land. The basis of these is the replacement of the tussock by strongly competitive plants, such as well managed pastures or pine trees. On arable land the preferred method of serrated tussock control is by cultivation although the herbicide 2,2-DPA could be used, but is more expensive. Many thousands of hectares of serrated tussock on non-arable land have been controlled with 2,2-DPA by aerial application. Pastures or pine trees are then established immediately to minimize reinfestation by tussock.
- (5) (a) Department of Agriculture officers assist both landholders and councils with technical advice, and also conduct research into tussock control techniques.
 (b) Weed County Councils assist landholders by supplying herbicide at a much reduced price, by offering a spraying service where the use of aircraft is not necessary, and by allocating special revolving funds from the noxious plant grants. Revolving funds can be used by councils to assist landholders on selected properties with the approval of the Government. These funds are separate from the serrated tussock loans available through the Government Agencies Division of the Rural Bank.

- (c) Local councils have the same powers **as** the Weed County Councils, but do not appear to use them as effectively.

(6) The funds allocated by this Government for noxious plant control in the 1977-78 financial year represented a 60 per cent increase in the allocation made in the previous financial year. Councils responsible for **serrated** tussock control therefore received substantially increased grants. Also officers of my Department and the Noxious Plant Advisory Committee are currently investigating the problem. They will recommend ways in which the Government can promote more effective serrated tussock control activities by landholders and local government authorities.

WAGGA WAGGA NURSES HOME

Mr SCHIPP asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Was it decided some time ago to acquire land in Wagga Wagga for a **new** nurses home?

(2) If so,

- (a) why was this necessary;
- (b) has a site been chosen and if yes, where;
- (c) has acquisition proceeded and if yes, what stage has been reached;
- (d) what planning has taken place for the new building; and
- (e) what priority is held for its construction?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) During planning for the proposed re-development of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, it became evident that it would be necessary to demolish part of the eastern wing of "Lewis House Nurses Home". This action will be necessary to allow for the construction of phase I of Stage 2 which incorporates new surgical theatres, intensive and coronary care units and kitchen and cafeteria services.

Accordingly, alternate accommodation will need to be provided for approximately twenty trained nursing staff.

(2) (b), (c) No suitable land exists within the hospital environs, however, the Minister for Education has approved of two hectares of land, belonging to the Riverina College of Advanced Education, in Urana Street, Wagga Wagga, being transferred to the Commission for the purpose of staff accommodation.

(2) (d) No planning has been made for the building of a nurses' home on the site currently being acquired.

(2) (e) No funds have been allocated for the construction on the land mentioned in 2 (b), (c) and (d).

DROUGHT RELIEF

Mr SCHIPP asked the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) What was the total amount spent on drought relief in the financial years 1976–1977 and 1977–1978 respectively?
- (2) What were the declared drought areas in each year?
- (3) What specific amount was applied for and approved for each of the declared drought areas in each year?

Answer—

(1) Table 1 shows the expenditure on drought relief measures in the financial years 1976–1977 and 1977–1978 (up to 28th February, 1978).

| Table 1 | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|---------|----------------------|
| Drought Relief Expenditure | | | | |
| | | | | 1–7–77 to 28–2–78 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | \$ |
| Rail Freight Concessions | .. | .. | 103,000 | 35,000 |
| Road Freight Concessions | .. | .. | 907,000 | 400,000 |
| Livestock Slaughter Scheme | .. | .. | 20,000 | 12,000 |
| Drought Loans | .. | .. | 91,000 | 600,000 |

(2) Pastures Protection Districts declared drought stricken during the 1976–1977 and 1977–1978 (to 31st March, 1978) financial years were:

1976–1977

Albury 9 months, Balranald 5 months, Bathurst 2 months, Bombala 4 months, Braidwood 3 months, Broken Hill 2 months, Carcoar 6 months, Condobolin 7 months, Cooma 2 months, Corowa 12 months, Deniliquin 12 months, Forbes 4 months, Gundagai 6 months, Hay 12 months, Hillston 9 months, Hume 5 months, Jerilderie 12 months, Moulamein 12 months, Narrandera 7 months, Urana 12 months, Wagga 6 months, Wentworth 2 months, Wilcannia 1 month, Yass 7 months and Young 6 months.

1977–1978

Albury 4 months, Balranald 7 months, Bathurst 9 months, Bombala 9 months, Braidwood 6 months, Broken Hill 9 months, Canonba 2 months, Carcoar 6 months, Casino 2 months, Cobar 3 months, Condobolin 5 months, Cooma 9 months, Corowa 9 months, Deniliquin 9 months, Denman–Singleton 2 months, Dubbo 3 months, Eden 7 months, Forbes 9 months, Gloucester 2 months, Goulburn 4 months, Gundagai 3 months, Hay 9 months, Hillston 9 months, Hume 3 months, Inverell 1 month, Jerilderie 9 months, Maitland 2 months, Merriwa 2 months, Milparinka 9 months, Molong 2 months, Moree 1 month, Moss Vale 3 months, Moulamein 9 months, Mudgee 4 months, Narrandera 6 months, Pilliga 2 months, Tenterfield 1 month, Tweed–Lismore 1 month,

Upper Hunter 2 months, Urana 9 months, Wagga 3 months, Walgett 2 months, Walgett North 2 months, Wanaaring 1 month, Wentworth 9 months, Wilcannia 9 months, Yass 6 months, Young 7 months.

(3) Table 1 above sets out expenditure on drought relief measures during the 1976-1977 and 1977-1978 financial years. Records of expenditure in each declared Pastures Protection District are not kept, the figures in the table applying to all drought declared Pastures Protection Districts in the State.

The drought loans scheme was only re-introduced in October, 1976. As far as this scheme is concerned, just prior to the Government's advertising campaign in early February, the position regarding applications, approvals and refusals is set out in Table 2.

Table 2
Drought Loans

| <i>Type of Loan</i> | <i>Carry-On</i> | <i>Restocking</i> | <i>Dairy Co.</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Applications | 108 | 13 | 5 |
| Approved/Under Investigation | 98 | 9 | 5 |
| Refused | 10 | 4 | Nil |

Since the Premier's visit to drought areas and the Government's advertising, applications have been received at the rate of 30 to 40 per week.

It should be noted that in 1976-1977, expenditure was higher on freight concessions than in the current year. This was because agistment was available in northern parts of the State for drought affected livestock from southern New South Wales and Victoria. While agistment has generally not been available in the current year, expenditure has been higher on drought loans.

GRANVILLE TO WESTMEAD RAILWAY LINE

Mr WILDE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways—

(1) Is the quadruplication of the railway line between Granville and Westmead being considered?

(2) If so (a) will this require the re-siting of Harris Park or Parramatta Railway stations; and (b) will public participation be invited in any consequent discussions and planning?

Answer—

(1) Yes, in fact preliminary design investigations have commenced.

(2) (a) At this stage it is not envisaged that resiting of Harris Park or Parramatta Railway Stations will be required as a consequence of quadruplication works.

(b) A Departmental Committee has been established under the chairmanship of the Project Manager (Western Line quadruplication) in the Public Transport Commission and in the event of resiting of the stations becoming necessary, opportunity will be given for the public to put its views before this Committee.

In this regard, discussions have already been held with representatives of Parramatta City Council and Council has undertaken to supply their suggestions on aspects which should be taken into account in the design of rail works.

BUNCHY TOP DISEASE IN BANANAS

Mr BOYD asked the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) What is the cause of the virulent upsurge of bunchy top infestations in banana plantations in the Tweed and Brunswick districts?
- (2) What action is being undertaken by his department to contain these outbreaks?
- (3) How many acres of bananas have been destroyed?
- (4) What compensation, if any, has been paid to growers whose plantations have been destroyed?
- (5) If no compensation has been paid, will he consider compensating growers, in keeping with the principle involved in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis?

Answer—

- (1) Bunchy top disease incidence was reduced from the high levels of 30 000 to 40 000 plants per year in the late 1930's to about 1 000 plants per year in the 1960's and early 1970's.

The disease has shown a slight **upsurge** in the last five years to 1 499 plants in 1972-73, 1 871 in 1973-74, **2 111** in 1974-75, 2 006 in 1975-76 and 1 855 in 1976-77.

The increase appears to be due to:

Reduced detection staff. Faced with sharply rising labour costs in the late 1960's, the bunchy top detection staff was reduced from 35 to 14, although it was recently increased to 16. The Department of Agriculture **was** conscious of the need to contain costs of operating the scheme which rose from **\$17,000** in 1940 to over \$114,000 at the present time. Nonetheless it warned of **a** possible increase in bunchy top following a cut back in detection staff.

Resistance of banana weevil borer to dieldrin. With the development of dieldrin resistance by banana weevil borers, growers ceased spraying plantations with dieldrin and this appears to have allowed an increase in ant and aphid populations. The banana aphid is the sole vector of bunchy top and ants play a part in grooming and tending the aphids.

- (2) Techniques proven to be effective are being used to contain the incidence of bunchy top. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for the organization and administration of the bunchy top detection staff employed by the

Banana Disease Control and Development Co-op. Ltd. Officers sit on a Banana Pest and Disease Control Committee with directors of the Banana Growers Federation to determine operational policies of the control programme.

Inspectors authorized under the Plant Diseases Act regularly inspect banana plantations and enforce regulations aimed at controlling bunchy top. They police the movement of banana planting material and require growers to keep their plantations in a condition that can be readily inspected and not conducive to the spread of disease.

Research is currently being undertaken on the problem which includes recent trials on the efficiency of vector control and the use of helicopters in detection. Dr R. Allen, a plant pathologist of the Department, has been looking at ways of improving control efficiency and is now working in Queensland in an attempt to isolate and identify the disease under an electron microscope.

When bunchy top is detected in a plantation, the diseased plants are destroyed and Inspectors advise growers of further action required. If the disease is heavily concentrated and depending on other factors, the Inspector will request the grower's approval to destroy all or part of the plantation.

