

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 12 August, 1981

Fourth Session of the Forty-Sixth Parliament—Opening of Session—Assent to Bills—Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Election)—Serjeant-at-Arms (Appointment)—Temporary Chairmen of Committees (Nomination)—Death of Laurence John Tully (A Former Member of the Legislative Assembly)—Leave of Absence (Member for Fairfield)—Petitions—Select Committee upon New South Wales School Certificate Assessment Procedures (Report)—Questions without Notice—Law of Evidence Bill (*pro forma*) first reading)—Governor's Speech: Address in Reply (First Day's Debate).

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FORTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

The House met at noon, pursuant to the proclamation of His Excellency the **Governor**.

Mr Speaker (The Hon. Lawrence Borthwick Kelly) took the chair.

Mr Speaker offered the Prayer.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

OPENING OF SESSION

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message from His Excellency the Governor requesting the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Legislative Council Chamber.

The House went, and honourable members having returned,

[Mr Speaker left the chair at 1.9 p.m. The House resumed at 2.30 p.m.]

ASSENT TO BILLS

Royal assent to the following bills of the previous session reported:

Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Amendment Bill

Forestry (Amendment) Bill

Growth Centres (Development Corporations) Amendment Bill

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Grants) Amendment Bill

Luna Park Site Bill

Parliamentary Electorates and Elections (Amendment) Bill
 Police Association Employees (Superannuation) Amendment Bill
 Police Regulation (Amendment and Validation) Bill
 Police Regulation (Superannuation) Amendment Bill
 Totalizator (Amendment) Bill
 Child Welfare (Amendment) Bill
 Closer Settlement (Land Aggregation Tax) Amendment **Bill**
 Crimes (Sexual Assault) Amendment Bill
 Crown Lands (Land Aggregation Tax) Amendment Bill
 Gaming and Betting (Greyhound Racing Control Board) Amend-
 ment Bill
 Jury (Amendment) Bill
 Land Aggregation Tax Management (Amendment) Bill
 Lotto (Amendment) Bill
 Police Regulation (Retirement) Amendment Bill
 Poultry Processing (Amendment) Bill
 Returned Soldiers Settlement (Land Aggregation Tax) Amend-
 ment Bill
 State Lotteries (Amendment) Bill
 Totalizator (Off-course Betting) Amendment Bill
 Totalizator (Racecourse Development Fund) Amendment Bill
 Trotting Authority (Totalizator) Amendment Bill
 Water (Amendment) Bill
 Lord Howe Island (Amendment) Bill
 Pathology Laboratories Accreditation Bill
 Pastures Protection (Amendment) Bill
 Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Bill
 Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill
 Trade Union (Amalgamations) Amendment Bill
 Farm Water Storages and Bores Subsidies (Amendment) Bill
 Motor Vehicles (Taxation) Amendment Bill
 Parliamentary Committees Enabling Bill
 Real Property (Amendment) Bill
 Banana Industry (Amendment) Bill
 Bookmakers (Taxation) Amendment Bill
 Companies (Acquisition of Shares) (Application of Laws) Bill
 Companies and Securities (Interpretation and Miscellaneous Pro-
 visions) (Application of Laws) Bill
 Corporate Affairs Commission Bill
 Church of England (Norfolk Island) Bill
 Church of England Trust Property (Amendment) Bill
 Crimes (Securities Industry) Amendment Bill

Finance (Greyhound-racing Taxation) Management (Amendment) Bill
 Liquor (Amendment) Bill
 National Companies and Securities Commission (State Provisions) Bill
 Registered Clubs (Amendment) Bill
 Securities Industry (Application of Laws) Bill
 Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Bill
 Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases) Amendment Bill
 Workmen's compensation (Broken Hill) Amendment Bill
 Audit (Amendment) Bill
 Maritime Services (Amendment) Bill
 Election Funding Bill
 Valuers Registration (Amendment) Bill
 Apprenticeship Bill
 Industrial Arbitration (Apprenticeship) Amendment Bill
 Northern Rivers County Council (Undertaking Acquisition) Bill
 Colleges of Advanced Education (Amendment) Bill
 Cumberland Oval Bill
 Felons (Civil Proceedings) Bill
 Miscellaneous Acts (Financial Accommodation) Amendment Bill
 Parliamentary Contributory superannuation (Amendment) Bill
 Poisons (Amendment) Bill
 Public Authorities (Financial Accommodation) Bill
 Clean Air (Amendment) Bill
 Clean Waters (Amendment) Bill
 Miscellaneous Acts (State Bank) Repeal and Amendment Bill
 Motor Traffic (Clean Air) Amendment Bill
 State Bank Bill
 Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration (State Bank) Amendment Bill

LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr McDONALD: I have to inform the House of my election as Leader of the Opposition and of the election of James Alexander Cameron as Deputy Leader of the Opposition as from 1st June, 1981.

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received a Commission in favour of Mr Peter John McHugh, who has been appointed by His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council, Serjeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly, in the room of Mr William Geoffrey Luton, retired.

His Excellency the Governor has already administered to Mr **McHugh** the Oaths of Allegiance and of **Office**, respectively, as Serjeant-at-Arms of the Legidative Assembly of New South Wales.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Mr Speaker nominated the following honourable members to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees: James Arthur Clough, Keith O'Connell, Ernest Neville Quinn, **Eric Daniel Ramsay** and Roger Corfield Anson Wotton.

DEATH OF LAURENCE JOHN TULLY, B.A., LL.B., A FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr SPEAKER: It is with regret that I have to inform the House of the death of Laurence John Tully, B.A., LL.B., a former member of the Legislative Assembly, who represented the electorate of **Goulburn** from **1946 to 1965**.

On behalf of the House, I have extended to Mrs **Tully** and family the deep sympathy of members of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained. Will honourable members stand as a mark of respect.

Members and officers of the House stood in their places.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Motion (by Mr Flaherty) agreed to:

That leave of absence for the present session be granted to the Hon. Eric Lance Bedford, member for **Fairfield**, on account of illness.

PETITIONS

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

Rainforests

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:

That rainforests maintain a greater diversity of vegetation and animal life than any **other** forest type. There is worldwide concern for their preservation. The logging policies of the New South Wales Forestry Commission do not protect the ecological integrity of our rainforests. At the present rate of logging the State's remaining rainforests will be exhausted within fifteen years. Workers employed in the logging of rainforests will become unemployed from 1982 onwards.

Therefore, we humbly request, that there be an immediate cessation of logging in all the remaining rainforests in New South Wales and that steps be taken to ensure that employment schemes, such as reafforestation and use of alternative timber supplies, be implemented for **displaced** workers.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Keane, received.

Education

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:

That because there is much concern in the community over the failure of modern education at primary and secondary levels to meet the expectations of many parents, teachers, lecturers, professors, employers and students.

That because there is considerable doubt as to the content and standards, philosophy and moral values of new courses or projects, such as M.A.C.O.S. ("Man—a Course of Study"—ex U.S.A.) ; "People of the Western Desert" (Aust.); and S.E.M.P. ("Social Education Materials Project"—Aust.) and in view of the fact that M.A.C.O.S. and S.E.M.P. have been withdrawn from Queensland Schools.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Parliament of New South Wales will:

- (1) Immediately suspend Courses and Projects such as "M.A.C.O.S.", "People of the Western Desert" and "S.E.M.P." from all N.S.W. primary and secondary schools and Teachers' Colleges, and conduct an independent public inquiry into their suitability and conformity with the provisions of the N.S.W. Education Act.
- (2) Enforce the following guidelines in relation to all text books, courses, projects, etc., used in State schools and institutions:
 - (a) They should encourage loyalty and respect for God, Queen and country, our Federal and State Constitutions and observance of the laws of the land.
 - (b) They should recognize the importance of marriage, family life, motherhood and fatherhood, as well as the privacy of the family and the individual student.
 - (c) They should avoid profanity, indecency or any encouragement of racial hatred, anti-semitism, sedition or violent revolution against our Australian democratic parliamentary institutions.
 - (d) They should provide for studies in history and geography (rather than sociology) and show the importance of the Judeo-Christian ethic as our natural Australian heritage.
 - (e) They should teach the 3 R's, that is, the skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, so that all children receive an effective basic education for their future responsibilities.
- (3) Implement a system of public preview and approval of all text books, novels, courses and projects with reasonable access for all parents and citizens before they are approved for use in schools in accordance with an approved core curriculum.
- (4) Introduce a more meaningful system of the testing and assessing of educational results so as to provide a more equal opportunity for all students in N.S.W.

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

Petitions, lodged by Mr Sullivan and Mr Webster, received.

Prostitution

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

That because some persons have said they see a great deal of merit in the legalization of prostitution and have encouraged the public to express their opinion;

Your Petitioners humbly pray that the Parliament of New South Wales will:

- (1) Take positive steps to eliminate the exploitation of women and children through the degrading activity of prostitution.
- (2) Do nothing which would imply or encourage greater community acceptance of prostitution.
- (3) Appoint a Select Parliamentary Committee to investigate ways and means of eliminating prostitution.
- (4) Introduce legislation which will protect, rescue and restore the women and children recruited and exploited through prostitution.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will protect women and children, support the family, strengthen marriage and strive to eliminate the degrading activity of prostitution in New South Wales.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Webster, received.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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

That section 20 of the Cruelty to Animals Act may prevent the conduct of properly organized and supervised bushmen's carnivals and rodeos.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will take action to repeal section 20 of the Cruelty to Animals Act.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Curran, received.

Moral Standards

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:

That we, the undersigned, having great concern because of the spread of moral pollution in our State call upon the Government to introduce immediate legislation:

- (1) To give positive support to the Lord Mayor of Sydney and other local government authorities in their attempts to clean up moral pollution in our communities.
- (2) To give local government authorities the power to reject applications from individuals or companies for moral pollution centres which are against the public interest such as so-called sex shops, live sex shows, blue movie cinemas, massage parlours (brothels), escort services (prostitution), *et cetera*.

- (3) To tighten up the standards used by the New South Wales Indecent Publications Classification Board so as to include the total prohibition of any pornographic publication or **film** containing child pornography, bestiality, sodomy or violent sex acts against women, such as rape and pack rape, sadism and torture, et cetera.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will protect our society, especially women and children, from moral pollution and its harmful effects.

Petitions, lodged by Mr **Bannon**, Mr **Cameron**, Mr **Caterson**, Mr **Hills**, Mr **Robb** and Mr **Ryan**, received.

Drive-in Theatres

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:

That legislation to exclude under 18-year-olds from "R" rated movies be introduced in the interests of maintaining special **protection** for children and adolescents and this protection should be extended to Drive-in Theatres by providing an opaque fence about the **perimeter**.

Our New South Wales Parliament has a special responsibility to uphold this principle of special protection for children and adolescents especially as the South Australian Parliament has already legislated to **afford** this protection at Drive-in Theatres.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the New South **Wales** Parliament undertake to legislate to either

- (1) exclude "R" rated movies from Drive-in Theatres or;
- (2) make it obligatory for Drive-in Theatres to erect a high opaque fence about their properties so that "R" rated movies cannot be viewed from outside the theatre and offend children and parents.

Petition, lodged by Mr Webster, received.

Aboriginal Land Rights

The humble petition of certain citizens of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

- (1) The Aborigines of New South Wales have been dispossessed of **their lands** for **almost 200 years**.
- (2) The present New South Wales **Labor** Government established a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly to inquire into **Aboriginal Land Rights** in New South Wales.
- (3) The Select Committee has completed its Report on Land Rights and tabled its Report in Parliament **on** 13 August, 1980.
- (4) That Report recommends that Aboriginal Land Rights be legislated and implemented in New South Wales and the Premier has **committed** the Government to land rights legislation.

Now we, the undersigned, call upon the Government to implement at the earliest opportunity the recommendation of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly upon Aborigines.

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

Petitions, lodged by Mr Dowd and Mr **His**, received.

Aboriginal Land Rights

Whereas the Aborigines of New South Wales have been dispossessed of their lands for almost 200 years, and

Whereas the present New South Wales **Labor** government established a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly to inquire into Aboriginal Land Rights in New South Wales, and

Whereas the Select Committee has completed its Report on Land Rights and tabled its Report in Parliament on 13 August, 1980, and

Whereas that Report recommends that Aboriginal Land Rights be legislated and implemented in New South Wales, and the Premier, The Honourable **Neville** Wran has committed the Government to land rights legislation; and

Now we the undersigned call upon the New South Wales Government to implement at the earliest moment the Recommendations of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly upon Aborigines.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Whelan, received.

Land Acquisition

The Petition of residents of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

Whereas the Commonwealth Government makes prompt and fair payment in the compulsory acquisition of land, the New South Wales Government makes no provision for prompt payment when stating intentions to acquire land. Indeed, payment may **not** be made for a decade or longer after the original plans are published. Should owners wish (or be forced through financial hardship) to sell land during this period, these owners suffer financial hardship due to the depressed value of the land and properties **thereon**.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House offer prompt payment to those **affected** when the Government publishes its intention to acquire land.

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

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

School Funding

A Petition of the undersigned citizens, residents within the State electorate of Lane Cove, respectfully sheweth:

That it is vital for the Government of this State to increase funds available for government schools in order to improve educational programmes and allow for the development of education to meet the needs **of** changing technology and social requirements in the 1980's and beyond. In particular we call upon the Government to allocate sufficient funds to allow **for**—

- (1) Adequate development of pre-school educational facilities to meet the needs of all children **progressing** to enrolment in government schools.

- (2) Increased employment of all categories of ancillary staff to assist teachers in implementing educational programmes and to undertake the non-professional duties required in all schools.
- (3) Employment of increased numbers of remedial teachers throughout infants, primary and secondary schools.
- (4) Allocation of sufficient teaching staff to ensure that no class exceeds 30 pupils in infants, primary and junior secondary schools; 25 in senior secondary schools and to ensure that no kindergarten class exceeds 22.
- (5) Increased staffing to allow for release of teachers to carry out duties such as lesson preparation, curriculum development and parent interviews.
- (6) Greatly increased facilities in technical and further education to allow for lifelong education to meet the needs of our rapidly changing society.

We call upon the Government to substantially increase its allocation of resources to education in government schools and colleges in order to achieve these ends.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Dowd, received.

Intellectually Handicapped

A Petition of the undersigned citizens, resident within the State electorate of Northcott, respectfully sheweth:

That services for intellectually handicapped people need to be improved to levels which accord them human dignity and participation in community life. We ask for an immediate public inquiry into the educational and health services provided for the intellectually handicapped patients at Stockton Hospital, and an inquiry into the needs of, and services for, intellectually handicapped people in N.S.W.

Petitions, lodged by Mr Cameron, Mr Caterson, Mr Day and Mr King, received.

Unemployed Peoples Embassy

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

- (1) That the proposed eviction of the Odd Job Centre from 41 Phillip Street, Sydney, is unjustified.
- (2) That the Odd Job Centre needs to employ disabled persons.
- (3) That the Unemployed Peoples Embassy conducts Creative Media Workshops for the unemployed and disabled.
- (4) That surplus government buildings (e.g., 39 Phillip Street, Sydney) should be used to house unemployed, disabled and elderly people.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that action be taken to allow the Unemployed Peoples Embassy to lease the building at 41 Phillip Street, and that support be given to the activities of that organization.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Hills, received.

Innes Street, Five Dock

We, the residents of Innes Street, Five Dock, are concerned because this residential thoroughfare is used as a by-pass by motorists wishing to avoid traffic lights at the intersection of Great North Road and Lyons Road West, Five Dock.

We are concerned that a number of small children and disabled and aged residents live in the street and their lives are in danger by the use of the thoroughfare as a by-pass road.

We ask that Innes Street, Five Dock, be closed to traffic at its intersection with Lyons Road West.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Maher, received.

Child Pornography

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:

That we the undersigned, having great concern at the way in which children are now being used in the production of pornography, call upon the Government to introduce immediate legislation:

- (1) To prevent the sexual exploitation of children by way of photography for commercial purposes.
- (2) To penalize parents/guardians who knowingly allow their children to be used in production of such pornographic or obscene material depicting children.
- (3) To make specifically illegal the publication and distribution and sale of such pornographic child-abuse material in any form whatsoever such as magazines, novels, papers, or films.
- (4) To take immediate police action to confiscate and destroy all child pornography in Australia and urgent appropriate legal action against all those involved or profiting from this sordid exploitation of children.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House protect all children and immediately prohibit pornographic child-abuse materials, publications or films.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Webster, received.

Maitland Hospital

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

That the Maitland hospital being over 100-years old is in desperate need of extensive upgrading. Many areas need immediate attention. In view of the major expansion of industry and population surrounding Maitland we urge haste in the planning and provision of new facilities.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will intercede on our behalf with the Minister for Health.

Petition, lodged by Mr Toms, received.

Traffic Lights for Canley Heights

The Petition of Canley Heights Primary School Parent Bodies respectfully sheweth:

That the volume and nature of vehicular traffic passing in all four directions of the intersection of Cambridge Street and Canley Vale Road and the proximity of the Canley Heights Primary School to the intersection, creates a danger to the life and limbs of a significant number of children requiring to cross these roads to reach schools.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House provide traffic and pedestrian control lights at the intersection of Cambridge Street and Canley Vale Road as a matter of urgency.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Bedford, received.

Homosexual Laws

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:

That we support your efforts to strengthen our family and community life. We therefore wish to register our firm opposition to any changes in our State laws which would legalize and/or encourage the following activities:

- (1) Adoption of children by homosexual or lesbian partners. Such adoptions would be a denial of the basic human right of the child to have the love of a male father and female mother.
- (2) Acts of sodomy in private or public. (NOTE: "Sodomy" is the unnatural, anti-Jewish, anti-Christian act of anal copulation between male persons often described in the media as "homosexual acts" and in the law as "buggery".) Legalization or decriminalization of these so-called "victimless crimes" would imply community approval and acceptance of these unnatural acts, and may encourage public solicitation of adults and particularly children in leisure and recreational areas as well as schools and other educational institutions.

We therefore request that the following steps be taken:

- (1) The complete rejection of Mr G. Peterson's moves to legalize sodomy (buggery) after the 1981 New South Wales State election.
- (2) The establishment of a special department within the New South Wales Health Commission to:
 - (a) develop humane methods of helping persons to overcome or deal with homosexual tendencies through counselling, psychological and medical assistance; and
 - (b) conduct a vigorous campaign to combat the serious venereal disease epidemic particularly amongst practising male homosexuals (i.e., 73 per cent of all current venereal disease syphilis cases are homosexually transmitted).

- (3) The prohibition of any films, materials, books or "homosexual kits" in State schools which undermine the family and marriage by falsely presenting homosexual behaviour as a harmless valid alternative life-style.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will take no measures that would legalize sodomy and so undermine marriage, child-care or the family which is the basic unit of our society.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr R. J. Clough, received.

Abortion

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, New South Wales, respectfully sheweth:

That we support your efforts to strengthen our family and community life.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will:

- (1) Encourage the enforcement of the provisions of the Crimes Act against abortion and the terms of the ruling in *Regina v. Wald*, 1972 3 D.C.R. 25.
- (2) Enact laws controlling medical procedures outside hospitals for the protection of the unborn.
- (3) Encourage the enforcement of the law requiring the registration as a death of the stillbirth of a child of 400 grams in weight, or twenty weeks.
- (4) Eliminate subsidies for abortion referral centres.
- (5) Introduce travel concessions for pregnant women.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Wotton, received.

Prison at Narrabri

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

That the construction of a maximum security women's prison in residential and business areas of Narrabri would be detrimental to the safety, security and general well-being of all residents.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that maximum security women prisoners not be placed in the middle of residential and business areas of Narrabri.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Petition, lodged by Mr Murray, received.

Ring Road 33

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

That information received from the Deputy Director of the State Department of Environment and Planning in respect of the final location of the proposed Ring Road 33 between the railway line and Concord Road at Concord West indicates that the intended alignment through private property will mean a loss of twelve (12) houses and a further twenty (20) being affected in varying degrees.

The Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will intercede and instruct that the route of the proposed roadway be re-located to be partially in Alfred Street and partially in the adjacent land which was resumed on behalf of the Housing Commission of New South Wales for housing purposes as had been the advice from the Department of Main Roads in July, 1979.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr McIlwaine, received.

Casinos

The Petition of the undersigned electors in the State of New South Wales respectfully sheweth:

- (1) That the Gambling facilities in New South Wales are more than adequate.
- (2) That the principle of gambling in general and Casinos in particular is harmful to the moral and social welfare of the people.
- (3) The legalizing of Casinos is not in the best interests of the economy of New South Wales.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Honourable House will not take any steps to legalize the introduction of Casinos, without democratically ascertaining the will of the people by a Referendum.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Mair, received.

Teacher Discrimination

The Petition of certain citizens of New South Wales, concerned with the employment conditions of women in the Infants Teaching Service in New South Wales Primary Schools, respectfully sheweth:

That gross discrimination is being continued against women in the Infants Teaching Service in New South Wales Primary Schools, and that delay in overcoming these discriminatory practices greatly exacerbates the disadvantages suffered by those women.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House remove immediately any regulation in the Teaching Service Act which discriminates against women in the Infants Teaching Service in New South Wales primary schools by excluding them from promotion to the position

of principal of a school, and ensure that those women receive equality of opportunity in appointments made to Primary School promotions positions for the 1982 school year.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Rozzoli, received.

SELECT COMMITTEE UPON NEW SOUTH WALES SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Report

The Clerk informed the House that in accordance with the resolution of the House on 14th May, 1981, he had received from the Chairman the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly upon New South Wales School Certificate Assessment Procedures.