These destructions are carried out with the assistance of staff of the Banana Disease Control and Development Co-op. Ltd.

(3) The following areas have been destroyed in the past 1½ years.

| <i>District</i> | | | | | <i>Area (ha)</i> | <i>No. of Growers</i> |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|------------------|-----------------------|
| Tweed | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35.8 | 24 |
| Brunswick | | .. | .. | .. | 6.4 | 4 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | 42.2 | 28 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> |

44) No compensation has been paid to growers in the Brunswick district and only two received assistance on the Tweed. The total of \$3,700 was paid from Banana Disease Control and Development Co-op. Ltd funds as being the amount that would have been spent inspecting those properties for another year had the area not been destroyed.

(5) The bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis scheme is based on Commonwealth and State Government funding and is aimed at eradication of the diseases on a national level. On the other hand experience has shown that eradication of bunchy top is unlikely to be achieved and control of the disease must be accepted as an ongoing attendant problem associated with banana production.

Although the Department of Agriculture provides considerable assistance in the banana bunchy top programme, it remains primarily the responsibility of individual growers to control the disease. In this respect they are no differently placed to other fruit growers who have to meet the costs of controlling numerous pests and diseases. The only distinction is that with bunchy top a co-operative control programme has been found to be more effective than individual action. However I do not consider that this is sufficient argument to warrant additional direct financial assistance from the New South Wales State Government alone at this time.

BUNCHY TOP CONTROL, N.S.W.

| Year | Acres N.S.W. | Acres Tweed | Acres Brunswick | Acres Richmond | Bunchy Top State | Bunchy Top Tweed | Bunchy Top Brunswick | Bunchy Top Richmond | Staff N.S.W. | Staff Tweed | Staff Brunswick | Staff Richmond | N.S.W. cost \$ |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1936-37 | 15 743 | 5 552 | 2 279 | 3 021 | 42 305 | 21 452 | 5 429 | 15 410 | ? | 17 | ? | ? | 15,912 |
| 1939-40 | 17 211 | 5 939 | 4 087 | 2 748 | 10 488 | 8 123 | 1 192 | 1 171 | 32 | 16 | 8 | 8 | 17,322 |
| 1942-43 | 15 945 | 4 915 | 4 055 | 2 588 | 6 836 | 4 447 | 1 069 | 1 316 | 35 | 22 | 7 | 6 | 23,064 |
| 1945-46 | 21 663 | 6 489 | 5 681 | 4 093 | 5 144 | 3 421 | 890 | 825 | 42 | 22 | 10 | 10 | 27,064 |
| 1948-49 | 27 596 | 8 000 | 7 046 | 5 631 | 5 565 | 2 376 | 1 107 | 2 082 | 47 | 21 | 14 | 12 | 44,584 |
| 1951-52 | 24 194 | 6 601 | 6 490 | 4 465 | 3 654 | 1 861 | 400 | 1 392 | 40 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 61,222 |
| 1954-55 | 30 144 | 7 526 | 7 230 | 6 122 | 2 829 | 1 838 | 62 | 929 | 39 | 17 | 11 | 11 | 62,454 |
| 1957-58 | 28 548 | 6 440 | 6 283 | 5 970 | 3 925 | 2 142 | 174 | 1 609 | 38 | 17 | 8 | 13 | 68,346 |
| 1960-61 | 28 936 | 6 306 | 5 601 | 6 358 | 1 490 | 923 | 49 | 518 | 35 | 16 | 7 | 12 | 77,274 |
| 1974-75 | 16 929 | 4 026 | 2 346 | 2 055 | 2 111 | 1 912 | 199 | .. | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 100,000 |
| 1975-76 | 16 168 | 3 594 | 2 107 | 2 008 | 2 006 | 1 663 | 343 | .. | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 100,000 |
| 1976-77 | 15 910 | 3 979 | 1 617 | .. | 1 855 | 1 092 | 763 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 114,000 |

N.S.W. Staff does not include men at Yarrahappinni.
Costs from 1952 on include some items outside actual Bunchy Top costs, say approximately \$2,000 per year.

BUNCHY TOP FIGURES

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Tweed</i> | <i>Brunswick</i> | <i>Richmond</i> | <i>State</i> |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1936-37 | 21 452 | 5 429 | 15 410 | 42 305 |
| 1937-38 | 11 233 | 2 531 | 12 882 | 26 755 |
| 1938-39 | 10 611 | 1 742 | 2 746 | 15 114 |
| 1939-40 | 8 123 | 1 192 | 1 171 | 10 488 |
| 1940-41 | 7 200 | 1 050 | 1 330 | 9 585 |
| 1941-42 | 6 447 | 1 310 | 1 069 | 9 146 |
| 1942-43 | 4 447 | 1 069 | 1 316 | 6 836 |
| 1943-44 | 4 138 | 661 | 528 | 5 327 |
| 1944-45 | 4 828 | 1 110 | 687 | 6 625 |
| 1945-46 | 3 421 | 890 | 825 | 5 144 |
| 1946-47 | 4 666 | 2 278 | 2 042 | 8 989 |
| 1947-48 | 2 840 | 1 033 | 2 069 | 5 942 |
| 1948-49 | 2 376 | 1 107 | 2 082 | 5 565 |
| 1949-50 | 2 119 | 1 372 | 1 894 | 5 385 |
| 1950-51 | 1 938 | 625 | 1 267 | 3 831 |
| 1951-52 | 1 861 | 400 | 1 392 | 3 654 |
| 1952-53 | 861 | 195 | 1 371 | 2 427 |
| 1953-54 | 1 460 | 106 | 1 597 | 3 164 |
| 1954-55 | 1 838 | 62 | 929 | 2 829 |
| 1955-56 | 1 803 | 54 | 1 302 | 3 159 |
| 1956-57 | 2 669 | 26 | 1 805 | 4 500 |
| 1957-58 | 2 142 | 174 | 1 609 | 3 925 |
| 1958-59 | 1 726 | 27 | 939 | 2 692 |
| 1959-60 | 1 217 | 61 | 551 | 1 829 |
| 1960-61 | 932 | 49 | 518 | 1 490 |
| 1961-62 | 751 | 129 | 191 | 1 071 |
| 1962-63 | 934 | 182 | 289 | 1 405 |
| 1963-64 | 579 | 50 | 281 | 910 |
| 1964-65 | 449 | 97 | 111 | 657 |
| 1965-66 | 572 | 175 | 120 | 867 |
| 1966-67 | 696 | 67 | 28 | 791 |
| 1967-68 | 982 | 126 | 8 | 1 116 |
| 1968-69 | 1 279 | 126 | 11 | 1 416 |
| 1969-70 | 511 | 98 | 11 | 620 |
| 1970-71 | 862 | 251 | 12 | 1 125 |
| 1971-72 | 847 | 126 | 4 | 977 |
| 1972-73 | 943 | 151 | 5 | 1 499 |
| 1973-74 | 1 635 | 234 | 2 | 1 871 |
| 1974-75 | 1 912 | 199 | | 2 111 |
| 1975-76 | 1 663 | 343 | | 2 006 |
| 1976-77 | 1 092 | 763 | | 1 855 |

MILK TREATMENT ALLOWANCES AND QUOTAS

Mr PARK asked the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Will he consider paying a milk treatment allowance to factories in former island areas in respect of imported milk?

(2) Will he consider assisting financially those dairyfarmers whose earning capacity has been reduced as a result of quota reduction and whose banks have asked for a reduction in overdrafts because they no longer regard quotas as security?

Answer—

(1) It is not intended that any milk factory's viability should be jeopardised by a Government-caused new necessity to import milk from another district. Where reductions of acceptance of locally produced milk due to (a) the

Government's supply-reallocation policy and/or (b) surrenders of quota under the current "Dairy-farming Stabilisation Plan" can be clearly demonstrated as affecting the viability of a factory as the processor of Authority milk the Dairy Industry Prices Tribunal is prepared, on the basis of an application made by the factory concerned, to consider the question of adjustment of gross margin to the extent justified.

(2) There is no existing provision for financial assistance to be given to dairymen for the purposes stated. In this connection, however, it is important to note that there is now a new complexion on the quota-reduction situation. In so far as the remaining phases of the supply reallocation programme are concerned, *no further quota reductions will be needed*, since sufficient quota has been surrendered under the stabilisation plan to meet further reallocation requirements. It is also quite probable that the last proportion by which quotas were reduced on the 13th January, 1978, will become restorable in due course

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mr COLEMAN asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What proportion of calls made by the New South Wales Ambulance Service is for the transport of non-urgent and chronic, rather than urgent cases, to and from hospitals and treatment centres?

(2) Do the duties of ambulance officers include the cleaning of their premises and, if so, how much of their time is devoted to these duties?

(3) What opportunities are provided for members of the Ambulance Service to improve their knowledge, techniques and training?

Answer—

(1) The transport cases and distance travelled for the year ended 30th June, 1977, are:

| <i>Type of Case</i> | <i>No. of Cases</i> | <i>Per cent to Total</i> | <i>No. of Kilometres</i> | <i>Per cent to Total</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Accident | 124 507 | 16.08 | 1 983 597 | 11.71 |
| Medical and Surgical | 156 955 | 20.28 | 6 548 519 | 38.65 |
| Convalescent | 59,301 | 7.66 | 1 924 216 | 11.36 |
| Day Treatment | 433 388 | 55.98 | 6 485 681 | 38.28 |
| Total | 774 151 | 100.00 | 16 942 013 | 100.00 |

(2) Cleaning of ambulance premises by ambulance officers has always been recognised as part of an ambulance officer's duties. However, for a number of years past the Health & Research Employees' Association of Australia has objected to the requirement of ambulance officers carrying out heavy cleaning duties and in late 1976 the then New South Wales Ambulance Board commenced investigations into the possibility of ambulance stations with heavy case loads being cleaned by contract cleaners. Tenders are presently being called for the cleaning of ambulance stations in the Central and Brisbane Water ambulance districts.

To alleviate the work load placed on ambulance officers required to wash and clean ambulances, car washing equipment has been installed in ambulance stations throughout the State.

No records are kept which would disclose how much of an officer's time is devoted to cleaning duties.

(3) Since October, 1961, an Ambulance Officers' Training School has been in existence and officers from all parts of the State are required to attend the School from time to time.

Officers on joining the Ambulance Service pass through an induction course at the School and then after six months on road ambulance duties return to the School for further training.

Since 1976 advanced life support courses have been operating with officers selected for such training attending courses at the Training School, St Vincent's Hospital, and various other teaching hospitals.

All officers are encouraged to continue their learning and practice at their own stations.

To provide improved and expanded facilities including live-in accommodation, the Ambulance Training School is being transferred from its present location in Quay Street, Sydney, to Rozelle.

For officers wishing to seek promotion a special Diploma Course covering administrative and mechanical subjects is conducted by the Department of Technical and Further Education.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT FAIRY MEADOW

Mr COLEMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways—

(1) What plans are there for installation of traffic lights at the intersection of the Princes Highway and Anama Street, Fairy Meadow?

(2) If there are no such plans, what investigations have been made into the need for traffic lights at this intersection?

(3) If no such investigations have been made, will he immediately institute an inquiry into the need for lights at this corner?

Answer—

(1) The question of providing traffic control signals at Princes Highway and Anama Street, Fairy Meadow, has been raised with me by the Hon. Member for Corrimal and I informed Mr Kelly that, unfortunately, there were no plans to have signals installed at this location.

(2) In 1975, prior to the establishment of the Traffic Authority, the location was investigated by the Department of Motor Transport. Its inquiries revealed that signals were not warranted.

(3) Following a further more recent approach from the Hon. Member for Corrimal the matter has been submitted to the Traffic Authority for consideration.

CLEARWAYS AT FAIRY MEADOW

Mr COLEMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Highways—

Will he instruct his department to abandon proposals for 12-hour **seven-day-a-week** clearways along the Princes Highway through the shopping centre at Fairy Meadow so that businesses there may not suffer financial disadvantaging through the Government's transport policies?

Answer—

The proposed 12-hour, seven-day-a-week clearways along the Princes Highway through the shopping centre at Fairy Meadow was raised with me by the Hon. Member for Wollongong. I have advised him that in February, 1976, the former Government adopted in full the recommendations of a report on future transport planning, prepared at its behest by URTAC, which included the introduction of special clearways of twelve hours and more. That report and those recommendations were the cornerstone of the transport "policy" in existence until the May, 1976, election. I also informed him that this policy was apparently being repudiated by certain members of the opposition.

So far as the Government is concerned there are, at present, no proposals to introduce **12-hour**, seven-day-a-week clearways along the Princes Highway at Fairy Meadow.

Moreover, as I have informed all Hon. Members, should it become necessary because of traffic congestion to consider the introduction of extended clearways, there will be full prior consultation with the Councils and Chambers of Commerce concerned.

MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONERS

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier—

- (1) What criteria are used for the classification of prisoners requiring maximum security imprisonment?
- (2) Who are the persons involved in the classification?
- (3) What procedures have been adopted by his department for a later review of such classification in the case of individual prisoners?

Answer—

(1) The criteria used for the classification of prisoners requiring maximum security imprisonment are:

- (i) the protection of the general community;
- (ii) the general peace of the community within penal establishments;
- (iii) the safety of all officers including professional, custodial, educational and administrative, as well as visitors.

Amongst the factors taken into consideration by the Classification Committee are:

age; criminal history; known criminal associates; general education; assessed potential for development, both social and educational; residential area at the time of conviction; physical and mental health; physical appearance; the prisoner's personal electives of choice.

(2) The membership of the Classification Committee comprises:

Chief Superintendent
Executive Officer (Establishments)
Chief Psychologist
a Programmes Officer
a member of the Clergy
Assistant Superintendent of Industries
Senior Clerk, Prisoner Movement (Secretary).

(3) It is the responsibility of the Programmes Review Committee in each establishment to review each prisoner's programme and determine whether any variation to it is necessary or desirable.

The review is undertaken at intervals dictated by the needs of individual inmates but on the understanding that each prisoner will be reviewed at least once in every year.

In coming to that decision, the Programmes Review Committee will consider reports on the prisoner's progress from a range of officers including custodial, probation and parole, psychologists and educationalists.

The dual classification procedures, i.e., the determination by the Classification Committee of the initial placement and remedial programme and the on-going re-assessment and development by Programmes Review Committees, is based on observation of progress and potential for development in education and other areas.

Of course the foregoing **information** must be considered having regard to **the** fact that a review of the whole area of classification of prisoners is now being undertaken following the recommendations of the Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons.

CHIROPRACTORS

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for Health—

(1) When does he propose to introduce legislation to register **chiropractors**?

(2) What has delayed its introduction?

Answer—

(1) It is anticipated that a Bill will be introduced later this year.

(2) The Webb Report (the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Chiropractic, Osteopathy, Homoeopathy and Naturopathy) emphasises the desirability of uniform legislation throughout the Commonwealth in this field. It is necessary to give careful consideration to this view in preparing and determining a date for the introduction of appropriate legislation.

PSYCHOLOGISTS

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for **Health**—

When does he propose to introduce legislation to register psychologists?

Answer—

A report of the Advisory Committee to Prepare Recommendations in Respect to Proposed Registration of Psychologists in New South Wales is expected to be completed by June, 1978. When this **report** has been received and evaluated consideration will be given to legislating for the registration of psychologists.

COOMA HOSPITAL

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for **Health—**

- (1) What action does he **propose** in relation to Cooma Hospital?
- (2) **When will** this take place?

Answer—

- (1) It is proposed that Cooma District Hospital be re-developed in a five-stage programme at a possible cost in excess of **\$8m.**

Planning of this re-development is continuing and during this financial year **I** allocated funds to enable sketch plans for Stage **I** of the development programme to be undertaken. It is anticipated that sketch plans for Stage **I** will be completed this **financial** year.

It is currently planned that Stage **I** will include construction of the following:

- 60-bed ward block
- new boilers and plant including relocation of the existing stand-by generator
- temporary linen handling facilities
- new mortuary
- temporary maintenance workshops

Stage **II** is planned to include construction of:

- accident and emergency department
- the radiology department
- the observation ward
- the intensive care unit
- the operating theatres and associated air conditioning plant room
- pathology which is related to emergency work
- rehabilitation which comprises physiotherapy and occupational therapy
- administration and medical records
- public and staff car parking for 75 cars.

- (2) The commencement date of construction for all stages of the proposed development of Cooma District Hospital is difficult to specifically state and will basically depend on the cash allocations from State and Commonwealth sources during the 1978–79 and subsequent financial years for this as well as other high priority projects, however, I will be seeking the provision of funds during the 1978–79 financial year to enable planning for Stage **I** of the development programme to be completed and construction to commence.

Following completion of Stage **I** planning money will be made available to enable Stage **II** planning to be commenced. Stage **II** has a high priority on the Commission's forward planning programme.

ELECTRICITY COMMISSION FLEXITIME

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and Minister for Energy—

(1) Why was the core time of **9.30 a.m.** to **4.00 p.m.** decided **upon** for the flexible working hours scheme for the Electricity Commission?

(2) Will he have the scheme examined after a trial period to see **whether it** could operate to the better advantage of the commission and its officers if the core time were reduced at either (a) its commencement or (b) its termination or (c) both?

Answer—

(1) The core time of **9.30 a.m.** to **4.00 p.m.** was established with the objective of allowing officers flexibility in the selection of working hours and at the same time ensuring the availability of the staff resources necessary for the efficient operation of the Statewide power system. Recently the flexible working hours scheme was modified to allow officers to observe a lunch break of a half hour minimum and an hour maximum to be taken at any time between **12 noon** and **2.00 p.m.** This modification results in a **full** complement of officers being in attendance only between **9.30 a.m.** and **12 noon** and **2.00 p.m.** and **4.00 p.m.**, a total of **4½** hours. Any reduction of this period would adversely affect efficiency.

(2) The trial period has been completed and as a result of experience gained during the trial a number of modifications including the revised lunch break arrangements have been made. For the reasons mentioned in (1) it is not intended to change the present core time of **9.30 a.m.** to **4.00 p.m.**

AUSTRALIAN UNION OF STUDENTS TRAVEL

Mr BARRACLOUGH asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Tourism—

(1) Since **1 January, 1978**, when have officers of the Travel Agents Registration Board visited the New South Wales offices of the Australian Union of Students Travel to ascertain its financial position?

(2) If investigations were carried out by the Travel Agents Registration Board, will he advise the contents of the report made?

(3) If no such investigations have been carried out, will he inquire into the profit and loss account of Australian Union Students Travel?

Answer—

(1) The New South Wales offices of AUS Student Travel Pty Ltd are merely branch offices. The records kept at these offices are confined to business transactions occurring at the relevant premises. The financial accounting is carried out at the head office of the Company in Carlton, Victoria. Any investigation into the financial position of the Company would have to be carried out in Victoria by the Victorian authorities. **An** officer of the New South Wales Travel Agents Registration Board called at the **1A Lee Street, Sydney**, offices of AUS

Student Travel Pty Ltd on 15th February, 1978, to examine the trust account records of the Company and ascertain whether they complied with the trust account provisions of the Travel Agents Regulations.

(2) The secrecy provisions of the Travel Agents Act, 1973, prohibit the release of any information obtained from an inspection of a licensee's records.

(3) As AUS Student Travel Pty Ltd is incorporated in Victoria any inquiry into the Company's financial statement is considered to be a matter for the Victorian authorities.

ROSE BAY COMMERCIAL MOORING

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

(1) Will he advise the dates that the commercial shipping mooring in Rose Bay has been used since 1 January, 1978?