The Clerk placed the report, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence, upon the table of the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

WAGE INDEXATION

Mr McDONALD: I direct my question without notice to the Premier and Treasurer. In view of the Government's \$40 million wage deal with public transport workers, made outside the former wage indexation guidelines, does the Premier and Treasurer intend to adopt a similar approach with other elements of the New South Wales public sector by paying up to the militant and vocal at the expense of the community? Did Sir John Moore, in his judgment announcing the abandonment of wage indexation, allude to the fact that decisions such as that of the Wran Government had led to the scrapping of the guidelines? In light of the lack of compliance by the Government with the previous guidelines, and the statements made recently by the Premier and Treasurer in Mudgee, will he inform the House whether New South Wales is to establish its own indexation system, or a separate wage fixing procedure for State Government employees? Does the Premier and Treasurer intend to argue before the State Industrial Commission for quarterly indexation?

Mr WRAN: The arrangements between the State Rail Authority and the railway unions emanated from a recommendation of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. Honourable members know that recently the Leader of the Opposition has gone through a bad time, but it would be better if he were to devote more of his time to basing his questions upon facts rather than fiction, in respect of which he has shown himself to be a master.

Mr Commissioner Walker, whose words I shall quote, recommended that an industry allowance be determined by the State Rail Authority and the unions concerned with the conduct of the rail system in New South Wales. His exact words were: "I see the need for an industry allowance which can absorb the various odd sod type of allowances and can be used for productivity changes which have and will emerge as the industry absorbs the great changes which have been taking place over the last five years". The greatest change that has taken place in the New South Wales railways over the past five years is that almost \$1 billion has been spent on converting an outmoded ramshackle system, operated with ancient rolling-stock, into a modern rail

system. In the process it was necessary to upgrade not only the equipment and the rolling-stock but also the morale of the men and women who had been sadly neglected by Liberal Party–Country Party governments in relation to their calling. I must say that nothing that the Leader of the Opposition has said in the past day or so about sacking half the public service of New South Wales will do anything to contribute to their morale. Indeed, the order of the day so far as the Opposition is concerned seems to be, if it does not move and you cannot eat it, sell it.

In relation to the so-called \$20 industry allowance, I refer the honourable gentleman—as I shall be referring the Prime Minister tomorrow—to the arrangement made between Telecom Australia and its employees, which virtually was the last nail in the coffin of regulated wage fixation in Australia. Members of the Liberal Party say one thing to the rest of the community but endeavour to adopt different standards for themselves. I should have thought the honourable gentleman, when he asked me about wage indexation, would have known that a conference is to be held tomorrow and that a vast vacuum has been left in industrial relations in Australia as a result of events in recent weeks, not the least of which was the Prime Minister's hopping on an aeroplane to go to the wedding in London when the country was literally in industrial chaos, especially in Melbourne.

I hope the conference tomorrow will throw some light on where industrial relations in Australia are going. This morning a meeting was held between representatives of the federal Government and the peak councils of employers. This afternoon a conference is being held between representatives of the federal Government and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. I have warned that no miracles will emerge from these talks. After all, it has taken eighty years to create the industrial mess in relation to wage fixation in which Australia finds itself today. The final blow has been dealt by the wilful decisions of the Prime Minister and the Liberal Party. It will take some time, some objectivity and I trust some co-operation at the political level, for the governments of Australia to find a mechanism that will restore some basis of stability to Australian wage and salary earners and at the same time maintain the purchasing power of their wages and salaries.

DAY LABOUR FORCE

Mr GABB: I ask a question without notice of the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports. Has the Minister seen a report of a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition that a Liberal Party–Country Party government would reduce the day labour work force of many government departments and authorities? Will the Minister inform the House of the consequences of such action?

Mr Fisher: On a point of order. The question asked by the honourable member for Earlwood should be directed to the Minister responsible for the administration of the department concerned. The Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports is not responsible for the day labour work force of all government departments. I move, That the statement be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is not competent for the honourable member for Upper Hunter to move such a motion. I take it that the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports is able to answer the question?

Mr FERGUSON: Yes, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable member for Earlwood for his question and his expressed concern, as a former member of the public service, about the welfare of public service employees and the attacks made by the Leader of the Opposition on the future of public servants in New South Wales. The honourable member for Earlwood referred to part of a statement attributed to

the Leader of the Opposition. Honourable members should consider that statement a little further. The Leader of the Opposition said also that the day labour force had been allowed to grow to a ridiculous extent with the soft approach of the Wran Government and the weak-kneed approach of the Minister for Public Works. If I am weak-kneed, it is because I have been praying so much that the honourable member for Kirribilli will remain as Leader of the Opposition for as long as possible.

I shall tell the House the facts regarding the attack made by the Leader of the Opposition. Let me deal first with the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. When this Government came to office the day labour construction force of the Water Board was 7 929. That force has now been reduced to 4 030; unfortunately, I must admit to a reduction of 3 899. So much for the alleged growth of the day labour force to a ridiculous extent. Honourable members should consider the reasons for the reduction in the Water Board's day labour construction force. It was not brought about by this Government. It was primarily caused by a Liberal Party—Country Party Government in Canberra.

Mr Punch: Rubbish!

Mr FERGUSON: Just a moment. Another reason for the reduction in the force was the abandonment of the backlog sewerage programme that had been instituted by the Whitlam Labor Government. It was caused also by a savage, fierce reduction in allocations of loan council funds. The Leader of the Country Party tried to interject when I spoke about Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board employees. The difference between the Wran Labor Government and the Fraser Government is that the federal Government reduced the amount allocated for backlog sewerage programmes, but the Wran Government, since it has been in office, has increased allocations to country water and sewerage programmes.

[Interruption]

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

Mr FERGUSON: In the last year of its term of office the former Liberal Party—Country Party Government demonstrated its concern for country people in New South Wales by allocating only \$13 million for country water and sewerage programmes. Last financial year the Labor Government allocated \$36 million for such programmes. That demonstrates the Government's so-called ridiculous attitude. The Whitlam Government showed its concern for water and sewerage by allocating \$91 million to the Water Board for the backlog sewerage programme, some \$26 million of that amount being in the form of non-repayable grants and the balance in long-term loans. As a result of that approach by the former federal Labor Government the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board area, which extends from the Hawkesbury River to beyond Kiama, is 92 per cent sewered.

Mr Arblaster: Why does not the Minister table the McKinsey report?

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

Mr FERGUSON: Though the Leader of the Opposition spoke about the ridiculous growth in the day labour force, I have established that in fact there has been a considerable reduction in the day labour force. Not only is the Leader of the Opposition wrong, but also he demonstrates that he knows absolutely nothing about the Water Board. Let us examine the facts. The Leader of the Opposition wishes to reduce the strength of the day labour force. The board has 411 day labour employees engaged on pollution control. Surely he does not suggest that we should reduce the number of people who are responsible in the board for pollution control. Further, there are 908 sewage maintenance workers who spend most of their time

down in the sewers ensuring that those sewers function properly. Is the Leader of the Opposition seriously suggesting that a private contractor could be found to take on that type of work? Of course not. Such contractors want only to pick the eyes out of the work, taking the profits and leaving the dirty jobs to the local authority workers. The State Labor Government does not accept that proposition.

I am sure that everybody heard with interest the proposition of the Leader of the Opposition to flog off State enterprises. One such suggestion was that the State brickworks should be sold off. Those who study history will remember what happened the last time the Liberals were in power during the depression. They sold off the State brickworks to a monopoly, which eventually closed the brickworks down and cast the machinery in the harbour. Is the Leader of the Opposition really suggesting that the State should go through that process again? The Leader of the Country Party, who has been interjecting constantly during my remarks, was for a long time the Minister responsible for public works. He presided over the State brickworks during a period when they never made a profit. Obviously, he wanted to see the collapse of those works. When Labor came into office in this State the State brickworks were losing money. I am proud to say that those works are now a thriving concern.

The annual report of that organization which I have today tabled shows that in the last financial year the State brickworks made a profit of \$1.6 million. It is only natural that the Leader of the Opposition waists to sell any profitable undertaking to his cronies. But he will have to be in government to take such action—and I am sure that the people of this State will never present him with that opportunity. The people know the Liberal record. As a mark of appreciation to the workers of the State brickworks and in recognition of the fact that by their support they have turned a loss into a profit, I am proud to say that last year the Government introduced a profit-sharing bonus for every worker in that organization. They each received \$400.

I deplore the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has been touring the State suggesting that the brickworks will be sold. We on the Labor benches bear very much in mind that those brickworks support 350 workers and their families. Obviously those people become most concerned when they read such statements; they feel that their jobs are in jeopardy. Furthermore, the Leader of the Opposition states that his party will take action in respect of the Department of Main Roads. The Opposition intends, if it gets the chance, to put out more D.M.R. work to contract resulting, it is said, in a reduction of 3 000 jobs. We have only to examine the position with a little care to see that such a course would wipe certain towns off the map.

Mr Punch: How?

Mr FERGUSON: The Leader of the Country Party should be aware that this will affect small shopkeepers and small service station operators in all those small country towns which have within their areas public works depots, which are the lifeblood of the towns. I know that the honourable member does not often visit the country areas, but how will his colleagues in the Country Party deal with the uproar that will be caused if the Opposition pursue that plan and 3 000 employees lose their jobs? Will those Opposition members tell their country electorates that if they support the Liberal Party—Country Party coalition, such a vote will result in the sacking of large numbers of workers and there will be no further job opportunities? That is the Opposition's attitude. It is what is known as decentralization in the Liberal Party. The Liberals will seek to sack people in the country and will try to bring them down to Sydney as unemployed persons. It has been suggested also by the Opposition that the Electricity Commission should use more private contractors. Has anybody ever heard of a more disastrous recipe for blackouts?

Mr Punch: The Labor Government is not doing too badly!

Mr FERGUSON: I well remember that in the period prior to 1976 this State suffered continuing blackouts. Under the Labor Government the State has not had an electricity blackout in over five years. That is the difference in performance. Opposition supporters attack public servants but when I have acted as Premier, in the absence of the Premier and Treasurer, I have always found that though they attack public servants, Opposition supporters are continually writing to the Government asking for additional members for their personal staffs.

POWER SUPPLIES

Mr PUNCH: I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy. In answer to questions asked of him in March and May of this year did the Minister mislead the House by saying that New South Wales would have no blackouts or power rationing under the Labor Government? Considering that blackouts did occur, without warning, that no assurance has been given that further blackouts will not occur, and that the blackouts revealed the unsatisfactory approach by the Electricity Commission of New South Wales to accounting to the Minister and to the Parliament over the power crisis, will the Minister now institute a formal independent inquiry into the commission's operations? In the light of the Government's problems in meeting the demand for power now, will the Minister reveal the Government's plans to ensure that the future demand for power is met?

Mr KILLS: I vividly remember the question that the Leader of the Country Party asked me about the ability of the Liddell power station to provide sufficient power for the State. He raised also a question regarding water at the Liddell ponding facilities. I said that it was necessary to reduce output from Liddell to the order of 200 megawatts. It is a fact that at the conclusion of my answer to the question I said that I was convinced that there would not be any power shortages in the State during the winter of this year. It is the fact that there were blackouts lasting twenty-four hours in the State, the first that had occurred in the more than five and a half years in office of the Government.

I remind honourable members of the severe rationing that occurred during the years 1973, 1974 and 1975 when the coalition parties held office and during which time there was severe rationing of power to industry. Week in and week out industry was forced to close down and employees were suspended. None of those things have happened since the Labor Party came to office. I remind the Leader of the Country Party that, during the eleven years that the coalition parties held office, no major power stations were commenced. I remind the Opposition of the major undertakings that have been commenced by the Government in constructing three major power stations at Eraring, Bayswater and Mount Piper, which will double the thermal capacity of the State within six years, at which time no less than ten 660 megawatt machines will be provided. If the Leader of the Country Party considers that that is insufficient to meet the commitments of the State, I assure him that it will. In addition, more announcements will be made by the Premier and Treasurer in his policy speech.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

Mr MCCARTHY: My question without notice is addressed to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads. Is the Minister aware of a great wave of concern and uncertainty among employees of the Department of Main Roads and citizens of many rural communities in New South Wales, as the date approaches for

implementation of the Commonwealth Government's legislation forcing State governments to submit all construction work on national highways to tender? Will the Minister inform the House of action that the Government is taking to protect the rights of the people concerned?

Mr JENSEN: I thank the honourable member for Armidale for his question and I congratulate him on the temperate language he used in asking the question. The circumstances are such that language of a different form would have been appropriate. When the Commonwealth Government discussed with the Ministers for Roads of Australia its proposal about introducing compulsory tendering for the construction of national highways horror was expressed by the representatives of the States present at the meeting. Those representatives came from the National Country Party, the Liberal Party and the Labor Party. When the Commonwealth Government ignores the unanimous hostility and opposition to its proposal conveyed to it by six States representing every political party in Australia, it makes a farce of those who advocate co-operative federalism and reveals their hypocrisy. No investigation was conducted by the Commonwealth Government to produce evidence that the method of constructing national highways by tender would lay one more kilometre of highway than is at present being built. In fact evidence to the contrary was placed before the Commonwealth Government.

For the past fifty years the New South Wales Department of Main Roads **under** the control of this Government and other governments of differing political persuasion has been constructing national highways and main roads. About half of the work has been carried out by contract and about half by the day labour method. The evidence accumulated in the Department of Main Roads, which was conveyed to the national Government, indicates that in most cases the cost of construction was less when it was performed by the Department of Main Roads than when it was performed by contract. In spite of this, the Commonwealth Minister for Transport was **forced—** and I say that advisedly as I do not consider that he really wanted to do it—by his Government to tell the gathering of Ministers for Roads that the matter was not negotiable, that the Commonwealth Government had decided the way it was going to be done and that was **it**.

As a consequence of the Commonwealth Government's decision, the present structure of the Department of Main Roads that was built up over fifty years of its history is threatened with being made less effective, rather than more effective. The Department of Main Roads, and indeed every other department of main roads in Australia, has been condemned without trial. The organizations that they have established are to be disrupted, and not because there is any evidence to show that the community would benefit. Indeed, there is evidence to the contrary only. I can think of no single action by the Commonwealth Government for which less justification has been produced than its action with road construction. The consequence will be that the delicate inter-relationship between the Department of Main Roads, those who contract for the department and the 4 000 people employed in local government who work for the department will have their livelihoods threatened, all for the purpose of expressing a philosophic view without one iota of evidence to show that there would be any benefit to the community. Indeed, as I said earlier, the evidence is to the contrary.

Today the Leader of the Opposition, I regret to say, condemned the Department of Main Roads and talked about people not being productive. An examination of the cost of constructing comparable roads anywhere in the world and the cost of constructing roads in New South Wales, and probably in the rest of Australia, reveals that this State's road construction organization and its contractors and other workers are no

less efficient or effective than any other road construction authority or organization in the world and produce as many kilometres of roads per dollar. The only limit on the Department of Main Roads is that it is not superefficient. I do not know of any organization that is. The Government has applied itself to endeavouring to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the department—and with some success.

The morale of the New South Wales Department of Main Roads, which is a worthwhile organization, is being shattered by a federal Act of Parliament that has the effect of bypassing ministerial control of tenders for roadworks and obliging State governments to call for tenders when moneys are to be expended on national highways. The department itself may tender, but it must first prepare tender documents for distribution to interested persons. All tenders are then to be assessed before recommendations are made to the federal Government for ultimate decision. I do not know of any comparable legislative provisions. It is proposed that tenders be called for parts of major works, rather than for a whole job, so that the submission of more tenders will be encouraged.

It is not clear what will happen if a tender lower than that of the Department of Main Roads is accepted by direction of the federal Government and the contractor cannot complete the work for the tender price. The legislation requires the Department of Main Roads to call for tenders for the acquisition of land for road widening. Can any honourable member explain to me how the Government will be able to acquire land by calling for tenders when it is negotiating with the owner of the land to acquire it for that purpose?

Mr Rozzoli: That is not what the Act says.

Mr JENSEN: The honourable member for Hawkesbury may mutter as he likes. The Act requires the Department of Main Roads to call for tenders for works, the cost of preparation of which will be greater than the cost of some of the works themselves. Hundreds of people will be affected adversely by this federal decision. The House should know of the structure of the Department of Main Roads and its relationship with local government and those who contract for it. The Department of Main Roads has 6 250 direct employees. Contractors employ another 2 250 persons. The total number of people in the employ of the Department of Main Roads who work on national highways, is 790, which is 38 per cent of the work force attached to seventeen offices throughout the State but outside the metropolitan area. Should the Department of Main Roads be unsuccessful in tendering for work within the districts served by those seventeen depots, the continued employment prospects of those men will be precarious. Because of the policy of the New South Wales Government, they will not be retrenched. Their jobs will be protected, but not without detriment to the efficiency of the department. I shall give the reasons.

There are 3 030 local government employees engaged on roadworks subsidized by the Department of Main Roads. Council-owned and contracted trucks engaged on some of those roadworks provide employment for another 1 050 men. The delicate relationship between local government, the State Government, contractors and the Department of Main Roads is to be disrupted. Not one iota of evidence has been produced to show that the community will benefit from the change. A serious consequence of the federal decision to require tenders to be called for work on national highways is that the work now done by 3 030 local government employees will be done by someone else, and the structure and functions of local government and its relationship with the Department of Main Roads will be disrupted. Even though the State Government will protect the jobs of those adversely affected, and even though no retrenchments will be made by the Department of Main Roads, the federal Act

will have a disastrous effect on all aspects of road construction in New South Wales. It should be revoked, not amended. I thank the honourable member for Armidale for having brought to the attention of the House the consequences likely to flow from the federal Government's ill-considered action.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

Mr CAMERON: I direct a question without notice to the Premier and Treasurer. Did the Premier tell the House on 12th September, 1979, that before the end of the session then current a privileges committee would be established to deal with members who abuse their parliamentary privilege? Did the Premier state publicly that since 1977 he had been working on the formation of a bipartisan parliamentary privileges committee, which he expected to be constituted before the end of 1979? Has the House witnessed many unseemly examples of serious abuse of parliamentary privilege since that time? Has the Premier been involved personally in a number of those incidents? May the Parliament, on this first day of an entirely new session, still expect some action, or is this yet another proposal that has lapsed?

Mr WRAN: I do not have the same retention of dates as does the honourable member for Northcott. I know he has at his home a library of my parliamentary speeches, which he works through. The date mentioned by the honourable member is probably correct. Certainly, about that time I made such an assertion in relation to a privileges committee, and it was true then that I had been working on the constitution of such a committee for some time. Whether it was 1977, I am not quite sure, but that date is not unlikely by any means. The honourable member used the word bipartisan. It is essential that such a committee, if it is to have any ethical or moral validity, must be bipartisan. The honourable member knows what I mean by the word moral in that sense, for I have no doubt that recently he has been searching his conscience in an endeavour to reconcile it with the position in which he finds himself.

[*Interruption*]

Mr WRAN: For such a parliamentary committee to have any efficacy, or moral or ethical validity, it is necessary that there be a bipartisan approach to its formation and functioning—and I expected a bipartisan approach. The reality was that no sooner had I said that I should like to proceed to establish a privileges committee of this House than the Leader of the Country Party—now the majority party in the Opposition—condemned the proposal as an attempt to gag and censor in the House statements by honourable members. I enjoyed no more support from the honourable member for Northcott than does the new Leader of the Opposition.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: Mr Speaker, I hope you have noticed that these are very strange habits creeping into this House.

[*Interruption*]

Mr WRAN: My proposals for a privileges committee were destroyed in the incipient stages by members of the Opposition who protested not only that they would not take part in the formation of such a committee but also that they would regard it as an abuse of their privilege. If there has been a change of heart suddenly the Leader of the Country Party has reconciled his views with mine, certainly the Government will reconsider the matter. The third part of the question was whether

there had been unseemly examples of the abuse of parliamentary privilege and whether I had been involved in any of them. There have been unseemly examples of the abuse of parliamentary privilege and I have been involved in them, to the extent that on many occasions I have been the subject of abuse by members of the Opposition.

NUCLEAR SHELTERS

Mr KEANE: Is the Minister for Consumer Affairs aware that a company known as Nest Egg Shelters is advertising underground blast shelters for sale from \$12,000? Is he aware also that the advertisement states that the shelters will protect families from blast, flash, radiation, heat, fall-out and over-pressure shock waves in the event of nuclear detonation? Will the Minister advise me and the House whether families spending \$12,000 on these shelters will be given the protection from nuclear annihilation claimed in the advertisement?

Mr EINFELD: The honourable member for Woronora has asked a further question on what he believes to be misleading advertising. One expects that type of question from him for he has always been careful to watch for those who want to take advantage of consumers in the community. I saw the advertisement that appeared in the press. It was headed, "Nuclear Blast and Fallout Shelters—Engineered to Swiss Standards." As I am not an expert on nuclear blasting, or indeed blasting anybody—I am always genial and friendly—I asked my officers to make inquiry of the State Emergency Services about the advertisement. As one would expect of a Government instrumentality, the State Emergency Services has printed information on the subject which is available to the public. Its pamphlets contain plans for three recommended shelters modified for Australian conditions from United States of America designs. One can understand they would be United States designs, following the latest announcement on this matter by the President of the United States of America, supported by the Prime Minister of Australia and also, I think, by the peanut Premier from the north.

The State Emergency Services informed my officers that blast shelters are of no use, for no blast shelter could withstand a nuclear explosion within 4 kilometres of the blast. Beyond a radius of 4 kilometres a fall-out shelter could absorb neutron and gamma rays. Cityscape Home Improvements and Nest Egg Shelters are registered business names. The partners are Mr G. Oddie and Mr G. N. Love of 41 Gore Street, Greenwich. Nest Egg Shelters has been operating for about as long as the present leadership of the Liberal Party—two months—and no complaints in respect of that company have been received by the department. The holder of licence 25044 is Joseph Cachia who lives in Shellharbour and is employed by the partnership.