(2) Will he list the names, tonnage and nationality of ships using this mooring?

(3) Why were these ships using this mooring?

Answer—

(1)

| <i>From</i> | <i>To</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 11th January, 1978 | 15th January, 1978 |
| 23rd January, 1978 | 25th January, 1978 |
| 7th February, 1978 | 12th February, 1978 |
| 17th February, 1978 | 3rd March, 1978 |

(2)

| <i>Ship</i> | <i>GRT tons</i> | <i>Nationality</i> |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| "Eigo Maru" .. | 25,839 | Japanese |
| "Wakaura Maru" | 24,766 | Japanese |
| "Juno" | 19,439 | Monrovia (Filipino crew) |
| "Ocean Rhythm" | 24,654 | Panama (Korean crew) |

(3) The vessels listed were moored to the buoy while waiting for the coal berth at Balmain to become available for occupation. Vessels frequently moor to buoys while awaiting a working berth, making fast with their anchor cables to ensure safety.

SPLIT ROCK DAM

Mr PARK asked the Minister for Conservation and Minister for Water Resources—

(1) Does he propose to proceed with the construction of Split Rock Dam on the **Manilla** River?

(2) If so, will further land acquisition be carried out in 1978–79?

Answer—

Funds are not available this financial year to allow any land acquisition or commencement of construction on Split Rock Dam. The situation ~~is~~ expected to be the same in 1978–79. At this stage, although details of the proposed National Water Resources Programme of the Australian Government are not available, it is understood that the Split Rock Dam project will not qualify for any **financial** assistance from that source in 1978–79.

However, the Government is aware of the importance to the community of the project and land acquisition and construction will commence as soon as funds can be provided with due regard to the priorities of other commitments on the Government's capital works programme.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT DRUMMOYNE

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for **Highways—**

- (1) Why has the installation of traffic control signals at the intersection of Lyons Road and Gipps Street, **Drummoyne** been delayed?
- (2) When is it expected that the signals will ~~come~~ into operation?
- (3) What is (a) the estimated cost of the signals and (b) the name of the company awarded the contract to install the signals?

Answer—

(1) As the Hon. Member will recall, I advised him in October last that the signals were expected to be operational early in 1978 at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

The position now is that due to delays by Contractors and shortage of equipment, it has not been practicable to allocate this work as planned.

- (2) It is proposed the signals be installed in July or August this year.
- (3) (a) The estimated cost now is \$25,000.
(b) A contract has not been awarded for the reasons given in (1) above.

COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT

Mr BOYD asked the Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) Is the New South Wales Government a signatory to the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement?
- (2) If so, (a) what are the terms of that agreement; (b) is the New South Wales Government obliged to ensure that New South Wales industry commitments are fulfilled; and (c) what arrangements are in hand to safeguard New South Wales producers in current changing circumstances?

Answer—

(1) The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, which guaranteed the U.K.'s sugar supplies from a number of British Commonwealth countries was terminated in 1974 as a result of the U.K.'s accession to the European Economic Community. New South Wales is not and was not a signatory to that agreement.

The agreement probably referred to by the Member for Byron is one which operates between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and provides for the Queensland Government to acquire or purchase all raw sugar produced in Queensland or New South Wales. Neither the New South Wales Government nor the New South Wales industry is a party to the agreement.

(2) (a) The main features of the agreement as **ratified** in "The Sugar Agreement Act" are summarized as **follows:—**

The Commonwealth Government —

imposes an embargo on the importation of sugar.

The Queensland Government —

acquires all raw sugar produced from cane grown in Queensland and purchases all sugar produced in New South Wales.

makes sugar and sugar products available in the Australian capital cities at not more than specified wholesale prices.

controls production of cane sugar by assignment of growing area.

provides funds for assistance to the processed **fruits** industry, and for rebates on the sugar content of manufactured goods exported if the price of refined sugar in Australia exceeds **the** world parity.

(b) The New South Wales Government is not required to ensure that the New South Wales industry commitments are **fulfilled**.

(c) Before the Commonwealth Government became a party to the 1977 International Sugar Agreement it required of the Queensland Government confirmation that it would maintain the present undertakings set out in the **Commonwealth/Queensland** Agreement. Specifically, as it relates to New South Wales, that they purchase all raw sugar manufactured from sugar cane grown on assigned land in New South Wales and that they would control the total production of raw cane sugar. This will provide, subject to the maintenance of world sugar prices, for the continued stability and viability of the industry.

POLICE FORCE

Mr BARRACLOUGH asked the **Premier—**

What was the strength of the New South Wales Police Force as at 1 January, 1976, 1977 and **1978?**

Answer—

The authorised strength of the New South Wales Police Force was:

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1st January, 1976 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8,382 |
| 1st January, 1977 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8,482 |
| 1st January, 1978 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8,662 |

PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES

Mr BARRACLOUGH asked the Premier—

How many persons were employed in the security industry to protect **homes**, factories and commercial premises as at 1 January, 1976, 1977 and **1978**?

Answer—

The information sought is not available.

DOSSIERS ON PUBLIC SERVICE APPLICANTS

Mr WEBSTER asked the Premier—

(1) Are dossiers, compiled on people who apply for employment within the public service, confidential documents?

(2) If so, why were the names of the candidates for a senior position in the education department made public before an appointment had been made?

Answer—

(1) There are no dossiers compiled on persons applying for employment in the N.S.W. Public Service. The application form (or letter), together with any supporting documents such as referees' reports, are seen only by persons from Departments and the Public Service Board who are necessarily involved in the selection process.

When this process is completed and all applicants notified of the outcome of their applications, the applications are stored in a confidential area pending completion of the statutory periods for appeals and expiration of any eligible list. It is then the practice for them to be destroyed by pulping under supervision to ensure confidentiality.

(2) Prior to acceptance of an offer of employment by the successful applicant, the Public Service Board does not make public the identity of the successful applicant. It is not the Board's normal practice to make available the names of unsuccessful applicants.

In the case of the recent vacancy for Chief, Public Relations Branch, Department of Education, the name of one applicant was known as he had been the subject of earlier press comment in regard to the position. Apart from this person, a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 24th February, 1978, mentioned the names of two applicants for the position and identified one of them as the successful applicant.

Investigations by the Public Service Board have not revealed the source of this information, nor the identity of anyone who might have made known which applicant was successful prior to acceptance of the offer of employment.

BEGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr HATTON asked the Minister for Education—

(1) What **was** the cost of improvements made to **Bega** Primary School during the last **two years**?

(2) What improvements planned for the school are to be funded in the 1978-79 financial year?

Answer—

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------------|
| (1) 1976-77 | | | | | | | | \$ |
| Conversion of two classrooms to a library | .. | .. | | | | | | 85,000 |
| Shelving | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,000 |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> \$86,000 <hr/> |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------|
| 1977-78 | | | | | | | | \$ |
| Sewerage line repair | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 300 |
| Removal of trees | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 137 |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> \$457 <hr/> |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------|
| <i>Demountable Accommodation provided since May, 1976</i> | | | | | | | | \$ |
| 6 classrooms | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 120,000 |
| 1 administration unit | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 50,000 |
| Proposed to provide further--4 demountable classrooms | | | | | | | | 80,000 |

(2) Funds have been approved for the conversion of the existing administration/classroom block to provide a shelter area.

POLICE STATION AT HUSKISSON

Mr HATTON asked the Premier—

- (1) What progress have been made towards the establishment of a police station at **Huskisson**?
- (2) What are the statistics which influence the building of a police station?
- (3) How long will it be before construction commences?

Answer—

- (1) Land at Huskisson has been designated for a future Police Station.
- (2) The following factors are taken into account: —
 - the crime rate;
 - the inability of patrols from existing Police Stations to adequately cover **the** area;
 - the actual and anticipated increase in population;
 - major **commercial/residential** development;
 - availability of Loan Vote funds.
- (3) Due to the present difficult budgetary situation it is anticipated that some years will elapse before the site at Huskisson is developed.

POLICE IN SOUTH COAST ELECTORATE

Mr HATTON asked the Premier—

How many uniformed and plain clothes police officers are on permanent and temporary (tourist season) duty in each of the towns in (a) the Bega District and (b) that section of the Nowra District in the South Coast Electorate?

Answer—

| | | | | <i>Permanent</i> | | <i>Temporary</i> | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | <i>Uniformed</i> | <i>Plain Clothes</i> | <i>Uniformed</i> | <i>Plain Clothes</i> |
| Bega Division: | | | | | | | |
| Batemans Bay | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 2 | 2 | |
| | | | | | | 1 (Breath | |
| | | | | | | Analysis Unit) | |
| Moruya | .. | .. | .. | 5 | | | |
| Bodalla | .. | .. | .. | 1 | | | |
| Narooma | .. | .. | .. | 3 | | 1 | |
| Bermagui South | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. |
| Cobargo | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| Bega | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 2 | .. | .. |
| Tathra | .. | .. | .. | | | 1 | .. |
| Nowra Division: | | | | | | | |
| Nowra | .. | .. | .. | 29 | 4 | | .. |
| Huskinson | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Sussex Inlet | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| Milton | .. | .. | .. | 7 | .. | | |

In addition, arrangements are made for one Highway Patrol motor vehicle containing two (2) Police from Wollongong to perform duty in the Narooma area during the tourist season.

Also, members of the Drug and Vice Squad and Special Squad at Wollongong perform duty in plain clothes to give as much attention as possible to all **centres** on the South Coast during week-ends and holiday periods.

HOUSING IN SOUTH COAST ELECTORATE

Mr HATTON asked the Minister of Justice and Minister for **Housing**—

What houses were constructed where, by the Housing Commission in the South Coast Electorate, in each of the **following** categories in the last 4 years:

- H.F.A. houses;
- single Aged—Peoples Units;
- double Aged—Peoples Units; and
- other dwellings?