Consumers should be made aware that the State Emergency Services has available printed information on shelters and is willing to give technical guidance on materials and construction. The Nest Egg shelter is advertised for \$12,000. The State Emergency Services has told me that it is willing to give expert advice to anyone requiring it. That Government instrumentality has the technical knowledge necessary. I thank the honourable member for Woronora for raising the question. I saw the advertisement to which he referred and I made inquiries on the matter. I repeat, I am not an expert on nuclear blasting or any other type of blasting. I prefer to give friendly advice and help. I am willing to give that friendly advice and help to the honourable member for Woronora and to any other honourable member.

ELECTRICITY COMMISSION WAGES

Mr MURRAY: I ask the Premier and Treasurer whether, before becoming Premier, he unsuccessfully represented electricity workers before the Industrial Commission in a shorter working week claim. Subsequently did his Government grant those workers a 35-hour week by regulation? Has the Government now gone further

and, without reference to the Industrial Commission, approved wage increases of up to \$43 for tradesmen, \$37 for riggers and \$23 for non-tradesmen? What is the cost to the Electricity Commission of these decisions? Will the Premier and Treasurer guarantee that there will be no flow-on to other industries and no increases in charges for electricity?

Mr WRAN: I had no complaints from the unions that I represented before the Industrial Commission.

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WRAN: I am not familiar with the detail of the matters the honourable member mentioned. My general understanding is that his comments refer to contractors to the Electricity Commission. I shall have a discussion with the responsible Minister and if there is any matter of substance worthy of reply, it will be replied to.

SYDNEY (KINGSFORD SMITH) AIRPORT

Mr MAHER: I address a question without notice to the Premier and Treasurer. Did the Australian Broadcasting Commission television programme "Nationwide" last night discuss a proposal to build a second north-south runway at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport? Did that discussion omit reference to the safety of the hundreds of thousands of Sydney residents under the flight paths to the airport? Will the Premier and Treasurer assure the House of the Government's continued opposition to a second runway?

Mr WRAN: I have already informed the Prime Minister, though I have received no reply, that the terms upon which the federal Government is espousing a second runway for Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport are untenable and invalid, and that no case has been made out for a second runway at that airport. Accordingly, the answer to the second part of the honourable gentleman's question is, yes. A notable feature of that rather lengthy segment of "Nationwide" dealing with air transport, especially in Sydney, was two short appearances by the Leader of the Opposition. Though speaking in somewhat garbled language, he made it perfectly clear that the Liberal Party in this State is committed to a second runway at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport.

LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (*pro forma*)

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion by Mr Wran, read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS IN REPLY

First Day's Debate

Mr SPEAKER: I have to report that the House this day attended the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to deliver an Opening Speech to both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table of the House. I direct that the Speech be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Mr BRERETON (Heffron) [3.30]: I move:

That the following Address in Reply to the Speech which His Excellency the Governor has addressed to both Houses of Parliament on opening this Session of the Parliament of New South Wales be now adopted by this House:

To His Excellency Air Marshal Sir JAMES ANTHONY ROWLAND, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, upon whom have been conferred the decorations of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Force Cross, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, Governor of the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it Please Your Excellency—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for Your Excellency's Speech, and to affirm our sincere allegiance to Her Most Gracious Majesty.

2. We beg to assure Your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us, that we will faithfully carry out the important duties entrusted to us by the people of New South Wales, and that the necessary provision for the Public Services will be made in due course.

It is a special pleasure to propose the motion for the address in reply. It is the first motion for the address in reply to the Speech delivered by our new Governor. We are indeed fortunate to have in Sir James a remarkable man who has served his country with great distinction. In the months since his appointment he has brought a touch of informality to his task. This and his ready accessibility have already brought him close to the people of New South Wales. Today His Excellency the Governor has commented upon the Government's strong, wide-ranging and constructive programme. He has drawn special attention to the actions of the Commonwealth Government in either withdrawing or reducing its support from essential areas of responsibility; in particular, in health, hospital services, education and welfare housing. There is no more fundamentally important issue deserving of our attention.

The recently enacted Commonwealth State Tax Sharing and Health Grants Bill provided for dramatic funding cutbacks for health and hospitalization in New South Wales. The bill provided for one grant to be allowed for hospital community health, school and dental health costs in lieu of the previous separate specific purpose grants. In addition, the level of grants is to be based on the 1980–81 actual grants adjusted for inflation, but reduced by the Commonwealth assessment of the State's revenue-earning potential. That is the revenue earned by the imposition of hospital bed charges of \$80 a day for shared accommodation; \$110 a day for private accommodation; and \$15 as an outpatient's occasion of service fee. That revenue capacity will be assessed by the Commonwealth, and in future the grants will be reduced by a proportion of that amount. In the first year a 60 per cent reduction will take place; that is because it will take effect from 1st September this year. It is not for the whole of the year.

Next year the State's total revenue will be reduced by the amount of its revenue capacity, as assessed by the Commonwealth Government. At the end of the first year there will be an assessment of revenue raising experienced by the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has laid down a formula it will use to work out whether New South Wales has done what has been expected. It does not merely

stop at the level of imposing the new higher hospital fees. One factor laid down by the Commonwealth will be its assessment of actions or otherwise by the States not to charge classes of patients other than eligible pensioners and their dependants, and the disadvantaged, as defined, and their dependants.

It will be seen by that mechanism that the Commonwealth Government is saying that its criteria must be met or "you run the risk of having your money reduced next year by a commensurate amount". In addition, one of the factors to be taken into account under the federal criteria is the result of activities by the States to promote health insurance. Unless the States are willing to go out and sell private health insurance, we are likely to see that factor taken into account and our allocation reduced accordingly.

Other factors are the actions of the State in pursuing charges and the level of bad debts incurred. The Commonwealth Government will ask the States to make sure they pursue every bad debt, irrespective of a person's physical and monetary ability. That will include debts incurred in hospital by the working poor. The number of persons not covered under the federal Government criteria will be high. Under the Commonwealth's criteria, the only persons who will receive any protection are pensioners on pensioner health benefit cards. It is worth examining the figures for Australia to see how many pensioners have in their possession a health pensioner card. In Australia 283 863 age pensioners do not possess a pensioner health benefit card. Under the Commonwealth criteria many people will not be covered, including 18 790 invalid pensioners; 12 667 wife pensioners; 15 120 widowed pensioners; and 4 196 supporting parents. Therefore, no fewer than 344 636 persons will come within the federal Government's criteria and be obliged to take out private health insurance.

In addition, the Commonwealth Government has laid down narrow guidelines as to the class of people it considers to be disadvantaged. In short, the criteria apply to the largest of those groups, a married couple with a joint income of less than \$160 a week, plus \$20 a week for each child. That means that a husband and wife with two children, earning \$199 a week gross, will be entitled to be classed as disadvantaged. A husband and wife with two children and a gross joint income of \$201 will be required to pay out \$10 or more to a private health fund to receive the benefit of the federal Government's largess. These are the appalling statistics.

Mr Meane: It is disgraceful,

Mr BRERETON: As the honourable member for Woronora points out, it is indeed disgraceful. Members on this side of the House are proud that our Government is committed to providing for all pensioners and disadvantaged people, who will continue to be given free hospitalization in New South Wales. However, I put it to the House that in doing so the Government is running the risk of the Commonwealth Government reducing the State's revenue by a commensurate amount next year. The federal Government has not taken a number of factors into account. For instance, the Commonwealth Government funding makes no provision for the number of new beds that will be put on line in the New South Wales hospital service this year—about 400 are in the pipeline. Under the Commonwealth Government's criteria there will have to be rationalization; for every bed that is brought into use another one will have to be closed. It is impossible for the State Government to say that it will rationalize. The State has recently had one round of rationalization to cover the Westmead Hospital opening, the Gosford Hospital extensions and the new wing at Wyong Hospital. The State Government will be actually robbing the poor-box and closing hospitals where it can be least afforded. This is the background to what has occurred on the lower north shore. The State is suffering from tremendous imbalance. This

message has not been coming across in the media presentation. The message spread on numerous occasions by the Minister for Health in the past few weeks has been about the disproportionate sharing of health services in the various regions of Sydney.

The statistics are worth going through again. For New South Wales the bed ratio is 6.29 per 1 000 persons. For the western metropolitan region the bed ratio is **3.69**: 1 000, which is virtually half the State average. On the lower north shore, the local government areas of North Sydney, Mosman, Willoughby and Lane Cove have a bed ratio of 11.4:1 000. That is twice the State average and four times the average in some other areas of Sydney where beds are so desperately needed. What has been heard from the Opposition about this matter? What statements have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition about providing health services in the western metropolitan area? Not a word. At a later stage I shall say something about his electorate.

One factor that the Commonwealth Government has not taken into account in any way is the increased costs which the New South Wales Government will incur in collecting the revenue. An enormous amount of paperwork will be involved in the administration of outpatient services. It is obvious that many people will assign all the billing procedures to the hospitals involved. What does the federal Minister for Health desire this Government to do: replace clinical staff with accounts clerks? The federal Minister for Health has made no provision for any increase in the number of clerks required to handle the paperwork involved in the collection of revenue. What have honourable members in this Chamber and the people of the State heard about this matter from the Opposition spokesman on health, the honourable member for Clarence? He has not said a single word of protest to his federal colleague since these announcements were made months ago. The silence has been absolute and deafening.

The federal Government cutbacks do not start and finish there. A number of other areas of State Government activity will be dramatically affected. One example is Meals on Wheels. At present 57 per cent of all Meals on Wheels services are supplied by hospitals which charge the programme only for the cost of the food provided. That means that 57 per cent of the Meals on Wheels services are now being subsidized through the Health Commission and local hospital boards. With the pressure that is being applied to hospital services, will the hospitals be able to continue to fund that programme? The home health care programme is dependent on support from hospitals and the Health Commission, which provide the necessary office space and clerical assistance. Under the new order, with the Health Commission under such pressure, will it be able to continue to provide that service free of charge? Of course not. The result must be a reduction in the desperately needed area of home help.

The federal Government has announced also a cutback in financial assistance for women's refuges. I join with all my colleagues on this side of the House in applauding the decision of the State Government to step into the breach to enable these greatly needed facilities to continue to function. In addition, there has been a cutback by the federal Government in the funding of vacation care programmes. The money available for that purpose this year will be reduced by 33.4 per cent which will result in a one-third reduction in the total programme. I know that all members on the Government side will join with me in applauding the decision of the State Government to step into the breach and make up the leeway. Again I ask, what have honourable members heard from the Opposition spokesman on youth and community services, the honourable member for Vacluse, about the result of the federal Government's cutbacks in this area? Has she been imploring her federal colleagues to give this Government more money? We have heard not a word from her. She has been silent.