Answer—

- Three (3) at **Batemans Bay**, five (5) at Bega, three (3) at Moruya and twelve (12) at Nowra.
- Seven (7) at Nowra.
- None.
- Six (6) at **Batemans Bay**, twenty-five (25) at Bega, four (4) at **Ulladulla**, seven (7) at Mollyrnook, five (5) at Moruya, four (4) at Narooma and one hundred and fifty-four (154) at Nowra.

LOG ROYALTIES

Mr SCHIPP asked the Minister for Conservation and Minister for Water Resources—

- (1) When did the last increase in log royalties for New South Wales **sawmillers** occur?
- (2) What was the increase?
- (3) When were the royalties increased prior to that increase?
- (4) What was the amount of the increase?

Answer—

- (1) 1st January, 1978.
- (2) 7 per cent.
- (3) 1st January, 1977.
- (4) 8 per cent.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many medical practitioners were registered in 1977?
- (2) **How** many qualified outside the State?
- (3) Of these latter practitioners, what is their citizenship or **nationality**?
- (4) Will all medical students graduating in 1978, 1979 and 1980 be **offered** two-year residencies after graduation?
- (5) What is being done by the Health Commission to ensure that **medical** graduates secure two years of hospital experience?

Answer—

- (1) During 1977 there was a total of 1 386 doctors granted full registration **in** New South Wales. In addition, a total of 472 doctors were granted **Conditional** registration in order to complete their compulsory intern training in public hospitals.
- (2) and (3) During 1977:—
 - (a) 204 graduates from the University of Sydney were fully registered after completing their compulsory intern training. **A** further 240 graduates from the University of Sydney were granted Conditional registration in order to complete their internship training.
 - (b) 168 graduates from the University of New South Wales were granted full registration after completing their compulsory intern training. A further 207 graduates from the University of New South Wales were granted Conditional registration in order to complete their internship training.
 - (c) 171 graduates from other Australian States were granted full registration. A further 13 graduates from other Australian States were granted Conditional registration in order to complete their intern training.

- (d) **49** graduates from New Zealand were granted full registration. **1** graduate from New Zealand was granted Conditional registration in order to complete his intern training.
- (e) **264** graduates from the United Kingdom were granted full registration. An additional **5** graduates from the United Kingdom were granted Conditional registration in order to complete their intern training.
- (f) **48** graduates from Ireland were granted full registration. **1** graduate from Ireland was granted Conditional registration in order to complete his intern training.
- (g) **382** graduates from South Africa were granted full registration. An additional **3** graduates from South Africa were granted Conditional registration to complete their intern training.
- (h) **2** graduates from East Africa were granted full registration.
- (i) **1** graduate from Sweden was granted full registration. **1** graduate from Sweden was granted Conditional registration in order to complete his intern training.
- (j) **7** graduates from the United States of America were granted full registration. **1** graduate from the United States of America was granted Conditional registration in order to complete his intern training.
- (k) **1** graduate from Lebanon was granted full registration.
- (l) **11** graduates from Canada were granted full registration.
- (m) **1** graduate from Hong Kong was granted full registration.
- (n) **2** graduates from Singapore were granted full registration.
- (o) **75** graduates from other overseas countries were granted full registration, either by fulfilling the requirements of a Section 21c Licence, or had post-graduate qualifications recognized for full registration.

In summary, there was a total of **372** graduates from the Universities of Sydney and New South Wales fully registered during **1977**. There was an additional **447** graduates from the Universities of Sydney and New South Wales granted Conditional registration in order to complete their internship. There was **171** graduates from other Australian States granted full registration and an additional **13** granted Conditional registration in order to complete their internship. There was **49** graduates from New Zealand fully registered plus **1** graduate granted Conditional registration in order to complete his internship.

There was a total of **794** doctors fully registered during **1977** from outside Australia and New Zealand. In addition, there was a total of **11** doctors granted Conditional registration from outside Australia and New Zealand in order to complete their internship.

(4) The Government has agreed to provide additional Intern positions in New South Wales Public Hospitals so that all graduates from the Universities of Sydney and New South Wales will be given training, acceptable to the Medical Board of New South Wales, sufficient to obtain full registration as a medical practitioner. Such registration is reciprocally recognized by all States.

The double graduation from these medical schools in October, 1978, and January, 1979, will provide approximately 820 graduates all of whom will be offered employment for at least one year. The graduates of 1980 are expected to be approximately 510. This is only marginally greater than the more usual number of 450 who have graduated annually in recent years; in 1981 the number should again revert to 450.

A two-year pre-registration period is currently being considered by the Health Commission of New South Wales. No decision has yet been made, but even if this proposal were adopted by the Government, it could not come into effect until 1980 at the earliest.

There has never been a policy of offering two-year residencies to graduates. Figures available suggest that at least 60 per cent of graduates do serve in public hospitals for at least two years. This is achieved by the individual doctor applying for a further one year's employment to the hospital of his choice.

(5) There are 599 approved medical officer posts for registered medical practitioners other than registrars and staff specialists in New South Wales Public Hospitals. Each is an annual appointment determined on the applicant's merit. In view of rising health costs and the need for cost containment no additional posts will be created in hospitals to accommodate the double graduation other than for the pre-registration year (Intern year). As a service organization the Health Commission cannot afford to increase training positions necessary to guarantee to these graduates appropriate training for entrance to the speciality of his or her first choice. This view was made known to the Universities in 1976.

MEDICAL HELICOPTER SERVICE

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will the Government begin a pilot scheme to test the feasibility of operating a medical helicopter-service?
- (2) In the case of serious trauma, is it a fact that the first 20 minutes are the most important?
- (3) Despite the cost, should not the people in New South Wales have a service which is becoming available in overseas countries?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to implement this service?

Answer—

(1) The Health Commission of New South Wales has had this matter under consideration for quite some time. Approaches were made to the Commonwealth Government for a trial use with an armed services helicopter but unfortunately it was not found possible.

However, helicopters from the armed services, along with other type operated helicopters, are used from time to time for the movement of patients and the Health Commission has recently agreed that a radio unit operating on selected

ambulance frequencies should be installed in the helicopter operated by the Royal Life Saving Association and commonly known as the Wales Rescue Helicopter.

The Commission's Aerial Services Committee has been examining operations of the Air Ambulance and Rural Aerial Health Services and will be considering the possible further extension of operations to include the use of helicopters for medical purposes.

(2) In certain kinds of trauma involving respiratory or haemorrhage problems the early post-injury phase is most important. This does not necessarily mean that a patient should be transported rapidly from the accident or collapse scene but rather that skilled life support personnel should be quickly at the scene.

The New South Wales Ambulance Service has introduced, and is rapidly expanding, the training of officers for this particular purpose with the selected officers being highly trained in advanced life support techniques.

In urban areas it is often impracticable to use helicopters for attending road, industrial and domestic accidents and with the highly developed communication system operating in the ambulance service, and with the number of ambulances now operating, attention to accidents would generally be faster by road ambulances than by helicopters.

(3) Helicopters are already available through the armed services and other operators and should the Commission's Aerial Services Committee study on helicopters, recommend that it be necessary to have a dedicated helicopter, then consideration will naturally be given to implementing such a recommendation.

However, the most successful operations of this kind overseas are those where there are joint operations between public authorities.

(4) The Government will be guided by the findings of the expert advisory committee established by the Health Commission.

SAFETY GLASS

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Has a report been prepared by the Northern Metropolitan Region of the Health Commission entitled "Architectural Glass Industries in Northern Sydney: Safety Glass and Prevention"?

(2) What recommendations have been made by officers of the Health Commission concerning the future use of both patterned parallel wired glass and square wired glass for shower and bath screens in New South Wales?

Answer—

(1) A report is presently being prepared by the Northern Metropolitan Region on the abovementioned.

(2) The results of the research **findings** are still being reviewed following further consultation between industry and other departments and more tests are being conducted.

It is anticipated that the report will be completed and presented to the Health Commission **very** shortly.

PARKES AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Mr MASON asked the Minister for **Health—**

(1) Have tenders been called for the replacement of the boilers at **the Parkes** and District Hospital?

(2) If so, has the letting of a tender been delayed while the Health Commission considers the transfer of the laundry operation from Parkes to Orange Central Laundry Service?

(3) Will he (a) safeguard jobs of employees; and (b) retain the laundry at Parkes Hospital?

Answer—

(1) Tenders have been called for the replacement of the hospital's two Radco steel sectional boilers.

(2) A tender has not been let.

(3) The linen service operated by the Parkes District Hospital will not be closed. This assurance was given by me during an address in reply to a civic reception I attended at Parkes on 8 April, 1978.

In order that the laundry can continue to operate, the present erratic and inadequate steam-raising equipment will be replaced. As well, the existing **ironer** will be replaced with a larger unit.

I will be seeking funds to enable these works to be carried out during the next financial year.

The Parkes linen service processes linen requirements for hospitals at Parkes, Peak Hill, Trundle, Forbes and Condobolin, as well as a number of homes and institutions in the area, and is an important industry providing employment for townspeople.

These factors were taken into account in deciding that the laundry should be upgraded to enable it to continue in operation.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN ASHFIELD AND DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATES

Mr COLEMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for **Highways**—

- (1) What proposals are being considered for inclusion in the 1978–1979 traffic signals programme for the electorates of **Ashfield** and Drummoyne?
- (2) Who was the proposer of each proposed installation?

Answer—

In accordance with accepted practice honourable members are informed of works to be undertaken in the electorates.

As soon as the 1978–79 traffic signal installation programme has been finalized the honourable members for **Ashfield** and Drummoyne will be advised of those works approved for their electorates.

SPECTACLES FOR PENSIONERS

Mr OSBORNE asked the Minister for Youth and Community Services—

- (1) Do pensioner-applicants for the supply of spectacles have to meet a means test?
- (2) Are (a) single applicants having money or income-earning assets of over \$500 and (b) married couples having money or income-earning assets over \$1,000, ineligible under the means test?
- (3) If so, will he raise the qualifying limits to \$1,000 and \$2,000 for single and married pensioners, respectively, as this money is often held for emergencies and has been saved at some hardship?