I come next to education. The federal Government announced that tuition fees will be imposed on all students working towards their second qualification at universities and colleges of advanced education. What have honourable members heard from the Opposition spokesman on education, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, about that matter? Has he been to Canberra imploring his political colleagues in the federal Government to review that decision? We have not heard a murmur from him. I come next to road funds. This is another area which has suffered as a result of the federal Government's cutbacks. Under the new agreement between the federal Government and the State Government the real value of federal road grants will fall over the next four financial years. The increase provided over each of those years will be 9 per cent, 7 per cent, 6 per cent and 6 per cent. In terms of real value, there will be dramatic cuts in the next five years. There will have to be a dramatic increase in expenditure by the New South Wales Government to make up for the continual reduction in federal Government expenditure.

The continued reduction in federal funding for roads in this State follows on what has happened over the past five years, during which time State Government expenditure has increased by 20 per cent and federal Government expenditure has decreased by 10 per cent. On the other side of the ledger one finds that the federal Government has collected \$1,500 million from motorists in New South Wales. The federal Government has raised \$950 million from the crude oil levy, \$280 million from petroleum excise and \$250 million from sales tax and customs duties on new cars. Of that sum, only \$197 million or 13 per cent has been returned to New South Wales for road construction purposes. What have honourable members heard from the Opposition about this matter? What have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition about approaches to his federal colleagues concerning these cutbacks? All we have heard is that we should sack 5 000 workers and put them on the breadline. What have we heard about the matter from the Opposition spokesman on transport, the honourable member for Mosman? The only thing we have heard, instead of an approach to his federal colleagues, is another dropping of that old chestnut, the abolition of the Sydney Harbour Bridge toll.

The federal Government has totally abandoned its responsibilities in the vital area of welfare housing. I am pleased to have the support of the Minister for Housing, Minister for Co-operative Societies and Assistant Minister for Transport this afternoon. At a time when the number of people in Australia seeking welfare housing is increasing, federal housing grants have been reduced from 3.9 per cent of the total federal budget in 1974–75 to less than 1 per cent for the 1981–82 financial year. Under the new agreement to operate from this year, the Commonwealth is to provide \$200 million annually as the best amount available to the States for each of the next five years. New South Wales can expect to receive only \$64 million, because the \$200 million has to be shared among all the States and the Northern Territory. At the same time the States are being required to pay back a steadily increasing amount of principal and interest on moneys previously advanced. In 1976–77 the States paid back \$144 million. This year they will pay back \$210 million. This year New South Wales will be called upon to pay back \$68 million and next year the amount will increase to \$70 million. The result will be that instead of money flowing to New South Wales from the Commonwealth, funds will be flowing from New South Wales to the Commonwealth Government which it will be able to use for other purposes.

When the elections are held later this year, the people of New South Wales will have an opportunity to express their grave concern at the actions of the federal Government. The electors of New South Wales will be able to register at the ballot-box their protest against the policies of the federal Government in the only way that

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Government understands. A massive vote against the Liberal Party and the National Country Party will serve notice on the Fraser Government that its disastrous policies must be reversed.

His Excellency the Governor drew attention to the action of the federal Government in severely restricting the New South Wales Government's borrowing programme. The federal Government has been encouraged in this action by the villainy of the Leader of the Opposition, who betrayed the people of New South Wales by his presence and counsel to the federal Treasurer in Canberra on 4th May when he torpedoed the interests of this State by claiming to his federal colleagues that the New South Wales Government was squandering \$1,000 million on projects that private enterprise wished to carry out. The claims of the Leader of the Opposition are worthy of examination in some detail. His myths are easily exploded. Three examples he cited were the Entertainment Centre, the Newcastle coal loader and the Total oil refinery expansion.

So far as the Entertainment Centre is concerned, it was precisely because private enterprise saw no return in such a venture that the New South Wales Government became involved. The basis of the Government's involvement was to organize private financial interests in the building and operation of the centre. With regard to the Newcastle coal loader, the Government's involvement is limited to 20 per cent of the construction and ownership of the coal loader as a result of a compromise agreement between the private coal companies—which wanted 100 per cent ownership—and the Newcastle unions, which wanted total government ownership. The fact is that had the State Government not become involved in the coal loader project there would have been no coal loader, for the unions would have prevented its construction.

The Government's equity contribution area has been structured in such a way as to ensure minimal capital outlay by the Government. In the next five years the venture will bring substantial profits to the Government and to the people of this State. It will provide also increased job opportunities. Another aspect relates to expansion of the Total oil refinery. The fact is that not a single dollar of State revenue has been put into that project. The Government's total equity involvement is limited to the provision of land, which will enable the project to become a reality. It is hard to imagine anything more treacherous than the actions of the Leader of the Opposition in pressing the federal Treasurer to cut off funds to New South Wales. He has sold out New South Wales' interests in a most disgraceful manner. The people of New South Wales must not be allowed to forget that act of treachery. It is a matter of public record that New South Wales was short-changed. Only a few months ago the Prime Minister bragged about the amount of money he had withheld from this State.

I wish to deal briefly with the Government's infrastructure programmes. Once again, New South Wales has run into great problems because of the actions of the federal Government. The reality is that in 1979 this State applied to borrow \$171 million for the acceleration of power station construction. That application was in response to an approach by the Prime Minister who cited New South Wales as an example where a major industrial project could not go ahead because of the lack of electricity generating capacity. He called upon New South Wales to make submissions. The accelerated electricity development programme includes funds for the Eraring, Bayswater and Mount Piper power stations. In June 1980 at the Premiers' Conference the Commonwealth Government deferred approving the programme even though it met the infrastructure guidelines laid down by the federal Government. That was in direct contrast to the federal Government's attitude to other States whose projects

on a similar scale were approved. The federal Government now refuses to let New South Wales have any money for the accelerated electricity development programme. **What** have we heard from the Opposition on this important matter? [*Quorum formed.*]

Mr CAMERON: On a point of order, Mr Speaker. I submit it is disorderly for an honourable member who has been present in the House when a quorum is called to leave the Chamber to smoke a cigarette in the passageway outside and then later to return. There is a long standing convention in this regard.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order involved. The only point of procedure relates to the requirement that a member who invites attention to the state of the House is deemed to be present during the counting of the House. He may not leave the Chamber until a quorum is formed.

Mr BRERETON: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is trying to waste time as he does not like to hear about the disgraceful performance of his own party.

Mr Cavalier: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition's actions constitute gross disrespect to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr BRERETON: I was saying, that the Leader of the Opposition said nothing about the decision of the federal Government to cut \$171 million in respect of the accelerated electricity development programme. It should be recalled that the federal Government as a result of its policy in imposing a world parity price for oil has promoted the move from oil to electricity consumption. The federal Government's policy has led to a 12 per cent increase in base load requirements during the present winter. That has been achieved by lifting the price of oil by 120 per cent in the past two years. Furthermore, that policy has allowed the federal Government to make \$3 billion in windfall profits. That has imposed an enormous strain on New South Wales' electricity development scheme. The federal Government needs to remember—and certainly the people of this State will bear this in mind—that for every 2 400 watt electricity radiator which is purchased—at a retail price of \$70 or \$80—the cost to New South Wales in providing additional plant to service that apparatus is \$460. Yet the federal Government is asking New South Wales to raise more of its money for electricity development projects from day to day revenue. On the one hand, the federal authorities are forcing people to use electricity and electric appliances, but on the other hand are causing everybody to pay very much more for that service. However, we have heard not one word from the Opposition on that predicament.

The State of New South Wales sought approval of the federal Government to borrow money overseas to fund electricity programmes. The Labor Government said that this would not lead to greater competition for loan funds in New South Wales **and** indeed throughout Australia and would not increase **inflationary** pressures. However, the federal Government refused to sanction approval for overseas **borrowing** in respect of such projects. The facts are that in the past few months huge amounts of foreign money have been pouring into Australia. That inflow has been aided and abetted by the federal Government, whose Foreign Investment Review Board has allowed funds to pour into Australia to support speculative real estate ventures. Everybody knows that about half of Sydney has been bought up by foreign investors. One **in** every three buildings in the Sydney metropolitan area is now owned by foreign interests. The balance of payments figures for the month of June this year shows a capital growth of \$667 million. Much money flowing into this country is being spent in buying up real estate on a speculative basis. It will not be used to provide job opportunities for the people of this State. Overseas investors are pouring money into Australia and making a rip-off through capital gains and speculating in the undervaluing of the Australian dollar. The federal Government has allowed this to happen **and** is continuing to do so. Buildings of all kinds are being bought by foreign interests,

yet the federal Government refuses to allow the New South Wales Government to borrow money overseas. Again, we have heard not a murmur of protest from the Opposition.

I was pleased to hear His Excellency the Governor refer to the subject of housing, particularly the special scheme of providing supplementary finance to help low-income families to acquire their first home. His Excellency stated also that the shortage of home finance demands that this scheme be widened and made more flexible. I and other honourable members welcome the undertaking given yesterday by the Premier and Treasurer that these progressive steps will be taken and that this year's allocation of \$40 million will indeed find its way to the low-income earners who wish to purchase their first home. The Government's commitment to market 26 000 blocks of land during the next three years is a further significant step towards overcoming the imbalance in the supply and demand for land. The Government's proposal represents the only hope for the many thousands of first homebuyers in New South Wales. Further, the decision to make surplus government land available to the Housing Commission of New South Wales at less than market value is a significant breakthrough in the provision of welfare housing. The Government has made available 335 home sites in the Sydney region areas of Menai, Manly Vale and Carlingford. It has provided for the Housing Commission to have this land that is valued at \$18.4 million for \$6.7 million. Further, the Housing Commission may purchase the land on the basis of paying half now and the balance at a later date. This will mean that for the first time citizens of New South Wales will observe the Housing Commission acquiring additional land in the inner metropolitan region, where there is a great need for housing.

I and all other Government supporters welcome the decision of the Minister for Housing, Minister for Co-operative Societies and Assistant Minister for Transport to set up an emergency accommodation unit in New South Wales. Surplus government-owned residential properties will provide emergency housing for the homeless, single parents, the handicapped and all others with a genuine and critical need. Also, I welcome the Government's recent decision to raise from 15.75 per cent to 17 per cent the interest rate beyond which instrument duty is payable on loans. Although these measures are important, one must realize that the financial resources of New South Wales are insufficient to overcome the drastic problems facing our community that result from the federal Government's decision that allowed interest rates to rise by 3 per cent over the past three years. There is every indication that further rises are on the way. It is simply not good enough for the federal Government to say that we are merely following the United States of America—doing what is portrayed as inevitable. There is a fundamental difference. In the United States of America interest payments on home mortgages are tax deductible; in Australia they are not. Nevertheless, the federal Government has persisted in opposing such a concession.

Since the Fraser Government was elected total interest paid on both owner-occupied and other dwellings has risen dramatically. In 1974–75 the total interest paid amounted to \$1,042 million and in 1978–79, which is the latest figure available, the amount paid was \$2,631 million. Those figures are the total interest paid as a result of the rises in interest rates allowed by the federal Government. It is vital that the federal Government allow mortgage interest payments to be a tax deduction and that it make such provision in next week's Budget. What have honourable members heard from the State Opposition about this matter? The silence of the Opposition spokesman on housing, the honourable member for Byron, has been deafening. The only contribution one ever hears from him is character assassination of that fine person, Tom Hogan, the Labor Party candidate who, after the next State election, will be the member for Byron.

His Excellency the Governor said that during the present session of the Parliament proposals will be announced towards the recognition of land rights, which are important to the advancement of the Aboriginal community. After reading the excellent report of the Select Committee upon Aborigines, I expressed the view to its chairman, the honourable member for Woronora, that his committee's findings and recommendations would be seen as a milestone in the cause of justice for the Aboriginal people. This week the report on Aborigines by the World Council of Churches was released. That report supports the findings of the New South Wales Parliamentary select committee and is the worst news one could have of the way Australia has been treating its Aborigines. The select committee made recommendations on land rights. The report of the World Council of Churches recommended that the solution to the problems of homelessness, unemployment, alcoholism, despair and exploitation is to recognize the land rights of the Aboriginal people and to allow them to reconstruct their culture and their broken communal life through their right to self-determination in their chosen way. The select committee threw down the challenge. The Government has announced that it will take up the challenge. One can only hope that our efforts will ameliorate in a small way the harm done to our country's reputation by the disgraceful reaction of the Liberal Party Premier of Western Australia and the National Party Premier of Queensland to the report of the World Council of Churches.

His Excellency stated that the Government has considered the report of the Joint Committee upon Public Accounts and Financial Accounts of Statutory Authorities and that legislation would be introduced to reconstitute the Public Accounts Committee and to extend its powers. This Government decision should be welcomed by all honourable members. On Wednesday, 13th May I tabled in my capacity as chairman the final report of the select committee. The committee acknowledged the expectation of ordinary citizens that in the organization of the State's finances, the Government, the public service and statutory authorities will give value for money. The general public, in so far as it perceives the intricacies in the control and reporting of public finance, expects that their elected representatives in Parliament will act as public watchdogs. The report dealt, in part, with pilot inquiries conducted by the committee into selected statutory authorities. The results are well known. The committee expressed the view that had there been in existence a public accounts committee of the kind proposed, the difficulties that have arisen would not have been allowed to develop to their present state. A reconstituted Public Accounts Committee with wider powers will bring about a more effective performance at every level and contribute to the general benefit of New South Wales. The Government must be commended for its courage in committing itself to stronger public accounts procedures. The Government's courage is in marked contrast to that of the Askin-Cutler Liberal Party-Country party Government which, after coming to office in 1965, refused to introduce such a measure, notwithstanding its own pre-election promise and even the existence of draft legislation.

This may well be the last opportunity that I have in this session of the Parliament to place on record my great appreciation of the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads, and the Minister for Consumer Affairs, both of whom are retiring at the forthcoming election. The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads, with whom I shared the large Opposition room when I was first elected to this House in 1970, was largely responsible for my introduction to the forms of the House. He has given me a thousand hints on how to be a member of Parliament. Over the years the Minister for Consumer Affairs has gone out of his way to encourage me to take up issues in the House. Both Ministers have added greatly to the colour and character of the House. Their departure from it will be a real loss to all honourable members.

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In conclusion, I wish to consider some of the Government's achievements since it came to office. As His Excellency stated, New South Wales now has the lowest unemployment level of any State in Australia—the reverse of the position when the Labor Government came to office. Five years ago unemployment in the Hunter region was running at a record level. Today the region has more jobs than people to fill them. The reduction in youth unemployment is indeed an achievement. As has been stated, during the past two years the number of unemployed persons in the age group of 15 years to 19 years has fallen by 35 per cent compared with a reduction of only one per cent for the rest of Australia. This result has been aided greatly by the Government's efforts in the field of electricity generation. In 1976 fewer than sixty apprentices were recruited by the Electricity Commission of New South Wales. In 1981 it has 300 new apprentices. That commission now employs 849 apprentices spread through a range of trade skills. It has 870 young people engaged as cadets or trainees. A further 700 are undertaking courses of training. Further, the Electricity Commission has formed the Hunter Valley Training Company, comprising the commission and principal contractors engaged in building the new power stations. This venture will ensure that training occurs during construction stages. This year nearly 200 apprentices were recruited, with a further 200 to be taken on next year.

When the Government came to office in 1976 the whole New South Wales energy scene was one of appalling neglect. Industrial relations in the power stations were so woeful as to have caused blackouts and restrictions in 1973, 1974 and again in 1975, all of which caused untold hardship. Plant in the State's power stations was run down to a point where at Liddell, the State's largest plant, it was available for only 47 per cent of its capacity. Under a Labor Government plant availability has been improved to 68.5 per cent at Liddell and 73.3 per cent at Vale's Point. I add that these figures compare favourably with plant availability overseas. The United States runs at 67.6 per cent and Europe at 66 per cent.

During the whole eleven years of the previous Liberal Party—Country Party government not a single new power station was built in New South Wales. The Labor Government has under way an extensive programme of power station construction. That programme will see the installation of 6 600 megawatts of base load generating plant during the next six years. Later this year the people of New South Wales will have their chance to pass judgment on the Government's efforts. They will have the task of deciding who will govern New South Wales for the next three years. The choice is straightforward—a sound Government with a record of achievement or a disunited, disgruntled Opposition, a party being led by its fifth leader in as many years.

The Opposition has not learnt from its experiences. It still cannot choose a leader without insisting on humiliating the unsuccessful contenders for its throne. Only this week we have been treated to the incredible spectacle of the illegal Liberal Party gambling episode. What a spectacle indeed. While the Leader of the Opposition, in the company of the honourable member for Lane Cove, was inspecting the front door of premises at Rozelle in an attempt to discover an illegal casino, roulette wheels, black jack, unders-and-overs and crown and anchor equipment were being spirited out the rear, round the block and over the bridge to Waverton, to raise \$7,000 for the Leader of the Opposition's own election campaign. It is difficult indeed to imagine a more hypocritical performance.

The Leader of the Opposition would have the people of our State believe that he can improve on the achievements of the Labor Government. In anticipation, may I point out that his own record of achievement leaves much to be desired. It is clear from recent pronouncements in the High Court that projects with which he has been associated can be found not to have even been substantially commenced, let alone

completed. I draw the attention of members of the House to a recent court case about a development at Lavender Bay. The Leader of the Opposition was involved in that development as he was the person responsible at the time for the approval to develop, which was granted by North Sydney council. The development application was effective for two years. Not much was done in that time. In the meantime the zoning regulations for the area were changed by the Liberal Party-Country Party Government of the day to provide for better preservation of the foreshores in the Lavender Bay area. On the afternoon of the last day of the two years for which that development approval ran, the man who is now Leader of the Opposition dragged a couple of men off another job, took them across to the development site and had them pour a concrete slab. Of course, the slab was inappropriate to the rest of the development. That did not worry the Leader of the Opposition. He was soon able to dispose of the property. It is someone else's problem now. The High Court ruled this year that the development was not substantially commenced. The ruling of the five members of the Bench was unanimous. Some person is out of pocket about \$300,000 as a result. The question remains, should it be pulled down? We shall have to wait to see what will happen.

Mr K. J. Stewart: Alternatively, should the Leader of the Opposition give the money back?

Mr BRERETON: That is a matter that I am sure will be determined by the courts.

Mr Cameron: On a point of order. I am not altogether familiar with the matter raised by the honourable member for Heffron, but it seems clear from his remarks that it is sub *judice* as it is before the High Court of Australia.

Mr K. J. Stewart: The honourable member for Heffron cleared up that point when he said the Leader of the Opposition lost the case by a vote of five to nil.

Mr Cameron: The honourable member for Heffron went on to say that a fresh application would be made. In view of what he said, I submit that you should seek an assurance from the honourable member that the matter is not before the **High Court**.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Northcott would have to show that the matter raised by the honourable member for Heffron could prejudice the outcome of a court case.

Mr Brereton: It is not before a court.

Mr SPEAKER: I understand from an interjection by the honourable member for Heffron that the matter is not before a court. Therefore, the honourable member for Heffron is in order.

Mr BRERETON: The High Court has ruled that the property cannot be completed. It decided that the project was not substantially commenced. The inference is that the Leader of the Opposition is totally incapable of building even a block of home units. What chance would the people of New South Wales stand if he were to become Premier? The Government has a responsibility to ensure that the same thing does not happen to the people of New South Wales as happened to the unfortunate person who purchased the property at Lavender Bay from the Leader of the Opposition. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I thank my colleagues for that honour, and commend the motion.

Mr NEILLY (Cessnock) [4.17]: I second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply moved by the honourable member for Heffron. I did not think I would be given an opportunity so soon after my maiden speech to address the House once again. It was only on the second last day of the last session that I delivered my maiden speech. I am most appreciative of the fact that the Premier and Treasurer, the Government Whip and other Government supporters have given me that opportunity. Before today I listened to perhaps one of the best worded speeches I have heard while I have been a member of this House. It was well worded, but empty. It was delivered by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. In his speech he said that New South Wales needed an awakening, a revival and a renaissance.

Mr Cameron: A renewal.

Mr NEILLY: The honourable member for Northcott should apply those ideals to members of the Opposition. I was pleased that the Governor mentioned many matters affecting the Hunter Valley. What is happening in that area is of continuing and significant importance to this State. The Governor said that since he was appointed he had seen at first hand a steady and significant progress in the growth and planned development of Australia's oldest and most populous State. No one worth his salt or possessing common sense would deny that. Another significant matter mentioned by the Governor was that in New South Wales the number of unemployed persons in the age group of 15 to 19 years had fallen by 35 per cent, compared with a national reduction of only 1 per cent. Unfortunately, the significant reduction in the unemployed in New South Wales is not applicable to the female work force. Employment opportunities for females are greatly limited.

Recently it was reported in the press that the Prime Minister would review tariff controls and would probably make an announcement in the near future about lifting tariffs on some imported goods. I hope the Prime Minister remembers that it is only a little over a year ago that he promised the clothing and textile industries some protection for at least the next seven years. It is particularly important to the Cessnock electorate that clothing and textile tariffs be maintained, as the majority of those in the female work force in the electorate are employed in those industries.

I agree with the criticism by the honourable member for Heffron of the Commonwealth Government's economies as a result of the operations of the razor gang. Clearly, this State's greatest concerns are about housing, including welfare housing, health services and education. It was said in answer to a question earlier today that another concern of the State is roadworks. The remarks of the honourable member for Heffron brought to light what is well known by supporters of this Government but not so well understood and readily identified by the public. A recent cartoon in a Sydney newspaper depicted the Premier and Treasurer lying in a hospital bed. Money was pouring out from the pillows and under bed sheets.

Mr Cameron: That is the position.