Answer—

- (1) ~~Yes~~.

(2) The current means test permits applicants who receive the basic Commonwealth pension or benefit rate (plus all supplementary assistance associated with pension payments) or who receive State Family Assistance, to have in addition to the assistance, benefit or pension, the following income or assets:

- (a) In the case of a single person, assets to the value of \$500 or an income of \$10 per week.
- (b) In the case of a married couple, or a single parent family with dependent children, assets to the value of \$1,000 or an income of \$17 per week.

The applicant may have a combination of additional income and assets but income cannot exceed that given above, and the combined totals of assessable additional income and assets are not to exceed \$500 in (a) above or \$1,000 in (b) above.

- (3) The means test for the provision of spectacles is reviewed each year in conjunction with the Budget.

HOME BUILDING FUNDS

Mr SINGLETON asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies—

(1) Has \$69m. been released in the form of home builders account money and New South Wales Government special employment money during 1977–78?

(2) If so, how much of this money has been allocated to the 33 country electorates in New South Wales?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) \$19,009,000. This amount includes \$3,866,000 made available from the Home Builders' Account to the Rural Bank for direct lending in certain country centres where it is not appropriate to release the money through terminating building societies.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS WITH T.N.T.

Mr HATTON asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier—

What is the total value of Government business conducted with T.N.T. and each of its subsidiaries in New South Wales?

Answer—

As the honourable member has not specified any period in his question, I have had figures taken out, so far as my administration as Minister for Services is concerned, to relate to the twelve months ended 31st December, 1977. An approximate total only is furnished as estimates have been necessary in cases where term contracts are involved. The figure is \$258,973.25.

GRANTS

Mr HATTON asked the Minister for Local Government—

(1) What was the amount of grant money given to each shire in the South Coast electorate and Bega Municipality under the following headings in each of the last five years, including the current year:

- (a) Commonwealth Grants Commission Funds;
- (b) State Grants Commission Funds; and
- (c) Special State unemployment relief funds?

(2) What has been the percentage variation from year to year in money received by each council in each category?

Answer—

The following Schedule details the grants made to the Eurobodalla, Imlay, Monaro, Mumbulla and Shoalhaven Shire Councils and the Bega Municipal Council from the sources mentioned and indicates the percentage variations.

SCHEDULE

| <i>Council</i> | <i>Year</i> | <i>Common-wealth Grants Commission \$</i> | <i>Variation</i> | <i>Local Government Assistance Fund \$</i> | <i>Variation</i> | <i>Common-wealth Revenue Sharing \$</i> | <i>variation</i> | <i>State Unemployment Relief \$</i> | <i>variation</i> |
|--------------------|-------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Eurobodalla Shire. | 1973-74 | | .. | 43,400 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 1974-75 | 40,000 | .. | 47,350 | 9.1 % inc. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 1975-76 | 100,000* | 150 % inc. | 52,000 | 9.8 % inc. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 1976-77 | .. | .. | 47,500 | 8.6 % dec. | 200,000 | 100 % inc.* | .. | |
| | 1977-78 | .. | .. | 45,000 | 5.2 % dec. | 246,000 | 23 % inc. | 60,000 | |
| Imlay Shire | 1973-74 | .. | .. | 23,550 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1974-75 | 43,000 | .. | 26,600 | 12.9 % inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1975-76 | 105,000 | 144.1 % inc. | 30,500 | 14.6 % inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1976-77 | .. | .. | 28,500 | 6.5 % dec. | 175,000 | 66.6 % inc.* | .. | .. |
| | 1977-78 | .. | .. | 28,000 | 1.7 % dec. | 210,000 | 20 % inc. | 20,700 | .. |
| Monaro Shire | 1973-74 | | .. | 19,000 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 1974-75 | 16,000 | .. | 20,500 | 7.8 % inc. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 1975-76 | 26,000 | 62.5 % inc. | 22,000 | 7.3 % inc. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | 1976-77 | .. | .. | 19,500 | 11.3 % dec. | 65,000 | 150 % inc.* | .. | |
| | 1977-78 | .. | .. | 18,500 | 5.1 % dec. | 80,000 | 23 % inc. | nil | |

* Percentage increase of the 1976-77 distribution by the Local Government Grants Commission of Federal funds compared with the 1975-76 distribution by the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

SCHEDULE

| <i>Council</i> | <i>Year</i> | <i>Common- wealth Grants Commission \$</i> | <i>Variation</i> | <i>Local Government Assistance Fund \$</i> | <i>Variation</i> | <i>Common- wealth Revenue Sharing \$</i> | <i>Variation</i> | <i>State Unemploy- ment Relief \$</i> | <i>Variation</i> |
|----------------------|-------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| Mumbulla Shire. | 1973-74 | | .. | 25,000 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1974-75 | 48,000 | .. | 26,000 | 4% inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1975-76 | 50,000 | 4.1% inc. | 27,000 | 3.8% inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1976-77 | .. | .. | 23,000 | 14.8% dec. | 115,000 | 130% inc.* | .. | .. |
| | 1977-78 | .. | .. | 20,500 | 10.8% dec. | 138,000 | 20% inc. | 31,200 | .. |
| Shoalhaven Shire. | 1973-74 | | .. | 53,500 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1974-75 | 262,000 | .. | 59,500 | 11.2% inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1975-76 | 310,000 | 18.3% inc. | 67,000 | 12.6% inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1976-77 | .. | .. | 47,000 | 29.8% dec. | 460,000 | 48.3% inc.* | .. | .. |
| | 1977-78 | .. | .. | 55,000 | 17% inc. | 541,000 | 17.6% inc. | 155,200 | .. |
| Bega Municipal. | 1973-74 | | .. | 11,050 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1974-75 | 40,000 | .. | 13,500 | 22.1% inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1975-76 | 50,000 | 25% inc. | 16,500 | 22.2% inc. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 1976-77 | .. | .. | 17,000 | 3% inc. | 100,000 | 100% inc.* | .. | .. |
| | 1977-78 | .. | .. | 18,000 | 5.8% inc. | 118,000 | 18% inc. | 23,800 | .. |

* Percentage increase of the 1976-77 distribution by the Local Government Grants Commission of Federal funds compared with the 1975-76 distribution by the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

SOUTH COAST WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES

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

What was the value of work on water and sewerage schemes constructed or under construction in each of the last four years in each of the shires in the South Coast electorate and Bega Municipality?

Answer—

SEWERAGE EXPENDZTURE

| | | 1974-75 | 1975-76 | 1976-77 | Estimated for 1977-78 | Estimated Final Cost |
|------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Bermagui | | 192,000 | 216,000 | .. | .. | 832,000 |
| Tathra | | 90,000 | 256,000 | 480,000 | .. | 1,147,000 |
| Bega | | 212,000 | .. | .. | .. | 805,000 |
| Batemans Bay | | .. | .. | 1,000,000 | 4,000,000 | 7,420,000 |
| Narooma | | .. | .. | .. | 860,000 | 3,400,000 |
| Berry | | .. | 308,000 | 20,000 | 500,000 | 890,000 |
| Huskisson | | 510,000 | 700,000 | .. | .. | 1,600,000 |
| Milton-Ulladulla | | 1,488,000 | 1,144,000 | .. | .. | 3,816,000 |
| Total Value | | | | | .. | \$19,910,000 |

WATER EXPENDZTURE

There were not any water supply schemes in the South Coast electorate under construction which involved government financial assistance in the period **1974-75 to 1976-77**.

Late in **1977**, a special grant of **\$20,000** was made to provide an alternative source of supply against an imminent failure of the supply at the river intake headworks of **Batemans Bay** water supply within the Eurobodalla Shire. The total cost of the works was **\$40,000**, involving the provision of booster pumps.

Within the Shire of Shoalhaven, a total of **\$300,000** government finance is expected to be spent during **1977-78** on design work for the major Nowra District water supply scheme which, when completed, is estimated to cost in the vicinity of **\$28** million. The Council has initiated works to the value of **\$200,000** under this scheme without government financial assistance.

"LIFE. BE IN IT" CAMPAIGN

Mr JACKETT asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Tourism—

(1) What proportion of the total cost of the "Life. Be in it" campaign is to be borne by the New South Wales Government?

(2) What is the total amount so far incurred by the Government in the campaign?

Answer—

It is difficult to give an exact proportion of the total cost of the "Life. Be in it" campaign which is to be borne by the New South Wales Government.

The New South Wales Government has been provided with a cash grant of \$45,000 by the Commonwealth Government to cover the State Co-ordinator's salary, administrative costs and the development of the campaign within New South Wales. The other States have received varying allocations based on their population.

The State Government has made a substantial contribution by deploying head office and regional staff of the Department of Sport and Recreation into promoting the campaign.

Staff have—

- distributed promotional material,
- organized and administered "Life. Be in it" activities in local areas.
- given talks on the promotion to service clubs and community groups.

It is estimated that the total contribution per annum from the State Government through the Department of Sport and Recreation is approximately \$24,000. As at the end of May, 1978, the Government's contribution was approximately \$15,000.

ERARING POWER STATION

Mr MOORE asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for **Tourism**—

- (1) What submissions have been made to the Department of Sport and Recreation seeking support to have an artificial slalom canoeing course incorporated in the construction of the **Eraring** Power Station?
- (2) What attitude has been taken by the department to any such submissions?
- (3) What steps have been taken by him to discuss this matter with his colleague the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Mines and **Minister** for Energy?

Answer—

- (1) Submissions in support of an artificial slalom canoeing course have been received from:

- University of New South Wales Sports Association Canoe Club.
- Gwydir Valley Canoe Club.
- Eraring** Canoeing Education Course Committee.
- New South Wales Canoe Association.
- Australian Canoe Federation.
- Mr R. Elliott.