Mr NEILLY: That was the position. It is no longer so. The Commonwealth Government gave New South Wales 10 per cent more money than it gave last year and then reduced the allocation by 60 per cent, telling the State to raise from the public whatever other money it needed. That is a disgrace. Statements were made on news programmes this morning that in the framing of the forthcoming federal Budget consideration would be given to cutting out the National Employment and Training scheme. That would do nothing to improve apprenticeship training in New South Wales. The federal Government's aptitude for effective cutting out is limited to paper dolls. If Opposition members ever attain the Government benches, it is their intention to make cuts similar to those made by the federal Government's razor gang. What are the Opposition's intentions about State Government financial obligations

to local government? It is reasonable to assume that the brunt of Opposition policies, if applied, would be borne by local government. Once that happened the burden could be passed in only one other direction.

The Governor mentioned that development projects valued at more than \$20,000 million are planned for the next five years. Major undertakings will begin in the mining, aluminium and steel industries. Of the projects that will affect the Hunter region—and so be of prime concern to the work force in my electorate—probably the most interesting is the aluminium industry. Arguments have been tossed back and forth about the environmental risk associated with aluminium production, about the emission of fluorides and other pollutants. Those arguments are diminishing somewhat. As a result of an application submitted by an aluminium manufacturer for the development of an aluminium smelter at Lochinvar, the Department of Planning and Environment made an assessment of the likely effect on the environment. A similar assessment by the company caused concern in my electorate. It suggested, on an opinion formed hastily in all probability, that almost 20 000 hectares would be sterilized. In that respect it agreed with the department. About six or seven weeks ago the department changed its view, but the original statement left fears in the minds of property owners in the area that their land may not be so readily marketable and that the present market price could drop. Residents fear that panic selling could take place. I cannot give any guarantees—and I doubt that the Government could give them. I can only state that in my opinion the New South Wales Government would not approve the construction of aluminium smelters unless it was safe to do so. Those who sit on the Treasury benches are mere mortals, not gods. They cannot give such guarantees.

The Governor mentioned also the recent 24-hour disruption to the electricity supply. That was the first disruption since the Wran Government took office. The Governor pointed out that the State's coal reserves offer great potential for the development of new liquid fuels as an alternative to oil. I am firmly of the opinion that the potential will be realized before the end of this decade. A senior official of Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited is now overseas delivering papers on investigations he has made into coal liquefaction, which he believes is feasible and economically possible.

The honourable member for Heffron spoke about the capital works being undertaken in the New South Wales electricity industry. The Governor pointed out also that New South Wales is determined to ensure that the State's electricity needs are met, and said that he is confident that will be achieved within this decade of development. At question time today the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy said that major power station works would be completed within the next six years, culminating with the power station at Bayswater.

Another pleasant feature of the Governor's Speech was reference to the development of a third coal loader at Newcastle being under way. In view of the quantity of coal being extracted and intended to be extracted in the Hunter region, the new coal loader will be needed before 1985. In conjunction with the aluminium smelter developments, an aluminium discharge works is under construction at Kooragang Island. New government offices will be built at Newcastle. More than 300 new coal waggons are under construction. Employees of the South Maitland railway have expressed concern to me about the coal waggons being taken off the South Maitland railway. I have contacted the office of the Minister for Transport and have been informed that what is being done with coal waggons there is only a temporary measure, and that the men need have no fear for their jobs. If necessary, the waggons will be returned to the South Maitland railway to ensure that the workers concerned have

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continuity of employment. Important developments will link export coalmining projects with the rail network. I have some concern that with the amount of coalmining development taking place—in particular, in the Upper Hunter region—a single railway line may not be adequate. I recently heard that a coalmine is to be opened in the Broke region and that it will adjoin the South Maitland railway. If that eventuates, it will certainly relieve traffic pressure on the railway serving the Upper Hunter.

There are some problems about roads in my electorate. The Governor said that the State's road network is being updated, but that the project is subject to financial restraints. The Cessnock electorate has nine main roads. They are relatively few compared with the roads in the electorate as it is to be reconstituted, including, as it will, parts of the outskirts of suburban Newcastle. At the moment some roads in the area are carrying 23 000 vehicles a day. I trust that my electorate will be the subject of adequate road funding commitments by the Department of Main Roads.

This Government has always kept in mind the needs of the rural sector. His Excellency the Governor stated in his Speech that the rural sector remains of fundamental importance to the progress and prosperity of the State and outlined drought relief measures that have been undertaken recently by the Government. It may be of interest to honourable members to know that a person who is most antagonistic to the development of aluminium smelters in the Hunter region has asked me to convey to the Minister for Agriculture his opinion that the drought relief scheme which has operated in New South Wales in the past eighteen months was one of the best and most thorough drought relief schemes that this State ever had.

The honourable member for Heffron, who moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency, said that the Government is determined to preserve the standard of health services and will ensure that persons of inadequate means will have full access to health care services. That decision was not made overnight by the Government. When the intentions of the federal Government became known, the Minister for Health in this State perceived the thrust of the proposals and said that this Government would seek to devise means of subsidizing those areas of health care that had previously provided for low income earners and pensioners, who would no longer come within the criteria laid down by the Commonwealth.

His Excellency the Governor announced that the Government intends to give high priority to the children's dental programme. Perhaps not many people are aware of the value of that programme, but it is important in the poorer areas of the State. It is well received by constituents in my electorate. I noted with pleasure that the Government intends to appoint specialist community language teachers to primary schools. It has always been a matter of concern to me that we, who have such close neighbours in the Asian region, cannot respond to those people by means of diplomatic relations or trade negotiations and other day-to-day activities. The advent of specialist community language teachers at the primary school level may result in our becoming much closer to our Asian neighbours.

Another matter of concern to me is the need for speech therapists in schools. I have made representations to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education in the other place in connection with the special OL classes at Maitland primary school, which cater for children of constituents within my electorate and the Maitland electorate, seeking the filling of a vacancy for a speech therapist. I do not know whether it is difficult to obtain speech therapists, but in the International Year of Disabled Persons I should like to see this necessary training given to the pupils in the special classes at Maitland primary school.

In my maiden speech in this Chamber I spoke about apprenticeship training. His Excellency the Governor, in the Speech he delivered, referred to happenings in the field of apprenticeship. In this area where skills are needed and must be developed, His Excellency referred to the provision of buildings and additional teaching staff in the Hunter region and other areas of the State. He spoke of the success of the group apprenticeship programme. Under that scheme about one thousand additional apprentices will have commenced training by the end of this year. The Government's programme of job creation is complemented by the training of young persons leaving school to build them up into tradesmen and professional people. His Excellency pointed out that as a result of the Government's policies the number of new apprenticeships begun in New South Wales reached a record of 18 000 in the last financial year. This is 57 per cent more than the figure five years ago when the present Government came to office.

The Land Commission has been the subject of criticism by the Opposition, which would sell it to private enterprise. The commission is flourishing. The Government, through the Land Commission, intends to bring 26 000 blocks of land on to the market in the next three years at prices below those obtaining for land from private developers. Crown land releases in the coming year are expected to provide 2 100 blocks of land. In the Cessnock electorate almost every town and village is sited alongside a mine shaft or poppet head. There was no organized development of housing in mining areas. Homes were built as close as possible to the pit top. There are still pockets of land which for many years have been occupied by residents who have been desirous of obtaining title for a considerable time. Recently I learned that the Department of Lands, in conjunction with the Land Commission, intends to regularize the disorderly development of the township of Abermain by making land available to newcomers to the area and with the ultimate objective of making the land at present occupied by residents available to them for outright purchase.

His Excellency the Governor said that a State tourism plan will be developed to provide a stronger base for encouraging further investment and employment opportunities in the industry. Tourism vitally affects my electorate. In spite of the development of aluminium smelters in the Hunter region, the vineyards are still the most popular tourist attraction in the area, if not in the State. The Hunter region has potential for much greater development of tourism. Recently I learned that towards the end of September the State Rail Authority will commence a wine train service each Sunday to take people to the Hunter Valley for a day at the vineyards. The train will run from Central station to Maitland, giving tourists an excellent trip to the Hunter Valley. It is a small start, but it is a significant development and will bring much needed tourist dollars to the area.

The Speech draws attention to the active part taken by the Government in the development of programmes for the International Year of Disabled Persons. However, apart from anything achieved in legislation, I believe the problems of the disabled are a matter for individuals in society. One must have regard to the attitude taken to the disabled. The Government's efforts will give significant assistance and will further fulfil the needs of the disabled. The Government is committed to the implementation of the equal employment opportunity programme—a most relevant matter in the Hunter region. It seeks to encourage the employment of women in the area. Recent advertisements in the *Newcastle Herald* call for technical and co-ordinating officers to assist in the advancement of equal opportunities. I hope that such appointments will achieve the recognition they deserve and that officers will be afforded every co-operation from employees and employers.

Mr Neilly]

I was glad to note that the new child life protection and family crisis unit at Newcastle will shortly become fully operative. There are many problems in the area and anything that can be achieved to assist children and families will be welcomed in Newcastle, as indeed in all other industrial areas. The Speech also drew attention to the far-reaching proposals contained in the report of the task force on domestic violence in New South Wales. These problems are not peculiar to New South Wales but are found in most industrial regions. A bill is to be introduced to reform the law relating to consumer credit. My association with a credit union has now lasted sixteen years and I know from personal experience that in general people accept credit readily but know little about it. Any action in this field will greatly assist many people in the State. The true position should be made clear to purchasers and loan sharks must be eliminated.

The Government intends to introduce legislation to outlaw the practice of gazumping in property transactions. Many real estate agents, particularly in holiday areas, benefit from the practice. Gazumping is certainly not to the benefit of the ordinary person who is selling his house. We must seek to put the blame where it lies. The Speech also points to the redevelopment of Bathurst gaol and the new maximum security prison at Parklea expected to come into operation next year. Honourable members will appreciate that the Cessnock Corrective Centre has experienced the highest number of escapes in the State, but in recent months there has not been a great deal of trouble. One hopes that new legislation will enable the authorities to implement an improved system of classification of prisoners. Only if prisoners are adequately housed will there be any improvement in classification. Many of the ills in the present prison system may well be overcome if this nettle is grasped.

I was pleased to note the reference in the Speech to a new health and safety code for coalmines in New South Wales. We all remember the awful disaster at Appin and this year there have been a number of fatalities in the mines. I hope that any legislation in this respect will benefit both men and managers in the collieries. I agree with the statement in the Speech about the importance of referendums in achieving parliamentary and electoral reforms. I applaud the disclosure of pecuniary interests. Unless honourable members disclose their pecuniary interests, the people will not regard them as credible.

On 8th August this year in the column "State Scene" the *Sydney Morning Herald* suggested that the problems experienced in New South Wales dented the Government's image of super managers. Labor may not consist entirely of super managers, but it is a good government and a straight government. It deals off a clean pack and always produces the necessary aces. I am convinced that the Labor Government will govern successfully in the coming period and that, after a short lapse of time, it will return to the Government benches to continue its important work. I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion by Mr McDonald.

House adjourned, on motion by Mr K. J. Stewart, at 4.47 p.m.