- (2) My Department of Sport and Recreation has supported this project. It **has**—
Advised **Eraring** Canoeing Education Course Committee to approach the Electricity **Commission** of New South Wales.

Arranged a meeting between the **Eraring** Canoeing Education Course Committee, representatives of the Electricity Commission and officers of my Department on 26th January, 1978, to discuss the scheme for the proposed canoe course.

Invited the Committee to apply through the Lake Macquarie Shire Council for financial assistance under my Department's Capital Assistance Scheme.

Advised the Committee to also seek **financial** assistance from the Commonwealth Government as the proposed scheme **would** be considered as an international canoeing course.

(3) At this stage the matter is still being handled at **the** Departmental level.

BRONTE HOUSE

Mr SCHIPP asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the **Premier**—

Will he ensure that Bronte House is not disposed of by lease, tender or other assignment until the Heritage Council is convened and has had an opportunity to consider the placing of an Interim Conservation Order?

Answer—

As I previously informed Mr J. Schipp the Government is fully aware of the importance of Bronte House and officers of the New South Wales Planning and Environment Commission are closely monitoring the situation.

With regard to your request to ensure that Bronte House is not disposed of by lease, tender or other assignment until the Heritage Council is convened, I will ask my colleague, the Minister for Planning and Environment to have the matter of placing an Interim Conservation Order over the building considered by the Heritage Council as soon as it has been established.

Insofar as the closing date for tenders is concerned, it is understood that owing to the recent mail dispute, Waverley Council has agreed to extend the closing date for tenders, for an indefinite period and no action is expected to be taken regarding the leasing of the building before the end of July, 1978. This should allow sufficient time for Bronte House to be properly appraised by the Heritage Council.

UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH, INC., FUND-RAISING

Mr CAMERON asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the **Premier**—

(1) Is he aware of the street fund-raising activities of an organization known as the Universal Life Church, Inc., California, U.S.A., operating from Suite 11, 44 Bridge Street, Sydney?

(2) Are contributions solicited from citizens in the street purported to be for the benefit variously of diabetics, the underprivileged, needy young people but particularly of the disabled?

(3) Is the organization a recognized charity and, if not, do such activities involve any legal breach?

Answer—

The Universal Life Church, Inc. is not a registered or exempted charity under the Charitable Collections Act. In the absence of precise knowledge of its activities, it is not possible to say whether they involve any legal breach.

Arrangements have been made for the matter to be investigated and if any evidence is obtained of any breach of the law appropriate action will be taken.

TRAFFIC WARDEN AT HABERFIELD

Mr MAHER asked the Premier—

Will a traffic warden be provided before and after school to assist school-children crossing Dalhousie Street, near St Joan of Arc's School, Haberfield?

Answer—

The crossing near St Joan of Arc's School, Haberfield, has been included in a priority list for the appointment of a traffic warden under the Civilian School Crossing Supervisor's Scheme but, at this stage, it is not known when the appointment will be made. The timing of the appointment will depend upon the availability of funds for implementation of the programme and the demands of other competing essential State services.

SCIENCE LABORATORIES AND INDUSTRIAL ARTS WORKSHOPS

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Education—

(1) What is the formula for determining the number of (a) science laboratories and (b) workshops for industrial arts in each high school?

(2) Will additional laboratories and workshops be constructed at Drummoyne Boys High School?

Answer—

(1) The provision of science laboratories and industrial arts facilities in secondary schools is determined by reference to the number of periods taken weekly in each subject.

(2) There are no current proposals for the erection of additional science or industrial arts accommodation. When construction of Concord High School is completed, it is believed enrolments at Drummoyne Boys' High will drop.

It is unlikely, therefore, that the erection of extra permanent specialist accommodation will be necessary.

The position will be reviewed following the occupation of Concord High School.

POLICE STATION AT CONCORD

Mr MAHER asked the Premier—

(1) Do proposals exist for the construction of a police station in Concord?

(2) If so, when will it be completed and occupied?

Answer—

- (1) No.
(2) See (1) above.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Mr WHELAN asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is the Department of Education planning to introduce personal development programmes for primary schoolchildren?
- (2) If so, when? If not, why?
- (3) How many in-service courses were conducted for teachers in personal development programmes in 1976 and 1977?
- (4) How **many** teachers attended and what was the duration of the courses?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) My Department of Education has no plans to introduce special Personal Development programmes into primary schools. At primary level the general integrated approach to the curriculum makes it possible for principals and teachers to incorporate many aspects of personal development into their daily programme. This continuing relationship between the primary school-teacher and his/her class facilitates the understanding of self and others stressed in the Personal Development—Statement of Principles, April, 1974. (A copy will be made available to the Honourable Member for Ashfield.)
- (3) Eighty-six (86) courses were conducted for teachers in personal development in 1976 and 1977. These include those conducted throughout the eleven education regions on a regional basis for teachers from Government and non-government schools and those conducted on a statewide basis are open to teachers from all regions.

There are in all regions various in-service courses and resource groups run by school Personal Development programme co-ordinators for their own teachers. These are held after school hours and are voluntary and unfunded. In addition three special three-week residential courses have been run since 1975 to train regional resource personnel and advisors for all regions.

- (4) Approximately 1 850 teachers attended funded in-service courses in 1976 and 1977. A similar number were involved in courses conducted in 1974 and 1975 and it is anticipated that courses will continue to be held. To date in 1978, one three-week and three four-day courses have already been conducted.

Duration of Courses

[illegible]

WESTMEAD HOSPITAL

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Did the final plan for **Westmead** Hospital provide for 885 beds?
- (2) Does the present plan indicate that the number of beds is 925?
- (3) Where have the extra 40 beds been provided and for what purpose?
- (4) How many beds will be available for use on opening in 1978?

Answer—

- (1) The final plan for **Westmead** Hospital provided for 925 beds; i.e., 885 inpatient beds and 40 beds in the Emotionally Disturbed Children's Unit. This unit, known as **Redbank** House is detached from the main hospital complex and was completed in May, 1976.
- (2) The present plan proposes 925 beds as indicated above.
- (3) No extra beds have been provided.
- (4) Occupancy of Ward Block I by inpatients will commence in November, 1978. It is required that Ward Block I be progressively staffed and occupied and it is intended that one floor of 90 beds will be opened on the official opening date and an additional 120 beds, approximately, will be fully occupied within 12 months.

S.D.A. CREDIT UNION

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies—

- (1) Is it a fact that Mr A. Elliott was ineligible for a loan from the S.D.A. Credit Union?
- (2) Did the Member for **Heffron** formally introduce Mr Elliott to Mr S. F. Arneil to arrange a loan?
- (3) Did the Member for **Heffron** request that Mr Arneil arrange loans of \$4,000 each to Mr and Mrs Elliott?
- (4) Did Mr Arneil point out that the maximum loan was \$2,000 for any one person?
- (5) Did the Member for **Heffron** insist that the loans be made by Mr **Arneil**?
- (6) Is every loan by a credit union confirmed by the Board and did Mr Brereton as a director of S.D.A. confirm the loans?
- (7) Does he know that Mr Arneil and Mr Elliott can confirm these facts by statutory declaration?

Answer—

(1) No. The credit union relied upon that part of its rule which states "a loan shall not be made unless the member to whom the loan is made is a natural person and is a person employed in providing pay, personnel or administrative services to members of the (Shop Assistants and Warehouse Employees Federation of Australia) union.

(2) There is no record in the Credit Union which indicates this in any way. The loan was processed and approved under delegation by Mr S. F. Arneil, the then general manager.

(3) There is no evidence whatever in Credit Union records which support this suggestion. Application forms for loans of \$2,000 each were submitted by Mr and Mrs Elliott in their individual names,

(4) Although individual applications were submitted as stated above for \$2,000 each by Mr and Mrs Elliott, through Mr S. F. Arneil, exceeding his authority or by a mistake on his part, the total loan amount of \$4,000 was made available in the name of Mr Elliott, whereas strictly only \$2,000 could be advanced without security to any one person. Mr Arneil personally signed the relative notice to Mr Elliott of approval of the loan for \$4,000.

(5) According to records of Credit Union there is no basis whatever for this allegation.

(6) (a) No. Where the board has delegated power to approve loans, any loans so approved by a delegate are not subject to confirmation by the board.

(b) In the circumstances outlined, board confirmation was not required.

(7) No. In regard to No. 4 above, a loan agreement incorporating a notice of approval for a loan of \$4,000 was completed on the application by Mr A. C. Elliott for \$2,000. The notice contained the following wording, "Your loan application dated 11-7-73 has been approved subject to the terms and conditions set out above. If acceptable please endorse your acceptance hereunder and return this form to the Credit Union. Payment will be made upon receipt of this form and lodgment of the security required (if any)."

This was signed S. F. Arneil and dated 11-7-73 and Mr Elliott signed an acceptance of a loan of \$4,000 on the same date. The Registry has photocopies of the relevant documents.

S.D.A. CREDIT UNION

Mr HEALEY asked the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Co-operative Societies—

(1) When did he order an investigation into the S.D.A. Credit Union?

(2) In view of the serious allegations made in this House concerning the relationship of a member of this House with the Credit Union, will he make public the findings of the investigation?

Answer—

(1) I did not order an investigation into the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Associated Credit Union Ltd.

Mr Healey is probably referring to an inquiry into the affairs of the credit union which the Registrar, pursuant to section 98 (1) (b) of the Credit Union Act 1969, commenced on 21st September, 1977, the final decision on which has been deferred pending receipt and analysis of certain audited progress financial accounts.

(2) Section 102 of the Credit Union Act 1969 requires the Registrar of Credit Unions to make a report of his proceedings and of the principal matters transacted by him during the preceding year and it is the custom to include in the report details of the results of such inquiries.

AIR TRANSPORT OF SICK PERSONS

Mr MURRAY asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Why is the R.A.A.F. called upon to transport sick persons from rural New South Wales to base and city hospitals when an Air Ambulance Service exists in New South Wales?

(2) On how many occasions since 1 May, 1977, has the R.A.A.F. been called upon to transport sick people in New South Wales?

(3) Would he detail why R.A.A.F. aircraft were used on each occasion instead of the Air Ambulance Service?

Answer—

(1) The R.A.A.F. is called upon *when—*

- (a) a medical retrieval team of a size that cannot be accommodated in an Air Ambulance is required.
- (b) a larger and pressurised aircraft hull is required.
- (c) an excess work load prohibits the movement of an emergency case within a desirable time period.

The R.A.A.F. has not transported any patient to a country hospital on behalf of the Air Ambulance.

(2) From 1 May, 1977, up to 23 March, 1978, the Air Ambulance transported seven hundred and forty-five (745) emergency patients. Over this period, Air Ambulance Control requested the R.A.A.F. to transport a further nine (9) emergency patients, which is only 1.194 per cent of the total 745 emergency cases.

During this period, four thousand two hundred and thirty-two (4 232) patient movements were arranged through Air Ambulance Control. Of this number four thousand two hundred and twenty-three (4 223) were moved by Air Ambulance (99.787 per cent) and nine (9) by the R.A.A.F. (0.2135 per cent).

(3) Details of the nine requests to the R.A.A.F. by the Air Ambulance Service are as follows:

Case 1—1 August, 1977—an emergency call from Dubbo, diagnosis "hyaline membrane disease". At this time the Air Ambulance was involved in the transport of emergency patients from Collarenebri, Uralla and Tamworth.

Case 2—15 August, 1977—an emergency call from Dubbo, diagnosis "respiratory distress syndrome." The only Air Ambulance crew available was en route for an emergency patient, diagnosis "third degree burns to seventy per cent of body" with a serious cross infection risk.

Case 3—29 August, 1977—an emergency call from **Grafton**, diagnosis "femoral artery blockage". Excessive work demand on Air Ambulance including a commitment to transport an emergency case from **Dubbo**.

Case 4—14 September, 1977—an emergency call from Kempsey, diagnosis "severe chest injuries, open pneumothorax, ruptured bronchus". The authorising doctor requested a pressurised aircraft.

Case 5—16 January, 1978—an emergency call from Lismore, diagnosis fractured skull, pneumothorax, haemothorax and spinal cord involvement." A pressurised aircraft was requested.

Case 6—1 February, 1978—an emergency call from Cobar, diagnosis "gunshot wound to head". Doctor requested R.A.A.F. medical retrieval team.

Case 7—2 March, 1978—an emergency call from Parkes, diagnosis "myocardial infarction, and a monitor with escort required". On landing at Parkes a malfunction in the **propellor** governor occurred.

Case 8—6 March, 1978—an emergency call from **Griffith**, diagnosis "fractured arms, legs, and marked blood loss". Doctor requested R.A.A.F. medical retrieval team.

Case 9—9 March, 1978—an emergency call from **Griffith**, diagnosis "respiratory distress syndrome". The Air Ambulance at this time was involved in emergency transports from Hay, Coolah and Walgett.

PROPERTY TAXATION

Mr FISHER asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Did the Government indicate that the Cabinet sub-committee established to review property taxation would ensure much lower rates?
- (2) When does the Government propose to complete the report?
- (3) When can the ratepayers of New South Wales expect to benefit from a lowering of rating?

Answer—

(1) The Government indicated that it would extend its control over increases in local council's general purpose rates beyond 1977 by giving the Minister for Local Government power to peg rate increases each year to a percentage of the previous year's rates.

(2) Rating systems cannot be radically altered quickly or easily because of their complexity. Therefore, the Cabinet Sub-committee appointed to examine the land value rating and taxation systems will continue to examine options open to the Government for more far-reaching reforms in the longer term. Consequently, it is not possible to say when the Sub-committee's deliberations will be completed.

(3) It is impossible to predict that rates will be reduced. However, the Government will certainly persist in its intention to see that rate increases are contained.

COUNCIL-OWNED MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr RYAN asked the Minister for Local Government—

(1) What council-owned motor cars are designated for the full-time use of Council Officers in the following Councils:

- (a) Hurstville;
- (b) Rockdale;
- (c) Kogarah; and
- (d) Sutherland?

(2) What additional motor cars are available for the use of Council Officers in these municipalities?

Answer—

Hurstville: A vehicle is provided for mayoral use. Council has resolved that transport be made available, on request, to Aldermen for official functions, subject to the permission of the Mayor of the day.

Rockdale: A vehicle is provided for mayoral use. Council vehicles allocated to the Town Clerk and Chief Engineer are also used to assist in the transport of Aldermen on official inspections and deputations.

Kogarah: A vehicle is not provided for mayoral use and Council does not allocate vehicles for the use of its Aldermen.

Sutherland: A car is available to the Shire President for use on official duties. This vehicle is used infrequently by other members of the Council in attending official Council duties. No other vehicles are available for the use of members of the Council.

OPPORTUNITY "C" CLASSES

Mr McDONALD asked the Minister for Education—

(1) How many parents are accepting and declining offers of places for their children in opportunity "C" classes?

(2) Who are the educationists stated by him on 28 February, 1978, to be questioning the benefits and outcomes for pupils of such classes?

(3) Are these educationists members of feeder schools?

(4) Have they ever visited opportunity "C" classes to see how they work?

(5) Who are the "communities" stated by him on 28 February, 1978, to be in continuing dialogue with the Government concerning ways in which the talents of children may best be developed?

(6) What are the "other forms of provision" stated by him to have been developed by some regional directors, intended for talented children in the North Sydney region?

(7) To whom have they been made known?

(8) Will he confirm that there will be at least one more intake into opportunity "C" classes in 1979?

Answer—

(1) The rate of acceptance varies according to district. Neutral Bay has the highest rate of acceptance which has varied over the past four years from 70 per cent to 84 per cent. In other districts, the acceptance rate has varied over the same period from 44 per cent to 78 per cent. The average acceptance rate in 1977 was 64 per cent.

(2) The educationists questioning the benefits of O.C. classes are many. They include educationists at tertiary level, senior Departmental officers, Principals of schools and teachers in general.

A prominent American educationist, Dr Goldberg, who recently visited this State, indicated that provision for talented children should be tailored as specifically as possible to the varying needs and background of the children concerned and, as far as possible, without segregation from the normal school environment. She drew attention to the need for wide perspective in assessing needs as types of talent other than intellectual exist and need to be recognized. She expressed the view that the making of a standard provision in no way ensures that the needs of children are being suitably met.

O.C. classes in New South Wales are fixed in conception as to form of provision and the type of child being catered for.

O.C. classes have been established for many years, over a period during which many educational provisions have come under question and, subsequently, undergone modification. It is not surprising, therefore, that the continuation of O.C. classes should be questioned. The fact that provisions have been in existence for many years does not substantiate their relevance to the present.

(3) The educationists questioning O.C. classes are not limited to Principals and teachers of feeder schools.

(4) The great majority would have had direct contact with talented children in the educative process and many would have had experience with or a substantial knowledge of O.C. classes.

(5) I am seeking advice from a wide cross-section of the community, including educationists with experience in the field and interested parents, and will take into account opinions expressed by parental groups.

(6) O.C. classes have never provided for all the talented children, the great bulk of whom are provided for in the normal Primary school. These schools adopt various approaches and forms of organization to meet the needs of these pupils. In certain parts of the State, it has been realized that the provisions for these pupils have been suitable and adequate and the continuation of a special provision for the form of O.C. classes has not been necessary.

Improved facilities and conditions in schools since the O.C. classes were originally established have assisted schools in meeting the needs of all children, not only talented children but also those with learning difficulties. These improvements include a marked reduction in class sizes, better classroom facilities in general, improved library facilities and increased educational resource materials and equipment. As a result of extended teacher training and expanded in-service provision, teachers are better prepared and equipped to pursue their task and more flexible teaching methods are being employed.

(7) All these developments are widely known. My Director of Education in the North Sydney Region has proposed that the matter of providing for more able children be given particular attention throughout all schools in the Region and that supportive consultancy services be provided for schools in this regard. Studies by P. E. Jones, 1954, and J. F. Samson, 1969, Departmental officers, failed to identify any significant difference in the degree of success of O.C. pupils at high schools when compared with their peers of equal capacity who had not attended special classes. Even in relation to the Commonwealth Secondary Scholarship examination, where greater emphasis was placed on originality and the capacity to think independently and critically, the results of the 1969 study did not support an expectation of superiority.

(8) The Honourable Member for Kirribilli is assured that Opportunity "C" classes will be continued for 1979 where it is established that parents support this type of provision. Naturally classes will not be established where support is not widespread enough to justify the continuance at particular schools.

ELECTORAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr BOYD asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier—

In view of the fact that the Electoral Commissioner has made no official comparative study of electoral responsibilities between country and city electorates, will he arrange for such a study to be initiated?

Answer—

Part II of the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912, sets out principles to be followed by Electoral Districts Commissioners (of which the Electoral Commissioner is one) in the distribution of electoral districts in the central area and country areas of New South Wales.

Apart from this and in the absence of information as to the precise nature of the study referred to in the Question, the task does not appear to be one which the Electoral Commissioner is authorised by the Act to perform.

FIRE ESCAPES IN NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Mr MAHER asked the Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier—

(1) Does the Board of Fire Commissioners carry out inspections of fire escapes in non-Government schools?

(2) If so, (a) on what dates were such fire escapes inspected in each non-Government school within the Drummoyne electorate; and (b) what comments were prepared in relation to each school?

Answer—

(1) The Board of Fire Commissioners carries out inspections of fire escapes in non-Government schools from time to time when requested to do so.

(2) No inspections of non-Government schools in the Drummoyne area have been made for some time.